

THE SOCIETY OF  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



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HOUSE. HEAL.

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# VINCENTIAN CONNECTION

September 2013 Volume 49, Number 2 Newsletter of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix Diocesan Council [stvincentdepaul.net](http://stvincentdepaul.net)



## REVEALING THE UNSEEN

Behind the  
scenes at SVdP



## The Joy of Unseen, Yet Powerful Work of Vincentians

“The poor have brought me out of myself. That is why I love them so.” Those meaningful words of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, speak eloquently to what is perhaps the most significant unseen aspect of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul: The inner transformation of its members as we follow in Frederic's footsteps while providing help and restoring hope to those in desperate need. Together with our indispensable volunteers, dedicated staff and generous supporters, Vincentians embrace the most vulnerable in our communities in love and protection, enriching their own lives while doing so.

### Serving those in need is serving God

Nurturing the personal spirituality of its members is the primary purpose of the Society. St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic remind us that serving those in need is serving God. Both were driven by an image of Jesus as servant of the poor. They saw Him in the poor – the essence of Vincentian spirituality and the inspiration for our works of mercy which bring us closer to our Creator.

St. Vincent beautifully described what is expected of us: “You are, therefore, intended to represent the goodness of God in the eyes of the poor.” Vincentians in our parish-based Conferences of Charity quietly demonstrated their extraordinary commitment to that central truth of our mission last year by visiting more than 55,000 homes and devoting over half a

million hours to serving the needy. They disbursed more than \$4.2 million for rent, utilities and other assistance to struggling families in central and northern Arizona, and delivered some 471,000 food boxes. Nearly 1.2 million meals prepared in our kitchen were served to hungry guests. Their labors of love were complemented by the invaluable efforts of thousands of volunteers whose caring and compassion span the broad spectrum of our services.

We are proud of the number of people we help, but prouder still that each person helped was not treated as another number. On a home visit Vincentians listen attentively to the needs of a family, offering prayer, friendship and encouragement. Our dining rooms are safe, welcoming havens where the hungry and homeless can check their burdens and worries at the door and be served a hot, nourishing meal by people who truly love them. Each of these special occasions is a priceless opportunity for us to share with our less fortunate brothers and sisters the wonderfully unconditional love of God.

Serving the poor so personally is both a source of joy and a reminder of our common humanity. St. Vincent de Paul is committed to fostering a community in which we all look out for each other, in which we have faith in each other, as members of one family. Another unseen and essential aspect of the Society's place in our communities is always on my mind: The belief in us by those whose support makes it possible for St. Vincent de Paul to feed, clothe, house and heal so many people who need our help. We consider that belief to be a sacred trust, one we strive to honor fully every day.

Joseph J. Riley, *President, Phoenix Diocesan Council*

# VINCENTIAN CONNECTION

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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.

If you have a change of address, please call (602) 261-6814.  
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## SVdP in COLOR

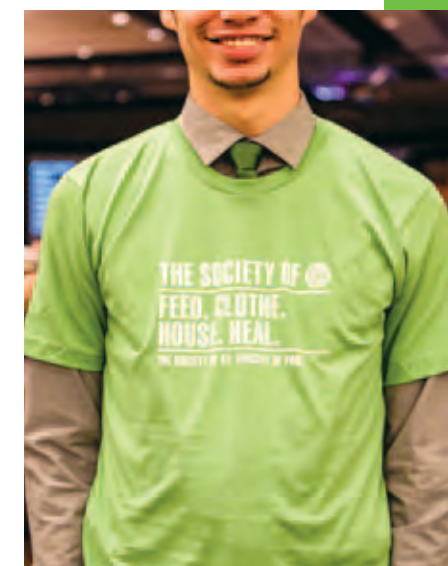
Did you notice something different about this issue?

We are printing in full color! If you have been involved with us over the last year, you may have noticed that we are gradually updating our look. At our annual fundraising breakfast last year, we introduced our simplified logo and new tagline: Feed. Clothe. House. Heal. We also wrapped our donation pick-up trucks with new artwork. Many of you have expressed enthusiasm for the new look, and we are excited to debut the new design in this issue.

