

THE  
SOCIETY  
OF

ST.  
VINCENT  
DE PAUL



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HOUSE. HEAL.

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Society of a  
Thousand Thanks

# VINCENTIAN

CONNECTION

December 2014 Volume 50, Number 3 Newsletter of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix Diocesan Council [stvincentdepaul.net](http://stvincentdepaul.net)

## The Home Visit Legacy

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# Making You Feel Right at Home



The Phoenix Society of St. Vincent de Paul is the largest and most successful of all the St. Vincent de Paul Societies in the Nation. One might think of us as just another large food service provider that gives away large quantities of food and resources. If you did you would be wrong!

Our success is built on our personal and spiritual involvement with the poor and those in need whom we serve. We respect our clients and treat them as though they

were part of our own families. We implement our Catholic Society teachings to treat everyone as our brothers and sisters.

Our work ethics are based on face-to-face contact with those whom we serve and clearly becomes ever so important in whatever we do. With respect, compassion and love we provide our clients with some form of temporary assistance, always including prayer as part of our personal involvement.

Nowhere is our personal-contact policy more evident than in our home visits where St. Vincent de Paul volunteers go to the homes of those who have asked for assistance, always with two people (preferably a man and a woman), visiting clients at their homes, and sitting with them as a friend, asking them how we can assist them. Sometimes all they need is a food box; other times they may need financial assistance with rent or utilities;



and still other times they may need clothes or basic furniture. When leaving we ask them if we can pray with them so that "together" we can ask God to help them in their time of need.

The home visit usually begins with a phone call to one of our many Diocesan Conferences usually located on parish property. There are 114 Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Phoenix with 88 of these parishes having a St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Last year our Conferences provided nearly 400,000 food boxes and spent almost \$13 million in financial assistance to those in need. What should be noted as most important is not just the number of services provided, but the way those services were provided. Yes, we are proud of the large quantity of food provided and of the amount of financial assistance given to assist the needy. But what we are most proud of is the personal face-to-face contact where it is Christ who is asking us for help and it is Christ whom we are assisting.

Frank Barrios, 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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# Starbucks Director Pledges Gift to Serve Local Veterans



While Bruce Springsteen, Carrie Underwood, Jamie Foxx and other celebrities performed in the HBO and Starbucks Coffee Company's "The Concert for Valor" to honor veterans in Washington, D.C. on November 11, Starbucks lead director and St. Vincent de Paul Advisory Council Chairman Craig Weatherup and his wife Connie donated \$100,000 to support local veterans served at St. Vincent de Paul in their own hometown.

The star-studded concert was broadcasted live on television to millions of households across America, with the goal of raising awareness for veterans service organizations dedicated to education, wellness, reemployment and reintegration.

"Starbucks has a deep commitment to supporting the men and women who serve and protect our country as does St. Vincent de Paul," Craig said. "Connie and I believe in the powerful work that St. Vincent de Paul does in our community, especially for veterans, and we wanted to do our part right here in Arizona."

The gift will go to support food, rent and utility assistance, the Going Home Program (helping those who are homeless in Arizona get home to family elsewhere in the country) and Ozanam Manor, SVdP's bridge shelter for older and disabled adults. The gift is designed with the goal to support veterans and their families during temporary setbacks and help them stabilize their lives.

"We are honored and blessed to have Craig and Connie in our community," said Steve Zabilski, St. Vincent de Paul's executive director. "Their gift will go a long way to change veterans' lives for the better. In addition to their financial support, they provide great leadership to our organization."

During a Friday night dinner service in our Family Dining Room, Craig was asked many questions about business and leadership from star-struck Arizona State University students who were also with us volunteering but were caught off guard by the presence of a Starbucks director and retired CEO of Pepsi-Cola and the President of PepsiCo. Craig graciously answered their questions but finally pulled away to don an apron and gloves. "I better get to work!" Craig said, as he sliced and plated pieces of handmade vegetable pizzas and watched as they traveled to tables of hungry families, eagerly awaiting their dinner.

Standing side-by-side with Connie and other volunteers, Craig perhaps answered more questions about leadership by this simple action than through his words with the students.

## STARBUCKS®



Craig and Connie Weatherup spent a Friday night volunteering in our Family Dining Room, where about 300 children and family members are served dinner each night.

# Q&A

## WITH FRANK BARRIOS



Frank Barrios is the newly elected board president of St. Vincent de Paul. He is a longtime volunteer and previously served as president of the St. Matthew Conference, one of St. Vincent de Paul's 88 food pantries based out of Catholic churches in Arizona. We sat down with Frank to learn more about him and find out his plans for the future of St. Vincent de Paul.

### How long have you been involved with St. Vincent de Paul?

**FB:** I've been with St. Vincent de Paul for 25 years now. I was working for the Arizona Department of Water Resources when I started volunteering. Now I'm retired and I have been retired since 1998. It's been 25 years total that I've been with St. Vincent de Paul.

### What do you think makes the organization unique?

**FB:** What makes us unique is the face-to-face approach. We interact with the poor directly. Other organizations may provide funds and may provide food, clothing and similar things to what we do, but I don't think any of them have that face-to-face relationship we have at St. Vincent de Paul. We're able to meet with the poor, pray with them and help them whenever we can. It's that one-to-one, going to their homes approach, that makes us different from similar organizations.

### What has been your favorite experience at St. Vincent de Paul?

**FB:** Well, there are so many of them, but maybe I can pick a few. I remember some volunteers with St. Vincent de Paul who would come and tell me that when they were younger they would volunteer with their parents, and they would still

remember the experience. And now here they are back as adults. They come back wanting to volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul because their parents took them out, and now they are taking their kids out to volunteer with them.

