



St. Vincent de Paul Society

Vincentian CONNECTION

P.O. Box 13600
Phoenix, Arizona 85002

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Vincentian CONNECTION



Volume 47, Number 1, April 2011 NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL PHOENIX DIOCESAN COUNCIL www.stvincentdepaul.net

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▶ UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 21**
Hearts and Hands Day
- June 23**
Volunteer Appreciation Event
- July**
Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive
- August 23**
Volunteer Appreciation Event
- September 19**
Hearts and Hands Day
- September 22**
Corporate Breakfast
- October 1**
Scouts in Service
- November 17**
Restoring Hope Breakfast
- November 22**
Turkey Tuesday

YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT TO US!

Attached to the back cover is a brief survey that will help us improve our publication. It is an anonymous survey and the results will be reported as statistical totals.

Save postage – take the survey online!

Visit www.stvincentdepaul.net and use the link on our homepage to take the survey.

Those who complete the survey, whether by mail or online, will be eligible to win one of six \$50 Bashes' gift cards. Thank you for your valuable input.

Inspiring Hope and Encouraging Change

The "Never Give Up" program

It's 7:30 on a Monday morning. Nationally syndicated columnist and top-selling business author Harvey Mackay takes the stage and begins to speak to a room filled with hundreds of men and women enjoying breakfast.

Speaking to rooms full of people is something Harvey is used to doing. He is invited to speak at conferences and corporations year-round. However, on this Monday, his audience is not business men and women – most of them do not even own a suit. They are homeless guests of St. Vincent de Paul's Phoenix dining room.

Harvey is one of many speakers who come to SVdP to offer a message of hope and encouragement to our homeless guests on Monday mornings. The speaker series is called "Never Give Up," and those three words are the exact message that every speaker tries to get across.

Right: Harvey Mackay, nationally syndicated columnist, speaker and author.

Continued on page 8





Giving Love and Hope

along with a Helping Hand

We are so privileged to serve the poor in our community. Often, we focus on the material ways in which we help struggling families or homeless individuals. We talk about the nourishing food from food boxes delivered or the hot meals served. We talk about the security that shelter provides when we help with a rent payment or accept a new guest into Ozanam Manor. We talk about the priceless medical and dental care given to restore health. All of these are critical ways in which St. Vincent de Paul offers a safety net of support to our neighbors in need.

The stories in this issue, though, remind us that Vincentians and our indispensable volunteers give so much more to those they serve. It is the volunteer's smile as she hands the plate to the homeless man that warms his heart in ways that food cannot do. It is the prayer said with the out-of-work father when the food box is delivered to his home that lifts him up. It is the mentor's belief in the "Oz" resident that helps her regain a sense of self-worth. We are blessed with so many caring volunteers who share themselves – their faith, love and the hope they bring with their help – so generously and selflessly.

Jimmy Walker's "Never Give Up" program is a wonderful example. Early each Monday morning, a well-known public figure shares a personal story with the 500 or so homeless men and women who gather for breakfast in our downtown Phoenix dining room. Usually the

story is about the challenges they have faced in their own lives and how they persevered. Our guests are encouraged to "never give up" on themselves or their struggles.

I am very proud of all that we do to serve the poor – the food, shelter, clothing, medical care and so much more. However, I am most proud of the Vincentian spirit of love in which this aid is given and which sets St. Vincent de Paul apart. This precious element of love and encouragement is what truly helps those we serve persevere and overcome their trials. While addressing their needs, we share with them the joy and hope we have in our hearts, as well as the wonderfully unconditional love of God for every one of His children.

Our loving, caring service is a blessing that changes their lives. The blessings we get from them in return change ours – and, so importantly, help us persevere in our labors of love.

Joseph J. Riley
President, Phoenix Diocesan Council



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Phoenix Diocesan Council

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international non-profit organization dedicated to serving the poor and providing others with the opportunity to serve. The Phoenix Diocesan Council has been assisting central and northern Arizona families since 1946. Programs include services for the homeless, medical and dental care for the working poor, charity dining rooms, thrift stores, a transitional housing shelter and general assistance for individuals in need.

