

THE  
SOCIETY  
OF  
ST.  
VINCENT  
DE PAUL



FEED. CLOTHE.  
HOUSE. HEAL.

6

Farm to Fork's  
Sweet Potato Recipe

10

Helping Others:  
Tips from Staff

15

In Memory of  
Meadowlark Lemon


18

Society of a  
Thousand Thanks

# VINCENTIAN

CONNECTION

Spring 2016 Volume 52, Number 1 Newsletter of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix Diocesan Council [stvincentdepaul.net](http://stvincentdepaul.net)



FROM SVDP TO DDS  
**The long hard road  
to success**

Story on page 4

# The Society of Creating a future legacy



St. Vincent de Paul has given all of us a successful way to provide services to those who are in need. We can provide services through financial donations or we can give of our valuable time to volunteer to serve.

The greatest gift we can give is when we give of ourselves by meeting directly with those who are in need and seeing the face of Christ in those faces of suffering individuals. Volunteering can also require the use of our God-given talents, such as our ability to communicate and assist in fundraising, or just recruiting others to donate and volunteer. Such as the young couple, Joseph Kohn and Julia King, who are getting married and have asked their friends to donate items to SVdP's Dream Center instead of bringing them wedding gifts (Page 9). Or like a young friend of mine, who during Christmas sent a card to all of his family members telling them that instead of a gift, he was going to send a check to SVdP for the amount he would have paid for their gift.

There is also the story of a young dental assistant (on the cover) who volunteered and worked in St. Vincent de Paul's Dental Clinic for many years and is now being accepted to dental school. No doubt she may be part of our next generation of SVdP dentists. You can read her story on page 4.

These are all stories of young people who have chosen to make responsible decisions to help others. And they are also typical



of the kind of individuals that we want to carry us into the future. We must continue developing ways to attract more young people to join St. Vincent de Paul. It is from these younger recruits that our leaders of tomorrow will come from. Many young, capable individuals are out there just waiting to be asked.

Many of us have memories of when we were young and of those special times when we gave selflessly to help those who were in need. These are the memories that stay with us the rest of our lives—memories that help to make us who we are today... memories that teach us that we receive more in satisfaction than the value of what we give to others. When we help those in need, we build a solid foundation for the future. Let us continue recruiting new young members and build a strong foundation for a future St. Vincent de Paul.

**Frank M. 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 through 85 parish conferences of charity.

If you have a change of address, please call (602) 261-6921.

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# GRACE IN A WARM PINK COAT

By Guest Contributor  
Julia C. Patrick



Susan French  
and SVdP  
executive director  
Steve Zabalski.

She simply looked the homeless woman in the eye with respect and serenity as if to silently say, “Now this coat is yours.”

Okay, I hate to admit it, I get invited to a lot of nice things. I have been blessed to participate in amazing events across Arizona, while meeting people of phenomenal import and impact. Sometimes there are a few clunkers along the way. I’m talking about the occasional stars that don’t burn so bright, nor true. For most of the time, and this is hand-to-god-truth, I am witness to the best parts of our community.

Take today for instance, Steve Zabalski invited me to attend a small event where Andrea Bocelli was to visit St. Vincent de Paul’s homeless shelter in downtown Phoenix. I race across the city in my car on most days blasting an odd CD mix of the Italian tenor and David Bowie. The two voices, their perspectives and poetry fuel me. It’s an odd play list that often makes me cry. It’s also private, personal and my secret.

I was so excited to see one of my driving companions in real time that I practically squealed in front of Mr. Zabalski when the invitation was extended. “Jeeze, I would bleach down your dining room tables for an opportunity like that!” I gushed. And, so the deal was set. I was given special instructions where to be at the very early hour of 7:30 in the morning.

Bocelli was on his way out of town, taking his sold out tour to another city, but in honor of his ties with Celebrity Fight Night he would

make a small public appearance and dedicate, of all things a basketball court on the St. Vincent de Paul campus. Honestly, I found it hard to believe that he would show up let alone sing, but I was determined to be there if he did!

As I made my way, in a lovely European car no less, to one of our great city’s most burdened areas, I came upon the harsh reality of life on the streets. Scores of homeless people, who call this corner of Phoenix home, lined the street. They were not gathering to hear a great Italian tenor, they were leaving their shelter only to greet a particularly cold morning. I felt overwhelmed and ashamed of my riches as I passed by so many men and women stomping their feet while huddled under blankets in an effort to push some heat into their bodies.