SVdP has been in Arizona since 1946, and we feel that the new tagline encompasses our comprehensive programs that serve the whole person, physically and spiritually. With the updated look, our cherished tradition of compassion and expertly developed programs and services will not change. We are simply refreshing the way we talk about ourselves and tell our story of service to the community.

Thanks to a generous sponsor, our new truck wraps, ads and website are all underwritten. Our local printer, Impact Printing, has committed to print the full-color newsletter for the same cost as we previously printed in two colors.

More changes are coming to our website, blog and e-newsletter, so please stay connected with us! You can sign up for our monthly e-newsletter on our website [stvincentdepaul.net](http://stvincentdepaul.net). Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.

# Revealing the Unseen

In this issue, we take you behind the scenes to see the unseen work and details of St. Vincent de Paul that ensure all who need help can count on us.

## Food Bank

The food bank processed more than 6 million pounds of food last year. Every box and can of food that is donated is inspected before they are sent to one of over 80 SVdP food pantries across the state. Unlike traditional food banks where families in need pick up food, volunteers at the food pantries take calls and deliver food boxes into homes. We believe that this promotes dignity and is especially needed for families without transportation or extra money for gas.



Andy Andreano sorting donations in the food bank. Andy is in his 44th year of volunteering at SVdP. We named an annual Volunteer Lifetime Achievement award in his honor.

## Dental Clinic at Chris-Town YMCA

In addition to the dental clinic on our main campus, we have expanded our dental care program to the Chris-Town YMCA. The clinic opens up new opportunities for dental care for families that did not have access. The additional appointments also mean that the dental students trained by SVdP gain valuable experience in community health care.



The dental team at SVdP's YMCA clinic takes a break to pose for a photo. Left to right: Volunteer Dr. Jenny Barry; SVdP Dental Assistants Betty Contreras, Betzy Leyva; Fourth-Year Students of Midwestern Dentistry and Oral Medicine, Amber Kibby, Parisa Shahnavaz, Dara Feinman. In the patient chair: SVdP Dental Director, Dr. Ken Snyder.



## Family Wellness Program

Our medical clinic's family wellness program is partnering with the Phoenix Children's Museum to stay active through the hot summer months. The museum's indoor space and play structures allow our wellness instructors to design exercise programs that are challenging and fun for both children and adults.



The family wellness program combines exercise, nutrition classes and other activities to improve the health of children who are pre-diabetic. These children move from an upper-percentile BMI down to a healthy range. Many of them gain interest in sports and athletics. A group of them formed a running club, where they meet weekly to train for 5K and half-marathon runs.



## Central Kitchen

The central kitchen prepares more than 3,500 meals a day for our five dining rooms and several other nonprofits lacking kitchen facilities. Each of these industrial kettles holds 100 gallons of chili, gravy or soup.

# Revealing the Unseen

Every day, thousands of people across the state are helped by St. Vincent de Paul's programs, developed over our 67 years in Arizona.



### Donation Processing Warehouse

Every electronic appliance in our thrift stores is inspected and tested before they are sent to the stores. We have volunteers who fix items that can be refurbished. We are so confident in the quality that we give customers 30 days to return an item if it doesn't work.



### Community Gardens

#### At Ozanam Manor

Ozanam Manor is much more than a shelter. In addition to case management and a mentorship program, residents gain valuable experiences like learning to grow food in the community garden. Residents take turns tending the garden and all the food harvested is incorporated into nutritious meals at Ozanam Manor.

Joyce Corales waters the garden on a hot summer day. She was referred to Ozanam Manor by SVdP's medical clinic. After receiving surgery at a hospital and wound care at SVdP's medical clinic, she had little in savings and nowhere to go. "St. Vincent de Paul saved my life," Joyce said. "I would've become homeless without their help."