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New Program Gives Families Fresh Perspectives on Life

This year, St. Vincent de Paul began Vincentian Fresh Perspectives, a new program that takes volunteers directly into the homes of needy families for home makeovers. Families already struggling to pay bills and put food on the table rarely have enough to buy furniture, let alone things to make their dwellings feel more like home.

Early March, a group of volunteers joined Vincentian Fresh Perspectives at the home of Rebekah and her five children, three of whom have disabilities. Rebekah and her children just moved from Tennessee to Phoenix, where the climate helps the health of her youngest daughter, who suffers from a degenerative bone disease. Their only possessions were what they could fit in their car.

With little to call their own, Rebekah contacted the St. Augustine conference of St. Vincent de Paul for help. Rebekah was referred to Vincentian Fresh Perspectives.

About 20 volunteers worked together to clean and arrange donated furniture. With large pieces of cardboard and paint, volunteers created murals for the children's rooms. When the children saw the transformation of their rooms, their eyes lit up with joy.

With a full day's work, our volunteers transformed a near-empty house to a warm and inviting home Rebekah and her children can call their own. Special thanks to volunteer teams from Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Notre Dame, Paradise Valley Community College and Land of Ahhs for making this such a success!



The family had very little furniture and some of the children slept on the floor.



Rebekah and her family were amazed at all that had been accomplished in just one day. "I am impressed," Rebekah said. "I didn't think you would do so much for me. I don't know how to thank you!"



The girls' room was decorated in pink with posters of their favorite pop stars.

Innovative Program Helps Children Step Toward Healthier Futures



Rafael N. and Ralph N. examine test tubes representing the amount of fat in fast foods.

At Chris-Town YMCA, in a bright classroom lined with stationary bikes along its walls, children and their parents are examining liquid-filled test tubes representing the amount of fat found in typical fast food burgers.

"Whoa," Ralph N. says under his breath, as his eyes widen when he sees the numbers.

Every Little Step Counts program

Ralph, along with 10 other children and their parents, are participating in St. Vincent de Paul's Every Little Step Counts (ELCS) program at Chris-Town YMCA. ELCS is a diabetes prevention program geared toward Latino children who have a disproportionately higher rate of obesity and diabetes. Classes are taught in both English and Spanish, and the curriculum is culturally sensitive and specific to the needs of Latino families.

"If you don't understand the cultural traditions and nuances, it's difficult for people to open up to you," says Sarai Gordillo, an ELSC health educator.

Weight affects overall health

Various studies show more than 30 percent of Latino youth are overweight, increasing the likelihood of developing diabetes and other cardiovascular diseases. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Latino

children who were born in the year 2000 have up to a 50 percent chance of developing diabetes. All the children participating in ELSC are at an extremely high risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

"Many of the children who are enrolled in ELSC exhibit acute anxiety and deal with depression, not only from poor health, but also from being teased at school for their weight," says Sarai. "By setting high expectations and encouraging them, children who successfully complete the program are healthier, happier and more confident."

Parental involvement key

A large part of the program's success is its parent involvement, explains ELSC Program Manager Elva Madrid. Overweight children usually pick up their eating habits from their families. By teaching bilingual classes and encouraging parents to model healthy lifestyles, ELSC not only reaches the child, but also commits the whole family to put health as their top priority.

During one ELSC class, Elva uses a simple activity that helps families plan healthful meals on a budget. Each family is given a

set of grocery ads and told to create meals comprising the major food groups.

Rafael N., Ralph's father, looks on as Ralph and his mother scan through the ads.

"I'm here because my family's health is important to me," said Rafael. "Choosing good foods will help us be healthier and happier together."

Program's success recognized

Since creating the program in 2003, SVdP's medical clinic has become a leader in community-based health programs. The ELSC program was subject of a study by the ASU College of Nursing and Health Innovation last year. The study, published in the Journal of Primary Care and Community Health, proposed that the outreach and education model used by ELSC is ideal in improving the health of underserved populations.

The successful and far-reaching results of the ELSC program are gaining attention in other communities and free clinics as well. Elva and Promotora Sarai were invited to speak at the National Association of Free Clinics annual conference in March.

"This is a great honor and recognition of the work we've done to develop the program," says Yolanda Konopken, director of SVdP's Family Wellness Programs. "Every component of our program was developed from scratch and directed by the needs we saw in our patients."