*With a quick step and averted eyes, I made my way to the St. Vincent de Paul venue where my once-in-a-lifetime experience was waiting for me.*

But then the fate of grace presented itself. An older, patrician looking woman, who I am sure was a high-level donor, signified by an

assigned seat next to Andrea Bocelli himself, quietly stood up and took off her stunning pink, wool coat with matching Burberry scarf and gently placed on the shoulders of a homeless woman who was standing off to the side searching for a bit of warmth. The two ladies could have been the same age.

As the elegant blonde calmly gave over her coat, she didn’t even bother to remove a splendid gold pin that adorned the lapel. She simply looked the homeless woman in the eye with respect and serenity as if to silently say, “Now this coat is yours.” The well-heeled donor returned to her seat without fanfare and the moment of grace vanished. I don’t think anyone else witnessed this act but me. It was that quick. It was that quiet. It was that marvelous.

Tucked into the wool coat, the homeless woman of diminished means, but not diminished humanity moved on. She was not at the shelter to hear the great Italian tenor. No, she was there to find warmth. And, on this day I found warmth too.

Yes, Andrea Bocelli sang Ave Maria, in an impromptu moment which was stunning. Anyone who was there will carry the moment in their heart forever. We were graced by Bocelli’s talent and moved to tears. But for me, I was even more taken by a simple act of kindness and grace. On a cold day in a cold world a pink wool coat sang to me.

And, that will be something that will always warm me.

*This story was originally published in the December 2015 issue of Frontdoors News magazine and has been reprinted with permission.*



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**JULIA C. PATRICK** is the Publisher and CEO of Patrick Media Group. Married to Jeffrey H. Jennings, they have a daughter Camaley Jennings who just graduated from NYU and now lives in Berlin. Julia and her team make more than 1,000,000 connections each month with the award winning *Frontdoors News*.

# From SVdP to DDS

## One staff member's long road to dental school

She strides quickly and confidently down the hall and into one of the rooms in St. Vincent de Paul's Dental Clinic. With an earnest focus and quiet disposition, Betzy Leyva slips on a medical mask, protective eyewear and purple latex gloves. She begins meticulously laying out small instruments in preparation for cleaning them. It's a routine task and not one of the most exciting duties of a dental assistant, but Betzy is relaxed, attentive and friendly, as she cleans and talks about her job.



Betzy, short for Betzanahy, has been a dental assistant at SVdP for the past 11 years. She always had an interest in becoming a hygienist, so after graduating from high school in 2004, she began volunteering in the dental clinic. She remembers her shyness during those first several months as she quietly shadowed other volunteers and Dr. Ken Snyder, SVdP dental clinic director.

After being a volunteer for three years, Dr. Snyder hired her as a dental assistant. It was around this time that Betzy decided she no longer wanted to be a hygienist; she wanted to be a dentist. "My first thought was, how am I going to do this?" she said, thinking back to that initial decision.

Betzy learned that she would need to apply for a dental assisting program, take several pre-requisite courses, and then much later, apply for and attend a four-year dental school.

At the time, it seemed so far away, and she envisioned all the challenges she would have to overcome – mentally, physically and most of all, financially.

Betzy's family is originally from Mexico, and her parents primarily speak Spanish. She grew up in south Phoenix in a low-income neighborhood and shares that even now, there is a high crime rate in her neighborhood and she doesn't always feel safe there. Growing up, Betzy's father worked in the fields and as a cook for a resort. Now, he works in construction. Her mother stayed at home to take care of her and her three siblings. The entire family still lives together in this neighborhood.

Growing up, Betzy can remember not having a lot and seeing her parents struggle to put food on the table. "Sometimes if we didn't have enough food, we would just eat potatoes...like potatoes for a whole week."

During the holidays, organizations like Salvation Army would supply the family with food boxes and gifts, much like SVdP's food and holiday assistance.

"I love working here. I really understand what the kids are going through. I understand what backgrounds they're coming from."

“I look back at myself after all these years and realized that I never gave up. I think anyone can achieve anything, as long as they put in the hard work and have perseverance. Because it will happen.”



Betzy, herself, rarely saw a dentist as a child and prior to getting her adult teeth, all her baby teeth were crowned. With this background, Betzy felt incredibly determined to accomplish her goal of becoming a dentist and says she wants to help her parents move out of their neighborhood.

Using her paychecks from SVdP, she paid her tuition out of pocket and began taking dental assisting classes, one at a time, at Phoenix College. Her days quickly became long and exhausting. She would wake up every day at 6 am, arrive at the dental clinic at 7:30 am, head straight to class after work, and would get home around 9 or 9:30 pm. She would spend the next couple of hours on homework before going to bed at midnight or so. She kept this up for seven years.