When I see that, I really feel good about St. Vincent de Paul. The other thing that is up very near the top is when I've helped somebody, and then I go back a year or two years later and find out they are doing very well and that we were able to get them over that hump. Today we are entering into this idea of "Systemic Change" and the fact that when these people were having problems we helped them and now they're over those problems and are doing well. When I see success like that it makes me feel great; and believe me, there have been many success stories for St. Vincent de Paul.

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# THE VINCENTIAN ANNUITY

**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%

**HELP US FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.  
THOSE IN NEED ACROSS ARIZONA.**

# Fulfilling Christmas wishes, one family at a time

A bronze plaque hangs outside a gray one-story home in central Phoenix with a phrase in Spanish emblazoned on it. It reads: "In the home where there is faith, there is love. Where there is love, there is peace. Where there is peace, there is God. Where God is, nothing is missing." Below it is the family's name, Arenas.



Volunteers help put away and organize all the food donated to St. Matthew's food pantry before putting together family food boxes.

Virginia Arenas lives with her husband, Celestino, their three kids and her mother, Aida, in the home. Last December, as Christmas was approaching and Virginia came to the unfortunate conclusion that she was not going to be able to afford food or gifts for a celebration, she reached out to St. Vincent de Paul. A couple of days later, a truck loaded with food and presents, was outside the home.

The family was referred to St. Vincent de Paul by their daughter's school principal. They were put in touch with St. Matthew, one of St. Vincent de Paul's community food pantries, also called "conferences." St. Vincent de Paul has 88 of these conferences based out of Catholic parishes in Arizona. Volunteers in each conference answer calls for help and visit families in their homes.

"It was a big weight lifted off our shoulders," Virginia said. "I had been staying up wondering 'How do I tell my kids we can't celebrate Christmas?' St. Vincent de Paul helped us so much."

Although the program deadline had passed by the time Virginia learned about the program, the volunteers at St. Matthew offered to help after hearing her story. "I guess you're supposed to register early," Virginia said. "But they made it possible for us to get gifts and a turkey."

During 2013, 6,000 volunteers made almost 49,000 home visits in central and northern Arizona to deliver boxes of food to families, evaluate the need for financial assistance and to give people a chance to have someone with whom to talk.

The Arenas family was part of our Adopt a Family Program, which aims to help families who cannot afford to buy food or gifts for Christmas. The conferences interview the families who want to be adopted and get some information to assess their needs. Sponsors then provide the food and gifts for the participating families.

"It's a really special Christmas for some of these families," said Luis Garcia, District 7 President and Vice President of St. Matthew Conference. "These families know you're trying to help them and do good for them. They feel very grateful."

Luis, who has been a volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul for seven years, still goes on home visits at least twice a month on Saturday mornings. Although he didn't meet Virginia and her family in person last Christmas, he reached out to her a few months later to ask what else the family needed.

"I really enjoy doing this," he said. "It has required a lot of my time, but I was happy to devote it to this. What keeps me going is seeing the children's joy when we get out of the car with the food boxes."

Luis said he remembers most of the stories from the many families he has encountered at St. Matthew or the other eight conferences within his district. The Arenas are no exception.



During 2013,  
**6,000 volunteers** made  
almost **49,000 home visits** in  
central and northern Arizona.



Every Wednesday and Saturday, dedicated volunteers at St. Matthew, one of St. Vincent de Paul's community food pantries, take food boxes like this one to families who need them and take the opportunity to talk to them and assess other needs they may have.

For Christmas, the Arenas received a second food box, besides the one they get every month, a \$25 Walmart gift card and a voucher for St. Vincent de Paul's thrift stores.

Celestino, who has not been able to work for the past three years because of a back injury, said last year was financially the hardest on the family. He needs surgery, he said, and is applying for government assistance.

"Getting the turkey and the gifts was such a big relief," he said. "We cannot thank St. Vincent de Paul enough."

Last Christmas, in the middle of the living room stood the same tree the family has been using for years. A big one, Virginia said. And for the first time, she was worried it would stand bare, with no gifts under it.

Vincentians and sponsors made sure that did not happen. "When the children got up and said 'Mom, where did these come from?'" she said. "That's when we understood what this meant."

Gena McGowan, the principal at St. Matthew's Catholic School, told Luis about the Arenas. She said the school aims to provide opportunities to all of its students, and because of the close relationship with the food pantry at St. Matthew, it is often a reachable goal.

"St. Matthew's School has a very strong call to serve the children of our neighborhood," she said. "The parents are great people and hard workers. Many of them hold two minimum-wage jobs. The kids, like any other kids, have needs."

Virginia is a good mother who cares for her family, so she was happy to give her information to Luis and the rest of the volunteers at the conference, Virginia said.

"Our school is a big family," she said. "If the families have troubles for the holidays, then we're happy to look for resources to help them." Virginia said she hopes the family won't need help this Christmas, but if they do, she knows she won't be ashamed to reach out to St. Vincent de Paul.

"Before this, we never had the need to ask for help," she said. "But they made it such a good experience. Thank you!"

## HOME VISITS

St. Vincent de Paul provides food boxes and financial assistance, including some help with rent and utility bills, through our community food pantries. The pantries, also called "conferences," are based out of Catholic churches in central and northern Arizona. Each one of them responds to unique needs within its neighborhood.

There are **88 food pantries** based out of Catholic parishes in Arizona and in each of them dedicated volunteers work endlessly to help their neighbors in need.



Sacred Heart Catholic School organized a food drive in November and students were able to raise 2,700 cans to donate to our pantry in Prescott. Thank you to everyone who made this happen!

# CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS

We held our final Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon of the year in September as a way to highlight volunteers who have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the community. We presented our Lifetime Achievement Awards to Shirley Arthur and Ed McCullough.

Shirley, the recipient of the Bob Russell Lifetime Achievement Award, has been volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul for more than 15 years and her relentless work has ensured the people who go to our Sunnyslope dining room get to enjoy the wonder of Christmas.

Every year, Shirley and her team of more than 60 volunteers put together a delicious Christmas dinner. Last year, almost 600 people ate at the event.

Ed (pictured right), the recipient of the Andy Andreano Lifetime Achievement Award, spends every Sunday morning at our Mesa Dining Room serving breakfast to those in need. In 2002, Ed found himself in need of a hot meal and walked into the Mesa Dining Room. After seeing how dedicated the volunteers were and how nice they were to our guests, he decided to join them.

Since then, Ed has volunteered weekly and said he was surprised by the honor and planned to continue giving his time to St. Vincent de Paul.



## OUR HONOREES

1. Dream Center Supervisor Cynthia Bach with Maggie Anderson. Maggie volunteers at the Dream Center every week.
2. Jeanne Behrendt, from the National Charity League, and Sunnyslope dining room manager Jack Chapman.
3. Food Services manager Jerry Castro (third from left) with the Monday Morning Breakfast Team: Gus Suhr, Larry Seeger and Larry Schmidt.

4. Volunteer Services manager Laurie Bassett and Veronica Brana of APS.
5. Health Education coordinator María Silva and Ricardo Reyes with Melva Villa (middle). Melva has been volunteering at the medical clinic for more than 15 years.
6. Steve Zabilski, our executive director, and Shirley Arthur.
7. The award recipients.

# WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS?



Every thrift store purchase benefits those who need it most.

Shopping at a St. Vincent de Paul thrift store is always an adventure. From hidden treasures to the most practical items, you're bound to find something that will make you smile. We have 20 locations throughout central and northern Arizona to serve you. And, when you're happy, we're happy.

Your purchases help fund our programs for those in need. So get shopping!

**THRIFT STORE LOCATIONS:**

**Apache Junction**  
2540 W. Apache Trail  
(480) 380-4515

**Bullhead City**  
780 Marina Blvd.  
(928) 758-5251

**Chandler**  
2051 N. Arizona Ave.  
(480) 812-1156

**Cottonwood**  
2101 E. Fir St.  
(928) 639-3000

**Flagstaff**  
2113 N. East St.  
(928) 779-4353

**Glendale**  
7018 N. 57th Ave.  
(623) 931-9901

**Kingman**  
218 E. Beale St.  
(928) 753-4399

**Lake Havasu City**  
761 N. Lake Havasu Ave.  
(928) 453-1399

1850 Commander Dr.  
(928) 453-5414

1851 Commander Dr.  
(928) 453-3125

**Mayer**  
10376 S. Highway 69  
(928) 632-9521

**Mesa**  
2352 W. Main St.  
(480) 644-0887

**Payson**  
1006 S. Beeline Hwy  
(928) 474-4476

**Phoenix**  
8231 N. 7th St.  
(602) 861-2634

2945 E. Bell Rd.  
(602) 493-8126

420 W. Watkins Rd.  
(602) 261-6824

**Prescott**  
935 Fair St.  
(928) 771-9696

**Surprise**  
12845 W. Bell Rd.  
(623) 875-5004

**BOUTIQUE LOCATION:**  
**Ozzie's Furnishings**  
3927 E. Indian School Rd.  
Phoenix  
(602) 955-1460

**SAVINGS FOR YOU.  
HELP FOR OTHERS.**

**THE SOCIETY OF  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**





Marcia Vorhees, a volunteer at Ministry to the Homeless, looks up information on bus passes for a guest. Marcia spends Mondays and Wednesdays doing intake interviews, preparing guests for job searches and even doing mock job interviews.



Some of the clothes available to our guests in Ministry to the Homeless. Every day at St. Vincent we offer showers, clothes and even haircuts to the people that need it the most.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Marcia Vorhees

After touring St. Vincent de Paul's main campus almost five years ago, Marcia Vorhees knew she had found the place where she could fulfill the need to give back to the community. Since then, she has been spending Mondays and Wednesdays working with the homeless in some of the different programs St. Vincent de Paul offers.

Marcia is one of many caring volunteers who help serve the 200 individuals who visit our Ministry to the Homeless Program each day to get clothes and haircuts, access to showers, transportation, job leads and case management.

During her time at St. Vincent de Paul, Marcia has been involved in doing intake interviews with the homeless, filling orders for the showers and clothes, and working in the job program.

"I think what I found most rewarding is that I walk away from this experience every time feeling as though I've had the opportunity to touch people and to hopefully make a difference," she said. "I try to find the best way to reach people."

Janie Perdue, Ministry to the Homeless coordinator, said the program offers tools for the homeless population to better their situation, find a job and get permanent housing.

"Ministry to the Homeless is a wonderful place to receive all the tools needed to get off the street," she said. "We're blessed to have so many volunteers who want to help the homeless."

Marcia starts the days she volunteers with a meeting and a prayer and spends the first portion of her day doing intake interviews. During the afternoon, she works on other projects and in the job program.

She said her way to reach guests is to offer ideas, suggestions and resources without passing judgment so they can feel comfortable with her and she can help them.

"A lot of times people who are homeless or down on their luck, they need a helping hand," she said. "Life has kicked them around so they need someone who cares. The bare minimum we can offer people is respect and dignity."