ELSC Program Manager Elva Madrid explains a meal planning activity to class participants. Parent involvement is key to improving families' food choices and lifestyles.

Searching for Treasures Just Got a Lot More Exciting

Ozzie's Furnishings, St. Vincent de Paul's boutique re-sale store, celebrated its four-year anniversary and moved to a new store! It's new location is bigger, brighter and filled with many unique treasures.

Each treasure, ranging from couches to lamps and silver tea sets, begins at St. Vincent de Paul's warehouse, where thousands of donated items are brought in daily. Ozzie's staff comb through the warehouse to find special items to stock the store.

"Sometimes I see an item that might not look like much, but I know it has potential," says store manager Debbie Burkhart. "I'll take it back to the store with me and by the time I'm done cleaning and polishing, it's like something out of a catalogue."

Ozzie's has been voted the best antique store by azcentral.com and best boutique thrift store by Phoenix NewTimes.

Ozzie's Furnishings

3927 E. Indian School Rd.

Open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



A JOURNEY THROUGH OZ



Jim Conway in 2005 at Ozanam Manor

By Jim Conway

The other day my boss told me to go to a new construction job. He said "it's on the corner of 40th Street and Indian School, two doors down from Ozzie's." In traveling to the job I thought that this was a little unusual since we mostly do residential remodeling – but there was something else – that name ... Ozzie's.

When I arrived, I realized why it sounded familiar. Ozzie's Furnishings is a St. Vincent de Paul store. Ozzie's was named after Frederick Ozanam, who founded Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The store had done so well over the last few years that it was moving two doors down to a bigger location. I worked on the store for several days and really felt inspired and fulfilled – not just because I was working on something for a non-profit organization, but because, you see, I have a special connection to St. Vincent de Paul.

In 2004, through a series of mishaps, I found myself homeless and recovering from a broken hip. Living on the streets, on crutches and in constant pain is not a good place to be and I found myself for the first time in my life looking for a shelter to live in. I was lucky to find a place that due to my age and my physical disability, I would be accepted. This shelter was Ozanam Manor.

Ozanam Manor is St. Vincent de Paul's transitional shelter. It was a wonderful place for me to land in. I not only was able to recover from my injuries in a clean and safe environment but was also able to get into a program and begin a college education. Through the help and encouragement of staff and volunteers at Ozanam Manor, I completed my home inspection certificate.

In 2006, I shared my story at St. Vincent de Paul's annual fund-raising breakfast. After the event, a man approached me, gave me his card and told me he would be glad to help me in the future in any way he could. At this point in my life, I was living in my own apartment, still going to college and working day labor for minimum wage. I remembered the card that man had given me and I gave him a call. He recalled I had been in construction and told me that his cousin was a general contractor and was remodeling a house for him. I got in touch with the cousin and was hired and have been working for him ever since. It is the best company and nicest bunch of guys I have ever worked with in my lifetime of construction.

I will graduate with an associate's degree in December. I have reunited with my two daughters and am really enjoying my life. I feel that I owe much of these accomplishments to St. Vincent de Paul, and in particular, Mike Bell and Mary Beth from Ozanam Manor.

From homelessness to Ozanam Manor to now to working on a job at Ozzie's, I've truly come a long way and gone full-circle!



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, November 17, 2011

ANNOUNCING DERRICK AND AMY HALL, CHAIRS OF THE 2011 RESTORING HOPE BREAKFAST.

Derrick Hall is the President of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The 2011 Restoring Hope Breakfast will be our best yet. How will you be involved?

- Become a sponsor – Contact Roxanne Rosenau at (602) 261-6814 or RRosenau@svdp-phx-az.org for more information.
- Become a table captain or attend the event – Contact Sudonna Davis at (602) 850-6736 or sdavis@svdp-phx-az.org to RSVP or find out how you can host a table.

Special thanks to our 2010 Restoring Hope Breakfast Sponsors

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Hosted by Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa
Special Thanks to 12 News



SVdP Thrift Stores Win Best of East Valley



In February the East Valley Tribune asked its readers to vote on the best places to eat, visit and shop in the East Valley. Thanks to your votes, our thrift stores won "Best Resale Shop."