“There were so many times when it seemed so far away and I had so many doubts. I would tell myself, ‘I don’t know if it will ever happen.’ I would cry and be frustrated, but then I would remind myself to keep going.”

Betzy just finished her last pre-requisite class in December. She fondly remembers many instances when Dr. Snyder would encourage her, tell her not to give up, and he always helped her with her homework. This extra support was a lifesaver for Betzy.

“I look back at myself after all these years and realized that I never gave up. I think anyone can achieve anything, as long as they put in the hard work and have perseverance. Because it will happen.”

And it did happen for Betzy.

Last August, she applied to dental school at Midwestern and in early January, found out she was accepted. It was a victorious and celebratory moment that culminated from many years of arduous work and commitment.

But she knows her journey is far from over. Becoming a full-time dental student will require her to leave her dental assisting job at SVdP. This means she won’t

be able to continue helping her family pay bills. At the moment, she is trying to figure out how she will afford the expensive tuition, but she says that God has put her on this path for a reason and has given her the strength to keep going. So she will.

When asked why she loves dental work so much and particularly, why she has been at SVdP for as long as she has, Betzy says, “It’s so rewarding doing something like this. You know, there is always someone that needs help, regardless of his or her financial situation. But here at SVdP, it’s more than just fixing teeth—it’s about giving the children hope. And that’s what everyone here has given me.”

“I love working here. I really understand what the kids are going through. I understand what backgrounds they’re coming from.”

# FARM to FORK

Healthy Food Recipe Series

Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul's new healthy food recipe series – Farm to Fork! In each issue of the Vincentian Connection, we will share a new healthy recipe created by SVdP Head Chef Chris Hoffman, who will be using produce harvested from our Urban Farm. In addition to the recipe, you'll also learn the health benefits of the fresh ingredients used, provided by our Family Wellness Program.



## COOKING WITH: *Sweet Potatoes*

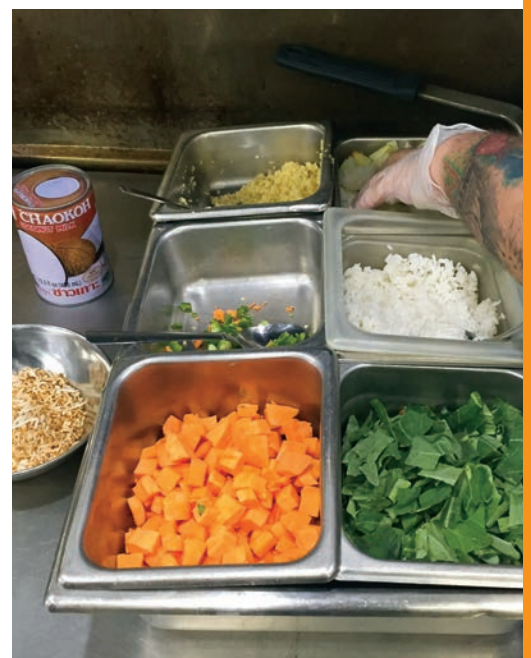
# Learn How to Make a Healthy Sweet Potato and Kale Stew

Health and wellness is a top priority at SVdP as we aim to address root causes of poverty and food insecurity. And we can do this holistically through the combined efforts of our Urban Farm, dining rooms and Family Wellness Center. We hope you enjoy the series! This month we are featuring a delicious and easy-to-make Sweet Potato and Kale stew.

Sweet potatoes are native to the Americas and are a great source of nutrients. They are most commonly orange, but also come in a beautiful purple color. Sweet potatoes are a good source of fiber, Vitamin B6, Vitamin A and potassium.



Sweet potatoes are a good source of **fiber, Vitamin B6, Vitamin A & potassium.**



## SWEET POTATO AND KALE STEW *Serves 4*



### INGREDIENTS

- 2 teaspoons of canola oil
- 1 chopped onion
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 1 chopped jalapeño
- ¾ pound of chopped kale
- 3 chopped sweet potatoes
- 1 ½ cups of chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 ½ teaspoons of sea salt
- 1 cup of coconut milk
- 1 cup of cooked rice (white or brown)
- 1 teaspoon of toasted coconut for garnish
- 4 lemon (or lime) wedges

### PREPARATION

Heat the oil on low. Add the chopped onion and stir occasionally until its translucent. Stir in the garlic and jalapeño; cook until soft. Stir in the kale, sweet potato, broth and salt. Stir and cover partially, bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook until the potatoes become tender. Add the coconut milk and stir. Continue cooking for about five more minutes.