#### At the Downtown Phoenix Dining Room

Sunflowers bloom at the community garden located next to our downtown Phoenix dining room. Homeless guests work alongside volunteers to grow vegetables and herbs that help supplement meals.



Homeless men and women come to us for their basic needs like food, showers and clean clothes.



### Ministry to the Homeless and Working-Poor

Our Ministries to the Homeless and Working-poor serves nearly 200 people on a daily basis. Homeless men and women come to us for their basic needs like food, showers and clean clothes. Those who are ready are able to meet with counselors who help them find employment or other services to help them along their path. Life on the streets is harsh and uncomfortable. A pair of shoes and a clean set of clothes can help ease some of the stress of being without a home. Since the clothing and shoes that we give people are typically used, they wear down even faster when our guests are outside and on the move all the time. We find that we are constantly low on our supplies of men's shoes and clothing.

# Thank You Volunteers!

Volunteers are the backbone to our organization. From our food bank, dining rooms to thrift stores and administrative offices, volunteers make our comprehensive services to working-poor families and homeless individuals possible. Each year, we hold three volunteer appreciation events to highlight volunteers who serve tirelessly to make our community a better place.



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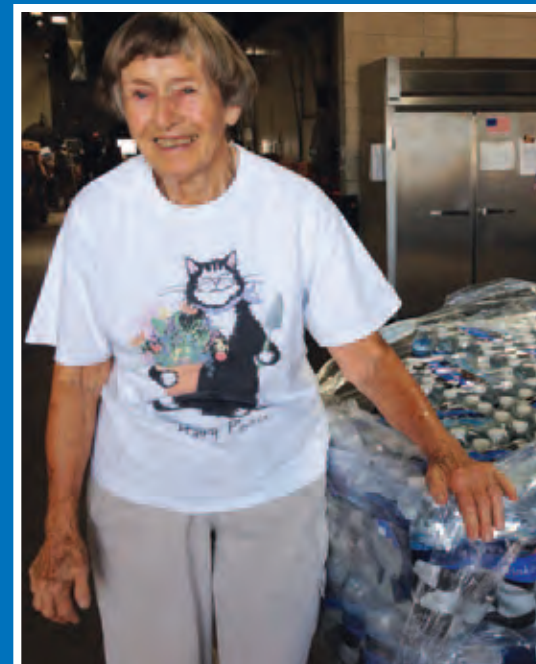


6

1. Dream Center manager Cynthia Bach with volunteer Peggy McKittrick. 2. Tiffany Gray and staff from SVdP's Family Wellness Program. 3. Val White, Fresh Perspectives volunteer, and Gabriella Bova, former manager of Fresh Perspectives. 4. Angie Hernandez with Laurie Bassett, manager of Volunteer Services. 5. Lauren Willis with Oliver Moore, manager of the Phoenix dining room. 6. Dominique, Emily and Katie Weigel, Family Evening Meal volunteers, and their fan club!

# Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

Each year, we present three Lifetime Achievement Awards to volunteers who have gone above and beyond to support the mission of St. Vincent de Paul. Each award was named after a SVdP volunteer who exemplifies an exceptional spirit of service and love for others. At the last appreciation luncheon, we presented awards to two very special volunteers.



**Phyllis O'Toole was this year's winner of the Glennie Scott Lifetime Achievement Award.**

Phyllis is a loyal volunteer of our food bank. She comes in weekly to sort and organize food that will be sent to our food pantries. Phyllis is pictured with our food bank manager, Mary Thomas, who nominated Phyllis for the award.



**Gert Miholic was awarded the Bob Russell Lifetime Achievement Award for her work at our Mesa Thrift Store.** In the picture to the right, Gert is with Steve Zabilski, SVdP executive director; Bob Russell; Alex Loya, the Mesa Thrift Store manager who nominated Gert; and Ed Dubiel, director of Retail Operations.



## Teaching Volunteerism to Young Hearts and Hands

Hearts and Hands Day is a special day where people of all ages come to Svdp to work on projects that help the community.