From vintage jewelry and business clothing to gently-used household items, home decorations and furniture, St. Vincent de Paul stores have you covered! If you haven't visited one of our stores recently, it's time to head over to a location near you. Just be sure to clear out your trunk because you're going to need space to take home all the treasures you'll find!

Here are some great items that were recently spotted at our stores:



A pair of lamps with woven wood base.



A set of modern chairs, perfect for paring with a simple kitchen table.

As always, all of your donations and purchases help fund our other services for homeless and working-poor families. If you have large items to donate and need a pick up, call (602) 254-3338.

Thrift Store Locations

Visit www.stvincentdepaul.net for store hours.

- | | |
|---|--|
| Apache Junction
2540 W. Apache Trail
Apache Junction, AZ 85120 | Dolan Springs
7141 W. 11th Street
Dolan Springs, AZ 86441 |
| Bell Road
2945 E. Bell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85032 | Flagstaff
2113 N. East Street
Flagstaff, AZ 86004 |
| Chandler
2051 N. Arizona Avenue
Chandler, AZ 85225 | Kingman
218 E. Beale Street
Kingman, AZ 86401 |
| Cottonwood
2101 E. Fir St.
(928) 639-3000 | Lake Havasu City #1
1850 Commander Drive
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403 |
| Glendale
7018 N. 57th Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85301 | Lake Havasu City #2
1851 Commander Drive
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403 |
| Mesa
2352 W. Main Street
Mesa, AZ 85201 | Lake Havasu City #3
761 N. Lake Havasu Avenue
Lake Havasu City, AZ 85403 |
| Sunnyslope
8231 N. 7th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85020 | Mayer
10376 S. Highway 69
Mayer, AZ 86333 |
| Watkins
420 W. Watkins Road
Phoenix, AZ 85003 | Prescott
935 Fair Street
Prescott, AZ 86305 |
| Bullhead City
780 Marina
Bullhead City, AZ 86442 | Boutique Location
Ozzie's Furnishings
3927 E. Indian School Road
Phoenix, AZ 85018 |

NEW THRIFT STORE LOCATION



SVdP is pleased to announce the March opening of a new thrift store in Cottonwood. The store will help SVdP provide clothing and household items to the community at low costs as well as generate income to help us assist needy families.



Herb Sendeck, ASU men's basketball coach.



Meadowlark Lemon of the Harlem Globetrotters gives away an autographed basketball to a dining room guest. Left to right: Terry Hamlin, a volunteer who leads recovery programs, a dining room guest, Meadowlark Lemon and Jimmy Walker.



Robert Van Arlen, motivational speaker.



SVdP's Phoenix dining room serves breakfast to nearly 500 homeless men and women every day.



Dave Pratt, radio personality.

Inspiring Hope and Encouraging Change

Continued from cover

Speakers range from sports figures to business owners and doctors. Past speakers who have visited the dining room include Arizona Cardinals Head Coach Ken Whisenhunt, Barrow Neurological Institute Director Dr. Robert Spetzler and 12 News Sports Reporter Bruce Cooper. Not all of the speakers are well-known or famous, but they all have overcome challenges in their lives and for 15 minutes, they share a message of hope and encouragement with our guests.

"Many of our guests have faced a lot of rejection in their lives," says Jerry Castro,

manager of SVdP dining rooms. "The purpose of the program is to help them see that people who have achieved great success have also faced great challenges. Many of them just need that extra push to help them start taking steps in the right direction."

The program has inspired countless men and women to improve their lives.

Not only do the speakers share their personal stories, they remind the guests that help is available. There are many classes and support groups on the Human Services Campus where the dining room is located for individuals to receive counseling and help, whether it be overcoming an addiction or finding housing and jobs.

The program was created and developed by Jimmy Walker, founder of Celebrity Fight Night Foundation and a longtime supporter of SVdP.

The idea came to him while he was leading a Bible study group in the dining room.

After seeing how guests have taken the message of hope to transform their lives, Jimmy spoke to SVdP about opportunities to reach more people.