Serve in a bowl over a spoonful of rice and a wedge of lime on the side for additional flavor. Enjoy!



One unique quality about our Family Wellness Program is that it is a culturally responsive program. Our health educators teach bilingual classes to reach more people in our community. **We provide our recipes in Spanish!** Visit <http://ow.ly/YCQi9> or scan this QR code.



# Talking Stick Resort Helps Children and Adults Stay Active and Healthy

## Do you know about St. Vincent de Paul's Family Wellness Program?

It's a culturally responsive intervention program that provides our guests with education, lifestyle improvement skills and medical and counseling services to improve their health. It specializes in serving children and families at risk for/or diagnosed with diabetes and diabetes-related illnesses.

We were delighted to recently receive a letter from Erubiel, one of the teens participating in our Every Little Step Counts (ELSC) class. He shares with us how this program has impacted his life. *The letter has been translated from Spanish.*

Hi,

My name is Erubiel and I am 14 years old. Three years ago I started the health and nutrition program at St. Vincent de Paul. At the time I was 11 years old, and I was overweight, but I received an invitation to participate in this program. I felt very welcome by the staff. I didn't know my problem was that serious until the doctors did tests and found saturated fat in my liver, which I learned increases the risk of having diabetes. My liver and the rest of my body were working like the body of a 50 year old. My parents and I had no idea.

When I went to the program for the first time I was surprised by how the staff was organized to talk about this issue, and I felt more confident because there was a psychologist in the class as well. My parents also liked that, as it made the program more serious.

When I started going to the classes, I really enjoyed them, and I discovered what was best for my health, and the health of my whole family. We were doing our job little by little. It wasn't easy, but we worked as a team: the staff, doctors, my family and I, following the eating and exercise tips.

After awhile I could tell the impact was huge. I looked at my pictures when I started the program and realized I had made a big change in my body, my health and my self-esteem. I made this change over two years, and it greatly improved my quality of life. Now my family eats healthy together. We exercise together, share experiences, and if we don't agree on something we talk about it as a family. This isn't always easy, but by obeying our parents and by parents supporting their children it can be achieved.

To this day, I remain active and continue eating healthy. I'm proud to have achieved a great change in my life. I thank the Family Wellness Program at St. Vincent de Paul and all the staff for helping me improve my quality of life.

Sincerely,  
Erubiel



**We are so grateful to our generous partner, Talking Stick Resort, for their gift of \$50,000.**

They were the presenting sponsor at our Restoring Hope breakfast last November and allocated \$15,000 of their total gift to benefit our medical clinic, including the Family Wellness Program.

Their generosity and compassion helps to make stories like Erubiel's possible. Thank you Talking Stick Resort for your incredible support!

# Charity Over Toasters: A Couple's Creative Wedding Registry

SVdP volunteers donate wedding gifts to Dream Center



We are always inspired and amazed by the unique and generous ways we see volunteers and donors help struggling families in Phoenix. From donating medical supplies to building an aquaponics tilapia farm, we are blessed to have so many creative supporters! But this donation takes the cake. . .wedding cake that is.

Julia King, 23, and Joseph Kohn, 27, engaged to be married this April, have been volunteering in our Dream Center since last summer. Shortly after getting engaged, they decided instead of having a traditional wedding registry, they wanted to create a registry list for a charity in Phoenix. Julia did a quick search of local charities and chose to visit St. Vincent de Paul first.

After her first volunteer experience in the Dream Center, her mind was made up. She wanted to donate her wedding gifts to SVdP. After his first visit, Joseph quickly agreed with this idea.

“When I came here, I cried a little, because there are so many resources here. That’s such a cool thing for kids who come from low-funded school districts to be able to come here and have so much at their fingertips that they can work with. I thought, ‘I want to contribute to this even more,’” Julia said.



So early on, the couple sat down with Cynthia Bach, SVdP Dream Center supervisor, to find out what resources were most needed. Cynthia helped the couple create an Amazon Wishlist.

It’s not surprising that this unique idea to help others came from Julia and Joseph. You’ll find that nearly every aspect of their lives is non-traditional. Julia is a cook at a vegan restaurant and a woodworker. She even has her own online Etsy shop called KingKohnCrafts. She mainly makes educational resources, such as wood puzzles and homeschooling manipulatives (objects that help children learn concepts in a hands-on and experiencing way). Joseph works as a bellman at Arizona Grand Resort, but is also in the process of creating a mobile app for the resort, which he plans to pitch to the resort executives before the wedding. The two met on CatholicMatch.com and only dated a few months before getting engaged.