The stories she remembers the most, she said, are the ones where she

has been able to see the person's progress from beginning to end. Back in June, a man who had been homeless for some time signed up for the job program and began working with Marcia.

"He had good skills, experience and the right background, but he was having difficulty making those kinds of connections," she said. "People who are in this situation get frustrated so easily and they get disappointed so easily. They think no one is willing to help. I think that's one of the things that St. Vincent de Paul does."

Marcia and others worked with the man for a while, and he ended up getting a full-time job and was able to get his own apartment.

As a parting gift, he received a voucher for a St. Vincent de Paul thrift store for a "starter kit." The kit includes linen and silverware among other things.

On a Wednesday morning in early October, Marcia sat in her office talking to a guest about his next steps. After a lengthy interview to assess his needs, Marcia suggested he try to get his own place.

**"We're blessed to have so many volunteers who want to help the homeless."**

"You are an honest, outstanding man who's just down on his luck," she told him. "I'm trying to get you away from that."

At the end of the session, she asked the man if there was anything else she could do for him. "Pray for me," he responded. She smiled and said she always did.



Victoria Gelder has been volunteering for almost 20 years. An advocate of fitness and eating right, Victoria decided to join the Ozanam Manor garden team despite having little experience gardening. She visits the center once a week to work on the harvesting.



Victoria shows the seedlings the team will use for fall planting. These include cabbage, green beans, sun flowers, chives and basil.



## A new source of food

What was once an empty lot has now become a thriving one-and-a-half acre urban garden at St. Vincent de Paul's main campus. Tony Kasowski (above), an expert gardener, works on the garden three times a week to ensure it continues to produce beets, radishes, lettuce and tomatoes among other vegetables.

This is not just a fun activity, however, and many of the vegetables that grow in the garden are used in the kitchen to serve at our five dining rooms. Fresh vegetables are an essential part of balanced diets and Tony and the rest of the team are working tirelessly to make sure our guests have access to them.

# Growing Community and Harvesting Wellness

On a sunny Saturday morning in early October, five people hunched over a small plot of land in the center of a housing project in Phoenix pulling weeds and prepping the soil for fall planting. The team, made up of two Ozanam Manor residents, two former residents and a volunteer, meet at least once a week to continue the work on the garden.

Ozanam Manor, our 49-bed transitional shelter, provides space and resources for homeless adults to obtain independent, permanent housing. The guests work with caring case managers and get access to mentoring and group activities.

Residents at Ozanam work in two different gardens: one inside the property and another one just outside of it. The first one was put in place by St. Vincent de Paul's volunteers a few years ago, and the second one, a community garden shared with neighbors and other community members, was funded by the city and by former New York gov. Michael Bloomberg.

Mike Bell, Ozanam Manor's director, said one of the goals of the garden is to use the harvest in the kitchen so residents can enjoy fresh vegetables. Right now, the center relies on the U.S. Department of Agriculture for food, much of which comes in cans.

"We're in a period in history where economy isn't working for everybody," he said. "The garden is an additional means and could permanently become a source of food for our guests."

Mike said that besides the future dietary benefits the garden will bring, it also serves to create a sense of community among residents.

"If they are active, then they are happy," he said. "Working in the garden really gives them a sense of self-sufficiency. It's great."

Victoria Gelder has been volunteering with us for almost 20 years. She has experience working with the homeless through the

Special Ministries program at St. Vincent de Paul. After Victoria heard about the opportunity to work on the garden at Ozanam Manor, she decided to take it despite not having any experience gardening.

Victoria, who teaches exercise classes and gives nutritional consultations, said the garden has two main goals, bringing the residents together and eventually selling the produce they are putting together to generate revenue to continue gardening.

As she stood under the shade taking a water break and watching the others, she said she wanted nothing more than to support the residents in this gardening venture.

"That's what I do," she said. "I'm a big cheerleader around here."

Mark, a resident at Ozanam Manor who has plenty of experience gardening, was among the first to get on board with this year's planting. This is Mark's first autumn in Phoenix.

Mark has formal training with gardening on large scale and experience in urban farming in the Midwest.

"Hopefully we'll put it all together one day and make something big happen," he said. "This is a way for me to give back in exchange for what I am receiving. It's very therapeutic and you get to meet people and have a good time while you're out here."



Ozanam Manor resident and experienced gardner, Mark pulls out weeds to prepare the soil for planting at the community garden just outside Ozanam.

# Going Beyond the Food Box

When Walter Cehura first received a food box from St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry in Wickenburg, he never anticipated that years later, thanks to the hard work and dedication of volunteers, his whole life would change.

After months of anticipation, Walter arrived at his new home in September. Before then, he had been living in deplorable conditions, but even then didn't let things get him down.

Although Walter receives monthly food boxes from St. Anthony of Padua in Wickenburg, one of St. Vincent de Paul's 88 food pantries (also called Conferences) based out of Catholic churches, he gives money back whenever he can afford it.

"Walter ended up becoming our friend," said Conference President Sandra Monroe. "Then one time, during a home visit, we found out how he had been living."

Walter lived in a shack and shared an outhouse with the inhabitants of eight other shacks. His kitchen was a wooden table and a microwave. His bathroom was a bucket. His windows were plastic sheets.

After making this discovery, Sandra and Martha Hernandez, a volunteer, set out to get Walter his very own place to call home. It was a long process, but it was worth it, Sandra said.

"He didn't have anything, but he never complained," she said. "Walter was always so happy and pleasant to be around. We did everything we could to get him out of that situation."



Walter has been painting for decades and regularly gives his paintings as gifts to his close friends, including Martha, who has a couple of them on display at home.