"There's something in each person that they need to never give up," Jimmy says. "That message seemed to resonate with everybody – whether you're homeless, depressed, discouraged or challenged in some way with adversity that we all face in our lives."

Since beginning the Never Give Up speaker series, Jimmy and SVdP staff continue to hear positive responses from dining room guests as well as the speakers.

Both Jimmy and Jerry recall the morning when Bruce Cooper came in and for the first time, shared in public the story of his son's death. After his message, dozens of dining room guests gave him hugs and words of encouragement.

Another time, Tom Shine, senior vice president of Reebok, was so touched by his experience at Never Give Up, he donated hundreds of pairs of shoes for the homeless.

"It is a very humbling experience and helps to get your priorities in order," Jimmy

said. "I cannot tell you how many speakers have told me, 'this has helped me more than I think I've helped them.'"

In the dining room, the chatter lowers as Harvey Mackay begins to share about his battle with prostate cancer and the process from seeking help to his recovery.

"Believe in yourself even when no one else does," Harvey says.

Judy, a woman in her 40s, wanders over to a seat in the second row. She has been coming to SVdP's dining room for breakfast and lunch every day for the last month while staying in a shelter nearby. She has been sober from her addiction for 40 days, but continues to struggle.

At the end of Harvey's message, he encourages the audience to chant with him, "Never give up. Never give up. Never give up!"

As all the guests shuffle out of the dining room, Judy picks up a handout with a list of nearby support groups and resources for the homeless and says she's ready to look for more permanent housing and transition out of her current life on the streets.

"I feel good," she said. "I feel hope. We all need that every day."

Look for our ongoing coverage of the Never Give Up program.

Family Dream Center Moving Closer to Reality

By Ryan Zuk, APR



The Parker family.

Hundreds of children and their families come to St. Vincent de Paul's Hall of Banners dining room every weeknight for nourishing meals and family-oriented activities. Children can be seen in the play area throughout dinner time creating art projects, reading and getting help with their homework from volunteers.

"The Family Evening Meal program provides more than just food," explains manager Allison Ghan. "Our staff and volunteers work to make it a positive and enriching program that provides wrap-around support for families as they work to improve their lives. The play area is certainly an important element of this."

The current play area has been a patch work of donated toys, games, play equipment and furniture; functional and appreciated, yet in great need of a refresh. Thanks to a thoughtful anniversary gift and the love of one family, the play area will soon be transformed into a modern activity center designed to help children achieve their dreams.

A place where kids can be imaginative

The activity area will be called the Dream Center – originally envisioned by Mike Parker as a 25th anniversary gift to his wife, Ana. Mike was looking to buy Ana a diamond ring when it dawned on him there was a better way to feel connected and honor her. In the middle of inspecting cuts and caret sizes he went outside for a walk, then got in his car and soon found himself touring various nonprofits including SVdP where he and his family have volunteered to serve meals on several occasions.

"I saw what St. Vincent de Paul does daily to help those who struggle to find a way out of poverty and help themselves," Mike said. "All they need is a spark and



A conceptual sketch of the Dream Center – Toddler Area, Study/Library Area, and Teen Area.

for someone to help them believe that something is possible. The Dream Center is so kids can have one moment, one glimmer of hope to set them on the right path."

After getting home that day, Mike gave Ana her anniversary gift: a few SVdP brochures and a handwritten card to let her know that he had made a gift to SVdP in her honor.

"She read the card and was totally in awe," Mike said. "Ana has never been a materialistic person so I knew she would love it."

Developing vision and dedicating space

The vision of the Dream Center has grown since then. Ana asked to name the space after her mother, Ana Maria Manta, whose influence continues to shape the family's strong work-ethic and compassion for others.

Current Dream Center plans include a theater area, homework area with computer stations, and ample space for activity tables and games.

The Parkers helped design the new space and worked directly with architects on the concept drawings. In January, the Parkers were onsite to officially dedicate the space to Ana Maria. The brief ceremony was a beautiful tribute from the girls to their grandmother who was in attendance to celebrate.

With the Parker family's seed gift, their guiding vision and concepts in place, St. Vincent de Paul is seeking corporate and individual partners who would like to help bring the Dream Center effort to completion with additional financial support, equipment and supply donations as well as volunteer construction and staffing.