“When you know, you know,” they both said, laughing with their hands firmly clasped.

After their wedding in April, the couple plans to pack up and hit the road in an RV trailer they just purchased. “We decided seasonal work is what we’d like to do. So we just interviewed for jobs at Alaska Excursion Cruises, to be high-adventure tour guides.”

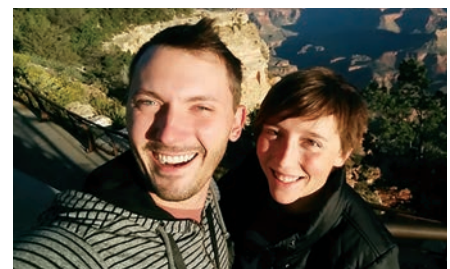
With this plan in mind, they knew a traditional wedding registry wouldn’t be needed. After working with Cynthia to come up with the Dream Center wish list, Julia wrote a short newsletter to her wedding guests describing the idea behind the registry, shared about their experience at the Dream Center, and shared about SVdP’s work in helping those in need.

The Dream Center wish list includes items such as board games, learning games, STEM science projects, house and car-building lessons, and educational manipulatives.

“That’s one of the most beautiful things about this place – children can come here and discover things that they may not have otherwise. So, it’s not just the St. Vincent de Paul ‘after-school tutoring center.’ It’s a place that teaches kids that education is not just a day-to-day activity they have to do. Here, they learn that their education can lead them to so much more, like if they dream of becoming a doctor or lawyer,” Julia said.

When asked what the response has been so far to their registry, Julia and Joseph both laugh and say that many of their friends think it’s crazy, but crazy in a good way.

We wish Julia and Joseph the very best as they start their new life together and thank them from the bottom of our heart for their generous and creative support!



# WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN SOMEONE ASKS YOU FOR MONEY ON THE STREET?

## St. Vincent de Paul staff members weigh-in

We recently asked staff members here at St. Vincent de Paul what their response is when someone on the street asks them for money. Living in an urban environment, many of us have encountered this situation. **And many of us ask the question, "Should I give money?"** While there is no right or wrong answer, this is a choice you should make for yourself. But having the insight of those who have worked with the most vulnerable in Arizona for many years, may be helpful.



**SHANNON CLANCY**  
Chief Philanthropy Officer  
Years at SVdP: 12

My answer to this question has changed the longer I have had the opportunity to learn from and be influenced by so many volunteers and staff at SVdP. **I've come to realize that treating people with compassion, kindness and dignity is most important, both for the people we encounter and for the peace we seek in our own hearts.** So many of the people we serve tell us that the most difficult aspect of being in need isn't suffering from hunger, homelessness or the lack of basic needs, it's in feeling invisible and alone.

I have reflected often on how much things change for us as we grow up. When we are children and see someone who falls, it is our natural response to help them up, to dry their tears, perhaps to take them to a trusted adult for help. Yet, as we grow up, we seem to put so many more conditions on our helping. Do they deserve it? Am I enabling them? What's going to happen to me if I engage with them? Often our fear or discomfort makes us want to avoid them altogether.

While there are no perfect solutions, I find that when I take the time to engage the person in conversation, to look him (or her) in the eyes and ask whether he has been to SVdP, to listen to part of her story, to give him one of our 'Need A Hand' cards, to call him by name and invite him to come and see us, it feels like a better response. Perhaps I can't fix the problem and maybe they aren't interested in my conversation due to the overwhelming nature of their own struggles at that moment, but in my heart I know that I have made the effort, that I have tried to see them and let them know they matter. I hope and pray that is something.



**JACKIE SOLARES**  
Special Ministries  
Program Coordinator  
Years at SVdP: 9

Say hello with a smile. If you are going to give, give without any expectations of what the person is going to do with the money. If you do not feel inclined to give money but would like to give some resources, learn what resources are available and let the person know in a friendly, respectful way. St. Vincent de Paul

has 'Need A Hand' cards with a list of the locations of our dining rooms, Special Ministries services available and our hours of operation.

You can buy bus tickets and attach to the cards. Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) also has cards with information of their services, or you can share the 211 community information and referral number. Most people that are asking for money are quite okay with you not giving.

Personally, I do not give money. I give to organizations that I believe do a great job in giving loving and respectful assistance to people in need. Understanding that we can all help to bring service and resources to people in need makes me more aware of where my money should go in order for it to be most effective to help others. **Giving out of love for God will make you extremely generous with your money, time and talents. I encourage you to try it!**



**DANIELLE RICKETTS**  
*Dining Rooms Manager*  
*Years at SvDP: 3.5*

I work with homeless individuals on a daily basis, and I think I may tend to do things differently when I encounter a person in need on the street. Because of the work I do, I usually have other resources handy in my car that I can give to them instead of money.