Martha Hernandez (right) and Walter chat inside his new apartment. Martha is one of the volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul in Wickenburg who made it possible for Walter to get his own place and now frequently visits him with her husband Pete.

Sandra ended up buying Walter new bedding and bathroom towels. During a conference meeting, members voted to allocate funds to get dishes, silverware and towels for Walter. Martha and her husband, Pete, donated furniture for the living room, kitchen and bedroom. Other volunteers donated a television, kitchen items, blankets and many other items.

When Walter finally saw his new home, he couldn't help but show how excited he was. "He was so happy he no longer has to wear his flip-flops to take showers," Martha said. "We made him smile so much when he saw the apartment all set up. He just could not hide his emotions."

Walter lived under those conditions for years. Now, he sits outside his door and makes friends with all his neighbors. He has even attended a potluck or two.

**"We made him smile so much when he saw the apartment all set up. He just could not hide his emotions."**

"When he saw the apartment, he just couldn't believe it," Sandra said. "He was so amazed to see he had electricity, a bathroom, a real bed, and even a shower. So many things that we take for granted he cherishes!"



Now in his new apartment, Walter enjoys spending his afternoons sitting outside and befriending his neighbors.

# **FREE YOUR DRIVEWAY. SEND HUNGER DOWN THE ROAD.**



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# Annual Restoring Hope Fundraising Breakfast

On November 21, we held our annual Restoring Hope Breakfast at the Arizona Biltmore. It was attended by more than 1,500 people dedicated to improving our community.

The event was special not just because we raised crucial funding to help out neighbors in need, but because our commitment to feed, clothe, house and heal was fortified thanks to everyone who attended.

We heard from Olivia, who lost everything following a series of unfortunate events. Through a relationship with St. Vincent de Paul, Olivia was able to gain support for her remarkable children and is on the path toward a college education and a new career.

We heard from Marcelino, who became the first person in his family to get a college degree after discovering the St. Vincent de Paul One-at-a-Time program. Now, he is a Governing School Board Member at Roosevelt School District.

At St. Vincent de Paul, we believe there is amazing potential in all of us, waiting to be cultivated. Stories like Olivia's and Marcelino's are made possible by our dedicated volunteers and donors. Thank you for your generosity. With your help, we can feed the soil of promise in 2015.

Visit our blog to view the five-minute video that was featured during the breakfast:  
[www.stvincentdepaul.net/svdp-blog](http://www.stvincentdepaul.net/svdp-blog)



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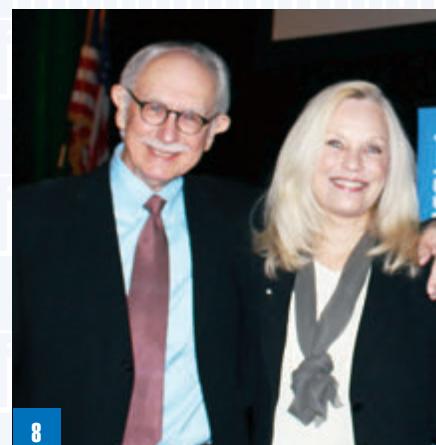
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1. Mike Parker with the Dominguez children, who come to our Family Dining Room with their parents each night.
2. Marcelino Quiñonez shares his experience with SVdP during the event.
3. Entrepreneur and founder of Advertising for Humanity, Dan Pallotta, speaks during the program.
4. Craig Weatherup, Marcelino Quiñonez, Steve Betts and Don Brandt.
5. Bishop Nevares and Susan French before the breakfast.
6. Mary Jane Rynd, Jim Bruner and Jerry Rosenbluth.
7. 12 News Anchor Mark Curtis, who emceed the event, interviews SVdP Executive Director Steve Zabilski and SVdP Chief Development Officer Shannon Clancy on the importance of giving.
8. Richard and Linda Warren. Special thanks to Richard who helped with our program.
9. Mike Cronin and Mike Moryl.
10. Bishop Olmsted leads a group prayer before the program.
11. 12 News Anchor Mark Curtis emceed the program.
12. John Graham, Mike and Ana Parker and SVdP Chief Development Officer Shannon Clancy.

# 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.

## Border States Electric Mixes Learning and Charity to Help Those in Need.

During an annual training event, Border States Electric encouraged employees to donate to St. Vincent de Paul to show their support of our local community. They raised a record amount from the employees of \$770. Border States is also donating to St. Vincent de Paul's annual Golf-Fore-Charity event and will be volunteering in our dining room during the holiday period.



## Walgreens Keeps Our Communities Happy and Healthy at Every Corner

This fall, Walgreens helped us keep our community healthy by providing free flu shots in our dining rooms and a donation of medical supplies to our clinic. Its Sales Round-Up Program was a great success and we look forward to continuing our partnership.



## Valley Youth Theater Provides a Night of Fun to Struggling Families

Through a special partnership, Valley Youth Theater will invite children and parents from our Family Evening Meal program to enjoy dinner and a performance. In addition to providing this unique experience for our families, Valley Youth Theater will donate a portion of their winter season ticket sales to St. Vincent de Paul.

## Walmart State Giving Program

In September, Walmart volunteers from throughout the Valley visited our main campus and participated in two volunteer projects: preparing hygiene packs and sack lunches for the homeless individuals we serve. That same day we held a ceremony celebrating the generosity of the Walmart State Giving Program and received a gift of \$60,000!





#### A Volunteer's Work Impacts Those Around Him

This fall, longtime volunteer Randy Voigt decided to invite his colleagues at UTC Aerospace to join him in giving their time to St. Vincent de Paul. Now, 40 of UTC's employees volunteer next to Randy. But Randy didn't stop there. Wanting to get his family involved, he encouraged his daughter to organize a food drive in her high school. Thank you Randy for your hard work!