"The Dream Center provides us with an opportunity to do something that we have dreamed of doing for years," said SVdP Executive Director Steve Zabalski. "In essence, it really does start with dreams, and we thank our community of clients, employees, volunteers and donors for inspiring big dreams at SVdP and helping to bring them to fulfillment."

For more information about the Dream Center project or to get involved as a donor or volunteer, please contact Shannon Clancy at (602) 261-6893 or sclancy@svdp-phx-az.org.

Make a Positive Impact – Volunteer!

While St. Vincent de Paul is well-known for our comprehensive services to the homeless and working poor, we are also dedicated to providing others with the opportunity to serve. Serving others is often described by our volunteers as a humbling and fulfilling experience. Many opportunities are available, ranging from food service to sorting donations and administrative work. There are also special opportunities for groups and children as well. After all, we cannot accomplish all that we do without our volunteers!

Volunteer Services staff are here to help you find the volunteer opportunity that best suits your needs!



Arlene Pfeiff Manager

My role is to provide leadership for this department and ensure that we provide support for our volunteers and

donors. Particularly, my focus is cultivating deeper relationships with these groups so they can be connected with St. Vincent de Paul in ways that truly enhance their lives and provide individual fulfillment. I welcome feedback about the services we provide – we're here for you and want to make it easier for you to serve when and how you want.



Mike Korte Assistant Manager

I manage the day-to-day operations of the Volunteer Services department and serve as the point of contact

for new groups looking for volunteer opportunities. We can always use more assistance and I'm happy to help you find the right volunteer job for you.



Andrea Gonzales Volunteer Coordinator

As an AmeriCorps volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul program, I schedule volunteers

for the kitchen and coordinate special group projects, such as decorating the Dan O'Meara Center dining room and assembling toiletry kits for Special Ministries.



Cassidy Zollner Volunteer Coordinator

I help match the needs of the organization and the needs of our volunteers. Specifically,

I work with volunteers who come to us for mandated community service. These people not only provide volunteer work for St. Vincent de Paul – they receive a unique opportunity to complete their time in a positive environment.



Katie Hawkes Volunteer Coordinator

As the newest member of the team, I'm still learning the ins and outs of St. Vincent de Paul. I schedule the

Sunnyslope dining room and work directly with new individuals who are interested in volunteering. I am also helping to increase our online connection with volunteers via social media.



Laurie Bassett Volunteer Coordinator

I first joined St. Vincent de Paul as a volunteer, and was hired last year. My role includes scheduling

volunteers at the Phoenix Dining Room or in the Volunteer Services office and compiling departmental data.

Current volunteer needs:

- Early-bird volunteers to serve breakfast at our downtown Phoenix dining room or Sunnyslope dining room.
- Volunteers willing to help in our thrift stores, with pricing, sorting and selling.
- Cooks in our kitchen to help with meal preparation.

Contact our volunteer department at (602) 261-6886.

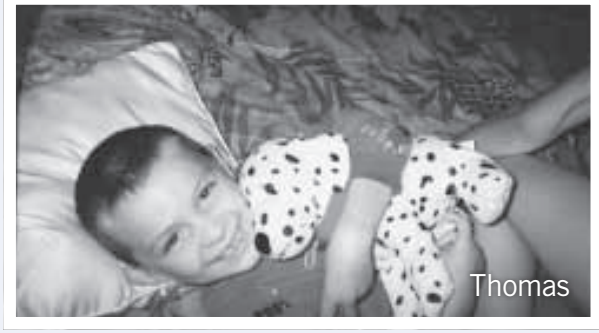




Life Through the Child's Lens

Last year, St. Vincent de Paul hosted a photography workshop for children who come to our Families Evening Meal. A staff member who is an avid photographer taught them about composition, lighting and various other elements that make good photographs. Each child was given a disposable camera to capture their world.

The images across these two pages are what the children captured. Naturally, the children took photos of their friends, pets, family, houses and other things that make up their daily lives. However, the photos also reveal a sense of quiet resilience in the heart of every child – the kind of resilience that reminds us of the infinite potential of every person and the beauty of compassion for the most vulnerable of society.