My first instinct is to not give out money. I try to give them a resource instead, whether it's a granola bar from my glove box or a bottle of water. I also tend to have donated items in my car from friends, family and neighbors, that I will hand out as needed.

At SvDP, we have the 'Need a Hand' cards that are great to hand out. I like to keep these handy in my car and wallet. Some of our volunteers have even gotten together with friends to make small care packages that they can grab from their backseat to hand out to those in need. Or just a friendly 'hello' can go a long way in making someone's day just a little bit better. This is a frequently asked question from a lot of volunteers. They want to serve people in their community in an effective way, but giving out spare change or a few dollars may not always feel like the most positive and long-lasting way to help those in need. **Giving a resource for assistance, if used, can help individuals take one more step to ending their homelessness.**

Are you interested in creating a care package to give out to the homeless? Here are the 10 most recommended items, as suggested by our Ministry to the Homeless Coordinator Janie Perdue and Ozanam Manor Director Mike Bell:

- Referral to services (Our Need a Hand cards list our information on them. The community is welcome to ask us for them at no cost.)
- Deodorant
- Quarters (not bills) to use at Laundromats
- Notebook, with a calendar if possible
- Small first aid kit, with band aids and gauze
- Flashlight
- Travel-size shampoo
- Hand wipes
- A pair of socks
- Small hair comb



If you would like to request Need A Hand cards, please call 602.266.GIVE (4483). Donations of any amount accepted.



**MIKE BELL**  
*Director of Shelter Services*  
*Years at SvDP: 30*

I don't imagine that the lives of people who ask for money are easy, but I believe there are pros and cons regarding giving money to them. Personally, I like to give money to organizations that help those in need, like St. Vincent de Paul. **I believe these organizations are helping people to sustainably change their lives for the better, yet I know that charities cannot meet all of the need that exists.** I hope that when people choose to give out money, they are

aware of their surroundings and don't expose themselves to risk by opening their wallets or purses in places where no help would be available if things go wrong.

Potential givers should be aware that asking for money is prohibited in certain places, such as Valley Metro stops. If I don't want to give money to someone who asks me, rather than go past and ignore him, I will look at the person and kindly say, "I'm sorry, I don't have any money." Typically, the person will respond politely with "God bless you" or "Have a nice day," and then move on to the next person. Though I don't always know the reason the person is asking for money, I am confident that most don't expect everyone to give money. It hurts them, though, to be treated as a non-person, not worthy of an answer.

# GET TO KNOW SVDP

## Q&A WITH JAMIE BETHUNE

St. Vincent de Paul's Community  
Drives and Events Manager  
Answers Our Questions



### ABOUT JAMIE

**Age:** 40 **Hometown:** Waimea, Hawaii

**Can't Live Without:** I rarely meet a cup of coffee I don't like

**Favorite Canned Food:** Tuna

**Words I Live By:** "Be the change you wish to see in the world." -Ghandi

#### **What's your job at St. Vincent de Paul?**

Community Drives and Events Manager. I team up with companies, groups and schools to help collect food, clothing, and other items through drives and events. I also give tours.

#### **How long have you worked here?**

7 years—I started out as a volunteer and drive donor through a restaurant I co-owned, and they kept me!

#### **Favorite St. Vincent de Paul memory?**

I gave a tour to a group that was also volunteering that day, sorting food in our food warehouse. I walked them out to our lobby afterwards. One person took his shoes off and handed them to me, asking that I give them to one of our homeless guests. It was the middle of summer and I just stood there speechless holding his shoes as he walked through our parking lot to his car IN HIS SOCKS! I will never forget that gesture or that day.

#### **Favorite part of your job?**

I'm so inspired daily by people's generosity of their time and resources. Seeing transformations happen is pretty magical too. When the weight of the world is written on the face of someone, and you get to witness them moments later with a sense of hope renewed, there is nothing more rewarding than that.

#### **What are the biggest food drive needs?**

Food donations in the summer months are harder to come by, as people seemingly tend to think of giving more during the holidays. Summer food and water drives, I would say is our biggest need. Our most sought after items for food donations are non-perishable foods high in protein such as tuna, beans and peanut butter.

#### **Strangest donated item you've ever received?**

I once found a PB&J sandwich in a Ziploc bag with one bite out of it!