#### Mesa Dining Room Gets a Makeover

St. Vincent de Paul's Mesa Dining Room was renovated in October, thanks to a partnership between longtime volunteers and donors and Core Construction Company. The CORE team, spearheaded by volunteer Jason Santor, restored the dignity and design of the dining and serving areas. Thank you to CORE for being a great partner!

#### Math Made Easy Thanks to Young Volunteer

Hayden Hall, a junior at Veritas Preparatory Academy, designed a fun and hands-on math course for our kids at the Dream Center. Since early August, Hayden's Math class has been a complete success with children lining up to attend it. Thank you Hayden for your dedication and outstanding commitment to showing our kids that math is a universal language!



#### A Family Decides to Give Back

In an effort called 'GIVEBACK AZ,' John Torrey and his family are working with a few nonprofit organizations to donate a percentage of John's commissions on real estate earnings. John, his wife, Stacy, and their son Carson are all committed to helping those who need it the most. Thank you to the Torrey family for giving back to St. Vincent de Paul!

# The Society of a Thousand Thanks



"We are pleased to be able to serve and bless our neighbors in a practical and much needed way."

## Celebrity Fight Night Sponsors Deliver

### Help to People in Need

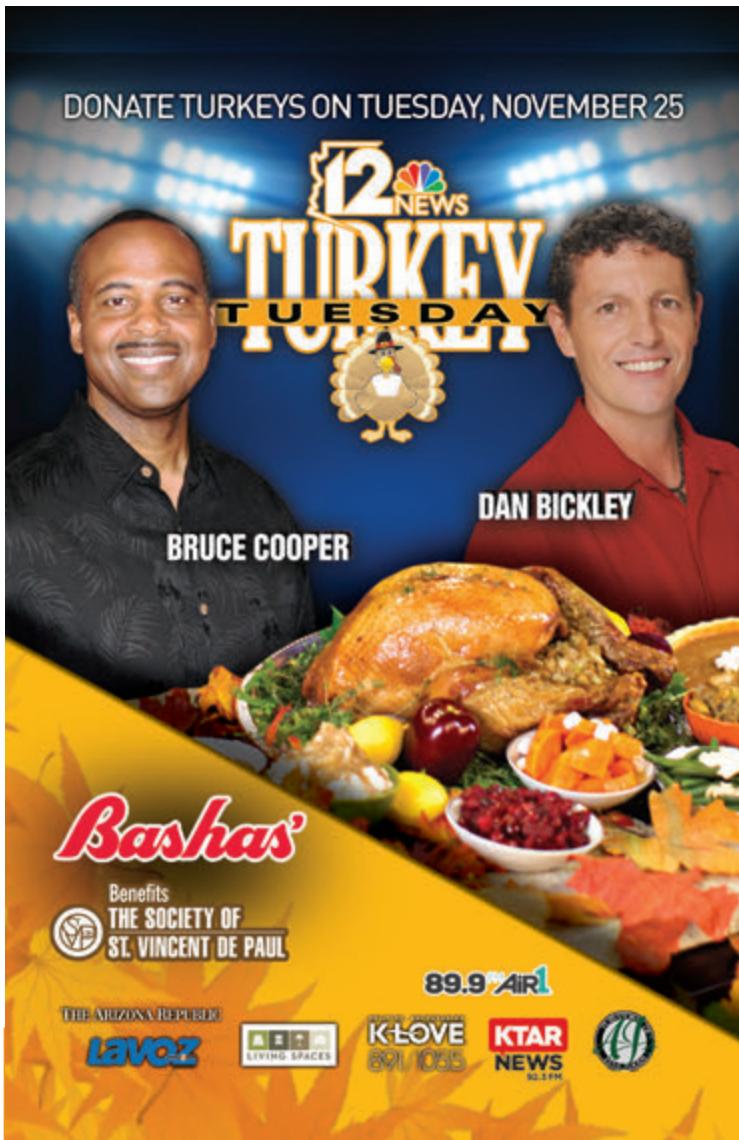
Drinking water is a basic resource that many of us take for granted. Particularly during the summer, a lack of water can cause life-threatening illnesses for people who are homeless and without safe shelter. Thanks to a donation by Celebrity Fight Night, a SVdP "water truck" is now delivering life-saving water, protein bars, sunscreen, hats and other essential supplies to people who are living on the streets in Phoenix.

"We are pleased to be able to serve and bless our neighbors in a practical and much needed way," said Jimmy Walker, founder of Celebrity Fight Night. "By delivering water and supplies, we are delivering the message that help is out there and that there is hope even in the midst of their hardest struggles."



## First Watch Supports St. Vincent de Paul

Our friends at First Watch hosted the annual Free Omelet Day in October to raise funds for those in need. The community was invited to enjoy a free omelet at any of the Valley's First Watch locations and donate to support our programs and services. Local police officers and firefighters supported the event by cooking up their own signature omelets. The big surprise came late morning, when a donor handed us a check for \$10,000. Almost \$20,000 were raised in one day!



### Turkey Tuesday

The nation's largest one-day turkey drive happens every year, right here in Arizona! Our favorite sports reporters Bruce Cooper and Dan Bickley went head-to-head in a friendly competition to see who can collect the most turkeys this year. Of course, the big winners were the families who were able to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner thanks to the help of our community and partners. Thank you 12 News, Bashas', AJ's Fine Foods, The Arizona Republic, KTAR, La Voz, KLOVE and Air1 for making all of it possible!