An Aspiring Chef's Recipe for Success: Determination and the Opportunity Program

Richard came to St. Vincent de Paul in December 2010. After working a full season as a concessions cook, travelling throughout the western United States, Richard ended up in Phoenix. Yet, the little money he had been able to save was not enough to keep him off the streets. Following a month staying in Central Arizona Shelter Services, he was determined to turn over a new leaf for his life in the new year. During a visit to St. Vincent de Paul's main campus to receive lunch, clothes and a shower, Richard's wish for a fresh start began to unfold. After receiving the services through Ministry to the Homeless and discussing his desire for finding a job, Richard was referred to the Opportunity Program.

"The Opportunity Program is meant to work with people just like Richard," Zach Wibdin, Opportunity Program manager said. "We take people who are already hard-workers and connect them with the resources to help them succeed."

Having worked as a concessions salesman and cook for many years – work which required extended hours and provided below living wages – Richard was looking to step away from a life spent on the road, and step into a settled, sustainable life with a job in the food services industry. With the ultimate goal of returning to culinary school, Richard's first priority was to find permanent work which would allow him to move off the streets, raise money for school application fees, and ultimately save money for tuition.

Through the Opportunity Program, Richard worked twice a week in the kitchen at SVdP, where staff and volunteers alike enjoyed his cheerful attitude and strong work ethic. Richard also diligently worked on his job search, received help putting together a resume – a first for him – and spent time with volunteer mentors establishing and refining his job search strategy. Through the Opportunity Program he also received help with transportation, interview clothing and laundry cards. After

six weeks in the program – filled with the ups and downs that are inevitable in a job search – Richard's hard work paid off when he landed a job at a local Phoenix-based wood-working business. The job was ideal for Richard, as it afforded him 36 hours/week at a livable wage, with a schedule that will allow him to pursue his next goal: culinary school.



Highlights Highlights



12 News Collects Food During Downtown Block Party

To celebrate the move to its new location at 200EVB (200 East Van Buren), 12 News hosted a downtown block party in January. In addition to live performances, giveaways and other fun events throughout the day, 12 News hosted a food drive for St. Vincent de Paul. 12 News encouraged everyone to bring canned and non-perishable food items to its new downtown location. In just one day, 12 News collected close to 1,000 pounds of canned foods for needy families!



We are pleased to welcome **Michael Thio**, St. Vincent de Paul's international president to Phoenix in May. Michael is the first non-European elected to hold his position, in the almost 180-year history of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Michael, a Singaporean citizen, has held several positions in the Society and has chaired the commission in charge of granting extraordinary aid to countries in need. During his four-day visit beginning May 11, Michael will meet with leadership, Vincentians and learn about the Phoenix Council's work in the community.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is present in 146 countries. We are honored to be part of an international network of people who serve the poor around the world. The Phoenix Council will be the first U.S. Council that Michael visits. While almost all states have a SVdP Council, Phoenix is the largest in the nation.



Fruit Orchard Blooms at SVdP's Watkins Campus

Thanks to your votes last year, St. Vincent de Paul won a grant to plant a fruit orchard through **Dreyer's Fruit Bar's "Communities Take Root"** program. On March 24, 40 volunteers from the community joined us at the Watkins campus to plant 30 citrus trees. Not only do the trees beautify the campus and improve air quality, but they will also provide fresh fruit for guests who attend our Family Evening Meal Program.

Many of the children who regularly come to our dining room with their parents are already in search of budding fruit, eager to pluck and taste the oranges!

Highlights Highlights



Scouts Collect 12,000 Pounds of Food

Thanks to the Boy Scouts of the Salt River District of Grand Canyon Council, we had another successful Scouting for Food event this year. About 35 Scouts worked together all day on a Saturday to collect 12,000 pounds of food to feed hungry children and families. Thank you Boy Scouts!

Special Guests Bring Extra Cheer

Miami Heat's **Dwyane Wade** and number-one ranked women's golfer **Cristie Kerr** visited hundreds of children and their parents at our Family Evening Meal program in December last year. Dwyane's mother **Jolinda Wade** was also on hand to pass out handmade bags filled with goodies for children. Both Dwyane and Jolinda shared inspirational messages to the families, encouraging them to believe in themselves as they work toward their goals.