If you'd like to volunteer, sign up on our website: [stvincentedepaul.net](http://stvincentedepaul.net). We can't wait to see you there!



Photo above: Many of the volunteer projects involve crafts, such as centerpieces for dinner tables or preparing art activities for children in the family dining room.

Left: The Zeigler family volunteered at a recent Hearts and Hands Day. The two girls had such a great time that they went home and wrote us thank you notes! (Letters on the opposite page)

Because you need only be five years old to participate, volunteers who regularly help within our dining room and thrift stores have the opportunity to introduce the joys of service to their young children.

"Some of the parents who have been really dedicated to helping out a philanthropic organization want to involve their kids. Parents want to teach their kids at a young age to give and serve," said Laurie Bassett, volunteer services manager.

They want to impart knowledge unto their kids that will last a lifetime. "It's good to have parents expose their kids to volunteering. The kids learn about giving, and then, when

they grow up, they'll teach their own kids about giving," Laurie said.

Volunteers work on kid-friendly projects like crafting centerpieces for the dining rooms to make our guests feel special, or assembling hygiene packs for people who are homeless.

Hearts and Hands Day generally takes place the first Saturday of every month. The schedule may vary depending on holidays, so check [stvincentedepaul.net](http://stvincentedepaul.net) for the updated schedule.

"Everyone's welcome. We want everyone to come out and enjoy themselves. There's always something to do," Laurie said.

Photo above: A group of volunteers from American Express helps us make gift bags of cosmetics as Mother's Day gifts for dining room guests.

### Letters from Two Happy Volunteers

We received these thank you notes from Hearts and Hands participants, 9-year-old Olivia and 6-year-old Julia. Their letters embody the spirit of Hearts and Hands Day so well, that we'd like to share what they had to say.



## Changing Lives, One Bike at a Time

Working in the Shifting Gears program has been a very unique experience for Ernie, one he wishes to share with more people.

Ernie Renaud, a volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul, has been fascinated with planes since he was a kid. "I grew up in a small suburb of Detroit and I knew about the naval air stations in Michigan and every time I would visit my Canadian relatives in Windsor, I would see those airplanes that took off and I wanted to get involved with that," Ernie said.

So, when Ernie turned 17, he joined the Naval Reserve Program where being an aircraft mechanic was one of his duties. He learned many skills that have stuck with him for a lifetime. When Ernie left the Navy, he still kept up the practice of fixing aircraft.

And even when he retired, those mechanic skills didn't go to waste. Ernie was able to put them to good use in SVdP's Shifting Gears program. "I just wanted something to do for St. Vincent de Paul that was meaningful for both of us," Ernie said.

Shifting Gears provides the homeless and poor—who either have a job or are about to get a job—bikes so they can get to and from work. "It provides a needed form of transportation," Ernie said.

Working in the Shifting Gears program has been a very unique experience for Ernie, one he wishes to share with more people.

"Seeing the expression on people's faces when they're presented with a new bike—it can be just an ordinary one-speed coast-gear bike or it can be one of the top of the line multi-gear 12-speed bike—they're so happy to have some sort of transportation. I've even seen some people cry about it," Ernie said.



In addition to providing bikes to people in need, Ernie also refurbishes bikes to be sold at SVdP's thrift stores. The funding generated through the sales of bikes go directly to support SVdP's programs and services, so either way, Ernie's mechanical work translates to help for people in the community experiencing homelessness and poverty. Ernie also puts other skills that he learned from the Navy to good use. "Organizational skills, setting up shop to where it's more functional for me and my trainees and the volunteers, and working hand in hand with the people I work with here," Ernie said.

Ernie says, though, that he would still love to have a few more volunteers to help out in the Shifting Gears program throughout the year.

Call our volunteer office at (602) 261-6886 to learn more about volunteering in Shifting Gears or any other area of SVdP. You can also find information on volunteering at our website [stvincentdepaul.net](http://stvincentdepaul.net)

Do you have a bike to donate? You can drop off at any of our thrift store locations or call us at (602) 254-3338 for a donation pick up!