#### **How can people sign up for a food drive or donate items?**

Our website [stvincentdepaul.net](http://stvincentdepaul.net) makes signing up very easy and has tons of information on what we're up to around here! You can also call me direct at 602-850-6748, or email [jbethune@svdpaz.org](mailto:jbethune@svdpaz.org)

#### **Besides food, what other drive needs are there?**

We are ALWAYS seeking adult athletic shoes, jeans and toiletries for our homeless guests who come to take showers here. Seasonal items such as coats and blankets in the winter and water and sunscreen in the summer are much needed too. Even seemingly specialty items such as backpacks, school and art supplies, and toys are very much appreciated and go to great use!

#### **What sort of work do volunteers do in SVdP's food warehouse?**

Our "Angels of the Warehouse" (aka volunteers) are at the front lines of the operation. They sort and inspect incoming food donations, checking every item for expiration dates, proper packaging and quality. If you are looking for a rewarding volunteer experience, and you aren't afraid of a little exercise and getting your hands dirty, this might be the one for you!

#### **Why do you think serving people in need is so important?**

EVERYONE needs help with something sometimes. Helping each other—I think that's what we were put here on this earth to do. The biggest givers (and I am around a lot of them) will tell you that they receive more out of giving and serving than they felt they gave. Serving others is a win-win!

# SVDP FOOD WAREHOUSE BY THE NUMBERS

\*Numbers based on 2015 stats

## DID YOU KNOW

**Our food warehouse receives and processes millions of pounds of food every year?**

These donations come from community food drives and generous grocers. After the items are cleaned, sorted, and measured, they're sent off to one of our 5 dining rooms or to our local food pantries to help feed hungry families in Arizona.

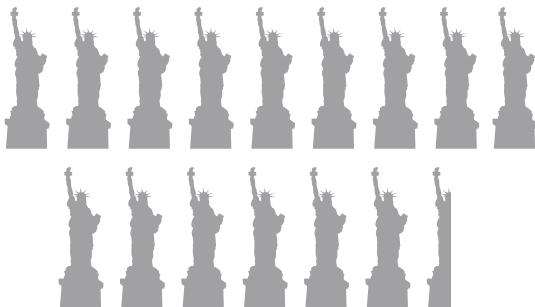


# 7,000,000

**Pounds of food processed in our warehouse**



**7 million pounds of food weighs the same as 15 ½ Statue of Liberty statues!**



# 5,790

**VOLUNTEER HOURS IN THE FOOD WAREHOUSE**

# 83

volunteer-run satellite sites & food pantries in AZ

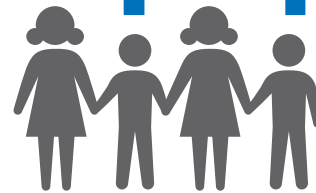


# 59

of them have on-site food pantries

# 1 in 4

**Arizona children living in poverty**



Source: National Kids Count data



# 714

**Individuals and business locations hosted drives**

# Clemson Tigers & the Fighting Irish Serve Meals to the Hungry

In December, we were honored to have members of the University of Notre Dame serving lunch in our downtown Phoenix Henry Unger Dining Room. Students, staff and supporters were in town for the BattleFrog Fiesta Bowl football game. Notre Dame President, Fr. John Jenkins, led us in a blessing before lunch and served guests their lunch. We were also blessed to have the Notre Dame marching band perform later that afternoon at the dining room's basketball court. It was a very special day for us and our guests, and we are so thankful to have ended the year on such a high note!

We also want to give a big thank you to Clemson University supporters for their generous service in our downtown Phoenix Henry Unger Dining Room early this year. One day before the College Football Playoff National Championship Game, Clemson University supporters served lunch to guests in our dining room. This opportunity was coordinated by the Arizona Clemson Club as part of the CFP National Championship weekend.



The Notre Dame Marching Band performs for volunteers and guests at our downtown Phoenix dining room.



Myron, Phoenix resident and dining room guest, practices his drumming skills with a Notre Dame band member after they perform. In college, Myron played in Florida A&M's marching band.