### Bikers and Turkeys Flock to SVdP

Carrying frozen turkey and canned goods, hundreds of bikers rode in to St. Vincent de Paul from all over the Valley on Nov. 23 make their donation. The annual Birds on Bikes event was organized by the Modified Motorcycle Association. Bikers enjoyed lunch prepared by our kitchen after making their donations.

Below: SVdP volunteer and board member Andy Andreano collects food from a generous donor.



### KNIX's Million Can Crusade

It was a race to the finish line as KNIX's morning duo Ben and Matt rallied support to collect one million cans of food to support our food bank. If anyone could do it, it was Ben and Matt. Thank you, KNIX, Safeway, Desert Schools, Mirassou Winery, Ace and Burger 21 for making this another successful year!

Below: Ben and Matt from KNIX race on Safeway supermarket scooters with Barrel Boy during the kickoff of the Million Can Crusade.



### FOX Sports 910 Food and Turkey Drive

There's still time to donate to the food and turkey drive hosted by FOX Sports 910, Walmart and Classic Car Spa. Drop off nonperishable food and turkey donations at any Walmart in central and northern Arizona. Walmart has been collecting donations since the beginning of November, so show them your support the rest of December!

# The Society of a Thousand Thanks



## Doug Ducey Teaches by Example the Importance of Giving

Governor-elect Doug Ducey launched his "Serving Arizona" campaign in November by serving lunch in our downtown dining room. The initiative encourages people to donate their time and give to those who need it. We thank him for his work and dedication!

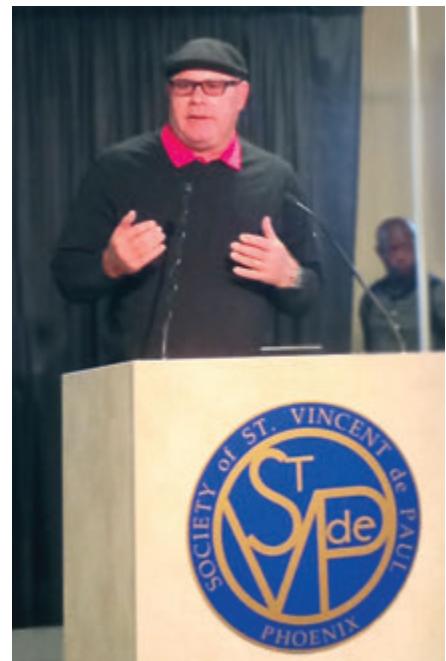
### Clinic Volunteer Dr. Goldfarb Receives Deserved Recognition

Clinic volunteer and supporter Dr. David Goldfarb (right) was recently honored for his lifetime achievement in medicine by Johns Hopkins University with a chair named "The David Goldfarb, M.D. Endowed Professorship in Vascular Surgery." Here he is pictured with Clinic founder Dr. Earl Baker.



### Cardinals Heroes Deliver Message of Hope

Arizona Cardinals coach Bruce Arians and star quarterback Carson Palmer each spent a morning in our downtown Phoenix dining room as speakers in our weekly series, Never Give Up. The series features people from all walks of life sharing experiences and empowering our guests. Bruce and Carson told powerful stories that left a mark on the audience. Thank you to both, and Go Bird Gang!



# TRIBUTES

Gifts received July 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014

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Jack Ahern  
Sue Ellen Hogue  
**Norma Alcarez**  
Joseph and Margaret Granio  
**Dr. Larry Allen**  
Jenny Norton  
**Albert F. Arvallo**  
Joseph and Margaret Granio  
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Honeylou Reznik  
**Earl J. Baker, M.D.**  
Gordon and Carol Ray  
Will Schminck  
**Mary Bernstein - Birthday**  
Joseph and Kathryn Ryan  
**Matthew Borie - Birthday**  
Deborah A. Borie  
**Dennis Bortin**  
Theresa R. Bortin  
**Ann Bullington M.D.**  
Eugenia J. Vogel  
**Ann Capparelle - Birthday**  
Claire Keenan  
**Debbie Coor - Birthday**  
Scott A. and Laurie J. Weber  
**Becky Doyle - Birthday**  
Dolores Witherspoon  
**Karen Dunn - Baptism**  
Karen L. Dunn  
**The Dupuis Family**  
Angel and Paz Zorita  
**Mary Gangi - Birthday**  
Kenneth R. Gangi  
**Peggy Gilligan - Birthday**  
Thomas Ferguson  
**Max H. Golden - Birthday**  
Anniversary  
Sharon Cohen  
**Mary Lou Goldstein**  
Shannon M. Clancy  
**Margaret Granio - Good Health**  
Joseph and Margaret Granio  
**Samantha Hand - Adoption** 9 months old  
Jane Goldberg  
**Harmony in Phoenix**  
Harmony in Phoenix  
**Richard Kohnen and Pamela Grafton - Wedding**  
Barbara M. Messmer  
**Leroy Lundy**  
Molly Carmichael

**Peter Maland - Birthday**  
Christine F. Connors  
Max and Yolanda Gentile  
Peter and Kathy Maland  
John and Cheryl Popescu  
Steve Zabilski  
**Matt Maurer**  
Stacie Cole  
**Arthur and Simone Menko**  
Raphael Menko  
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Terry and Eddie Wilson  
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Patricia A. Roark  
**Carl and Therese Pachek**  
Paula A. Pachek  
**Sebastiano Palmieri**  
Lawrence Domenico  
**Mike and Ana Parker**  
Steve and Denise Zabilski  
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Ann M. Ludlow  
**Rosemary Pilon**  
Timothy J. Abraham  
**Alberta Pizzitola - Birthday**  
Jeffrey M. and Anita R. Hatch-Miller  
**Tyler and Drew Popa - Graduation**  
Thomas Popa & Associates  
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Bryan Rees  
**Joseph Riley**  
Joan Kudulis  
**Joseph and Rita Saulino**  
Michela S. Gilbert  
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Barbara J. Filosi  
**Martin Sprinzl - 60th Birthday**  
Suzanna E. Stanton  
**Stan**  
Sabra De Rocha  
**Gus Suhr - Birthday**  
Linda, Chuck, Bradley and Gavin Miller  
**Helen J. Swietek**  
Marian Roback  
**Levi Tahan**  
Mimi and Bill Munson