## Supporting St. Vincent de Paul not just for a lifetime, but forever.

A gift through the Vincentian Annuity will give you the security of a fixed income over your lifetime and provide support for St. Vincent de Paul that will last forever.

As an example, Helen, an 80-year-old widow and St. Vincent de Paul volunteer, recently established a \$50,000 Vincentian gift annuity. For her age, the annuity rate is 6.8%, meaning she'll receive \$3,400 annually for the rest of her life. And, she may take an income tax deduction of about 50% of her gift this year. Best of all, her gift will support St. Vincent de Paul's work for generations to come. Annuity gifts start at \$10,000.

### SAMPLE ANNUITY RATES

	SINGLE LIFE	TWO LIVES
AGE 60	4.4%	3.9%
AGE 70	5.1%	4.6%
AGE 80	6.8%	5.7%
AGE 90	9.0%	8.2%

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PHOENIX DIOCESAN COUNCIL

- Spirituality
- Fellowship
- Serving those in need
- Giving others the opportunity to serve

For more information or to discuss various giving options please contact Shannon Clancy at (602) 261-6814 or email [plannedgiving@svdp-phx-az.org](mailto:plannedgiving@svdp-phx-az.org).

P.O. Box 13600 Phoenix, AZ 85002  
[www.stvincentdepaul.net](http://www.stvincentdepaul.net)

# The Society of a Thousand Thanks

One of the greatest privileges of serving in Arizona is being able to work with a generous community of people who care about the well-being of our state. Our friends not only host food drives and send volunteers, they donate generously to support our work.



### LDS Church

In addition to a \$5,000 grant to support our ministry to the homeless and working poor programs, the church is providing food from its food bank to our central kitchen.

### The Arizona Republic

The Arizona Republic donated \$30,000 through its Seasons for Sharing program to support meals for seniors. In addition to the grant, The Arizona Republic also featured an article on Gorgonio Natividad, an Ozanam Manor resident who has now moved out and into his own home.



### Order of Malta

A supporter of Ozanam Manor for many years, the Order of Malta continues to donate generously and volunteer to host special events to encourage our residents. The Order of Malta recently gave a \$17,000 grant to support the shelter.



### Medtronic

As a leader in medical technology, Medtronic understands the importance of health education. Medtronic gave a gift of \$15,000 to support Every Little Step Counts, a community health education program of our medical clinic.



### 12 News and Bashas'

12 News, azcentral.com, The Arizona Republic, La Voz, Bashas', Food City, 98.7 The Peak, and Harkins Theatres teamed up this year to host the summer Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive. The month-long drive kicked off in the family dining room, with about 40 volunteers, children and parents participating in a PB&J Olympics event!



### Golf-Fore-Charity

The Our Lady of Joy Council of the Knights of Columbus hosted another successful Golf-Fore-Charity event at Troon and Desert Highlands country clubs. A total of \$130,000 was raised to support the Dream Center and other vital SVdP programs!



### Vicksburg Farms

We've been opening our downtown Phoenix dining room past lunch hours on days with heat advisory warnings to help our guests stay cool. Thanks to the Vanderway family of Vicksburg Farms, guests enjoyed a special treat — juicy and refreshing watermelon!



### Vanguard

Vanguard's signature All Cans on Deck food drive collected more than 39,000 pounds of food to replenish our food bank. In addition to delivering the food, Vanguard also sent a group of volunteers to help sort the donation!