Jolinda Wade shares her life struggles and encourages families to work hard for their dreams.



Cristie Kerr and Dwyane Wade graciously pose for pictures while passing out bags of goodies to families.

Highlights Highlights

Hundreds Ride into Apache Junction for Southwest Days

Early on February 1, hundreds of customers lined up outside our Apache Junction thrift store waiting for the doors to open. It was the 16th annual Southwest Days, where the Apache Junction store is transformed into a Southwest-themed superstore for art collectors, antique hunters and people who love items from the Southwest. This year's sale was bigger and better than ever! The store was stocked full of cowboy hats, leather boots, jewelry, furniture and other items with a Southwest theme.

Special thanks to those who donate items to our thrift stores! Retail profits from our stores all go to fund our services to assist homeless and working poor families. If you'd like to schedule a pick up for your donation, please call (602) 254-3338.



A Prudential employee makes Easter centerpieces in our family dining room.

What Won't Prudential Do?

We haven't found an answer to that question yet. Last year, employees of Prudential were found working in our kitchen, repairing bikes, unloading trucks, making phone calls, reviewing our thrift store leases and throwing a carnival for the children who come to our Family Evening Meal.

They were also one of the sponsors of our 2010 Restoring Hope breakfast and provided a grant of \$15,000 through The Prudential Foundation. Prudential's level of involvement with our mission is certainly worthy of recognition. But they're not resting. Plans are underway to help paint the Glendale thrift store, hold a food drive, continue as a breakfast sponsor and much, much more. Our thanks to Robin Hanson, who made this all happen. Prudential cares.



Hundreds of customers line up to get inside the store.

SVdP Establishes Andy Andreano Award



Andy Andreano helps prepare meals in the kitchen.

Each year, St. Vincent de Paul's volunteers contribute more than 500,000 hours serving throughout our organization, from the medical clinic to our dining rooms and thrift stores. Without our volunteers, SVdP would not be able to provide comprehensive services that not only meet immediate needs, but also empower individuals to become self-sufficient again.

This year, SVdP is establishing a volunteer award named after Andy Andreano, who has been volunteering with SVdP for 41 years. Andy has served on SVdP's board of directors and continues to serve in the day-to-day operations of the kitchen and food bank.

The Andy Andreano Award will be given annually to select volunteers who go above and beyond to improve SVdP.

Highlights Highlights



SVdP Executive Director Steve Zabilski with children from Family Evening Meal.

Phoenix Theatre Honors SVdP

Each year, Phoenix Theatre selects several individuals to receive its Man of Character award. The award is aimed at recognizing those who are leaders in community service and philanthropic efforts. This year, SVdP and Steve Zabilski were recognized for the extraordinary work that the organization does to assist the poor and homeless in central and northern Arizona. Through a set of comprehensive services, SVdP meets immediate needs and also empowers families and individuals to move from homelessness and poverty to self-sufficiency.



Mobile Clinic Provides Free Exams and Glasses

Part of a national campaign to raise awareness for proper eye care, VSP Vision Care visited St. Vincent de Paul's medical and dental clinic in April to provide free services to uninsured individuals and families. The 45-foot bus was a fully-stocked mobile clinic and VSP doctors provided free eyes exams, eyewear, diabetes screenings, as well as education on proper eye care and general health.

TRIBUTES

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A young woman, just diagnosed with cancer and the mother of three children, was facing eviction and needed temporary assistance for the mortgage...

A mother of four was in a serious car accident, and even with insurance, there were extra expenses for her care leaving little money for rent...

The William Anthony O'Brien Fund

The stories are real. Every day in our community families face crises and feel they have nowhere to turn. Because of the William Anthony O'Brien Fund, financial assistance can help working poor families survive a setback.

The William Anthony O'Brien Fund provides rental, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent families from becoming homeless. Mary Lou Goldstein began this fund to honor her late father, William Anthony O'Brien, who quietly worked to help people in need.

You can help too!

- Call 602-261-6814
- Send a check to:
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Click on "Donate" on the left side of the screen, fill out the form and select "William Anthony O'Brien Fund" under the categories tab.

All of your donations to St. Vincent de Paul are tax deductible!

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