**Jeff Van Brunt - Ice Bucket Challenge**  
Cynthia Bach  
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Eric Spicer  
Dorian A. Townsend  
Craig K. and Connie Weatherup  
Jon Ehlinger  
John Jakubczyk  
Doug Zabiski  
Steve and Denise Zabilski  
**Melani Walton**  
Christi Warner  
**Laurie J. Weber - Birthday**  
Debra Coor  
**Working Poor**  
Louise A. Morgan

## IN MEMORY OF

**Margarita Aguilar**  
Joseph and Margaret Granio  
**Vicente de Paul Alcazar**  
Rita Kurtzman  
**Liborio Alessi**  
Martha Albano  
**George Allard**  
Gavin and Kristy Richardson  
**All Cancer patients at CTCA that have physically passed away**  
William, Patricia and Caiden Booth  
**Joni D. Anderson**  
Nixon R. Anderson  
**Sam Applewhite**  
Frank W. and Diane K. Cowdry  
**Luisa Arvallo**  
Joseph and Margaret Granio  
**Mike Arvallo**  
Joseph and Margaret Granio  
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Douglas R. Wood  
**Mary B. Atkinson**  
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**Margaret (Peggy) Banks**  
Margaret Piacentine  
**Sgt. Joe Barioni**  
Georgia Barioni

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Tony Vehr and Maret Webb  
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... continued on page 22

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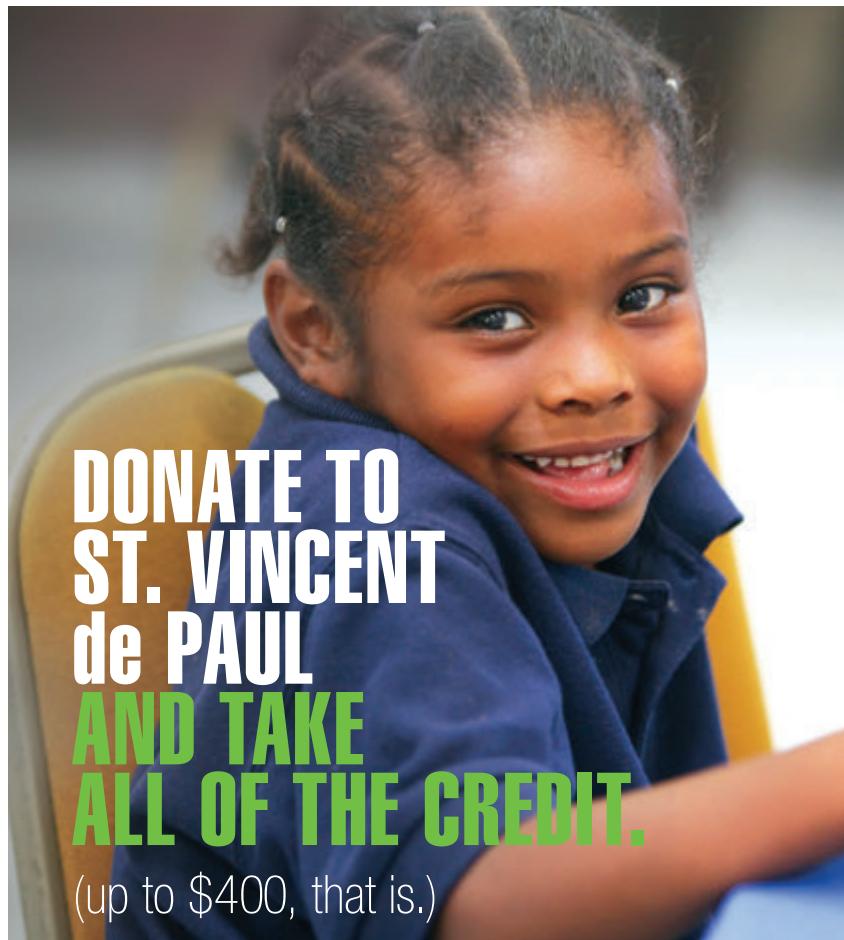
# VINCENTIAN CONNECTION

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**DONATE TO  
ST. VINCENT  
de PAUL  
AND TAKE  
ALL OF THE CREDIT.**  
(up to \$400, that is.)



## YOUR YEAR-END GIFT TO ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MAY QUALIFY YOU FOR A STATE TAX CREDIT.

You can receive a dollar-for-dollar charitable state tax credit with your gift of up to \$200 (\$400 if filing jointly). **This credit is in addition to the school tax credits.** Please consult your tax advisor for details.

Throughout central and northern Arizona, we provide food boxes, medical and dental care, clothing and showers, hot meals, shelter, job referrals and thrift stores.

Donate to SVdP by **Dec. 31st** and you'll have the added satisfaction of knowing your money is helping feed, clothe, house and heal Arizona's working poor. You no longer need to itemize deductions to claim the credit!

### DONATE TODAY AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Find out more at [stvincentdepaul.net](http://stvincentdepaul.net)  
or call **602.266.GIVE (4483)**

**NEW THIS YEAR – You don't need to itemize deductions to claim the credit!**