# TRIBUTES

Gifts received March 9 – June 30, 2013

## IN HONOR OF

Dr. Larry Allen  
Jenny Norton

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Arvalo  
Joseph and Margaret A. Granio

Earl J. Baker, M.D.  
Gordon and Carol Ray

Bella - First Communion  
William J. Fitzgerald

Clare Benesh  
Merrill F. Myers

Marg Bernstein - Mother's Day  
Kathy and Joe Ryan

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Debra A. McCarthy

My mom, Blanca  
Livier Goins

Debra Cain - Birthday  
Deborah Trojanowski

Gladys Castro - Birthday  
Bryan and Joanna Murphy

Maggie Clancy and Doug Jacobs  
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Matt Garlick and Cecilia Eis  
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Wayne and Helen Ranney

Daniel Collins - on his investiture  
as District of Arizona US  
Bankruptcy Judge  
Collin M. Maloney  
Elizabeth D. Maloney

Marla Cunningham  
Margaret E. Gallagher

Linda Darbe - Renewed faith  
for a loving daughter  
Margaret Granio

Lucy Dolk  
Kevi L. Harrington

Richard Durkin - Birthday  
Patricia K. Durkin

John Fees - his kindness  
and generosity  
Bart Steiner

The Ray Fidel Family  
Jon and Laura Ehlinger

My husband, Lloyd Fox  
Kristan Fox

Joey Granio - Renewed faith  
for a loving son  
Margaret Granio

Joseph Granio - Seeing him  
safely through a terrible accident  
Margaret Granio

Reverend Raymond Greco -  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination  
Elizabeth V. Mills  
Teresa M. Shepard  
Bud and Madeline Summers

Art and Mary Lea Hahn  
Michael and Mary Frances Hahn

Jim, Pauline and Denise Hamra  
Monica E. Boley

Taylor and Mike Horner - On the  
purchase of your new home  
August Colosimo

Mary A. Jaggard  
Mary A. Green

Joey - First Communion  
William J. Fitzgerald

Nieves Johnson  
Peter and Mary Ann Kneip

Ruth Johnson  
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Mary Jordan - 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
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Rosie Keller - Emerging Leader  
Ryan Companies US Inc.

Betty and Wally Kemnitz  
Bonnye Norfleet

Sue Ann Leonard - Birthday  
James J. and Sue Ann Leonard

Leslie and Jim - Happy Wedding  
Corrine E. Reilly

Marcy Lewis - Fundraiser for  
Poppy's Cup  
Ricki and Michael Katlan  
and Family

Maddy - First Communion  
William J. Fitzgerald

Art and Jacque Markus  
Tom and Michele Popa

Sr. Teresa McIntier  
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Patrick Murphy -  
Happy Father's Day  
Bryan and Joanna Murphy

Bill Myers - 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Phil and Paula Garlick  
Thomas D. and Gail Harley  
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Blessed Frederic Ozanam -  
200<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
St. Bernadette's Conference -  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Andrea J. Piacentine - Birthday  
Margaret Piacentine

Nick Piacentine - 23<sup>rd</sup> Birthday  
Margaret Piacentine

John Powers - Special Birthday  
Ed and Elaine Ajamie

Al Radlinski - 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
John E. Polcyn

Ruth Rice  
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John Sack - Birthday  
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Elton and Janet Thayer

St. Jude  
Ann M. Berry

Dr. Statt - Lifetime of Service  
Brian and Jenny Markham

Michael Straley  
Brian Guzik and  
Kimberly S. Straley

Steven Stralser - "Poppy Cup"  
event  
Andrew P. Conlin and  
Jolene U. Dance

Reverend Kevin Sullivan  
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George and Nan S. Ross

Helen D. Wright  
Julian M. Wright

Steve Zabalski  
Harry A. and Rosellen C. Papp  
Wayne and Helen Ranney

Frank Ziede - Special Birthday  
Ed and Elaine Ajamie

## IN MEMORY OF

Nicholas Amoroso  
David and Sandra Stanley

John Armstrong  
Leah Armstrong

Luisa Arvalo  
Joseph and Margaret A. Granio

Francis Thomas B.  
Steven L. and Mary B. Hess

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Albert and Marlene Basila  
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Blue Bell Creameries  
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Manuel G. and  
Tamatha Bracamonte  
Robert Bulla  
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Lenore Simon  
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Fred Boshara  
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Gail Coady - Love of My Life  
William H. Coady

Rhonda Coco and Wanda Coco  
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