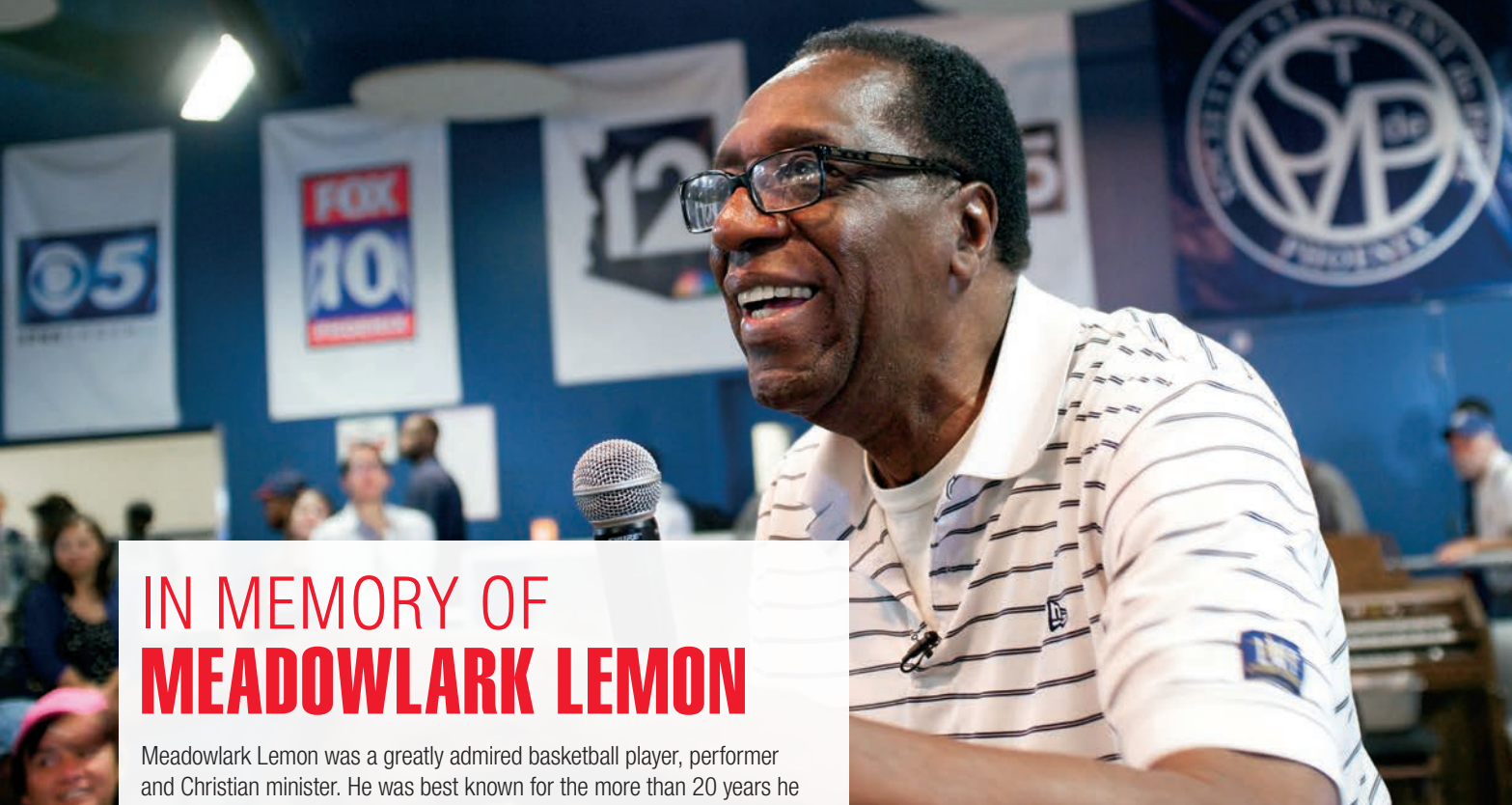
Notre Dame President, Fr. John Jenkins, serves lunch to the guests in our dining room.



Clemson University fans volunteer to help feed people in need in St. Vincent de Paul's downtown Phoenix dining room.



The Notre Dame Fighting Irish Cheerleaders perform cheer routines and spend time talking with guests in our dining room.



## IN MEMORY OF MEADOWLARK LEMON

Meadowlark Lemon was a greatly admired basketball player, performer and Christian minister. He was best known for the more than 20 years he spent touring with the Harlem Globetrotters team. St. Vincent de Paul was blessed to have him spend some time at our downtown Phoenix Henry Unger Dining Room, encouraging guests and sharing messages of hope for our Never Give Up program.

After learning of his recent passing at the age of 83 (Dec. 27, 2015), Steve Zabilski, SVdP executive director, shared a few words in his memory.

Meadowlark Lemon gave a passionate speech to guests at our downtown Phoenix Henry Unger Dining Room for our Never Give Up program. You can watch his inspiring speech at <http://ow.ly/YCQo4> or scan this QR code.



“We are saddened by the passing of a truly wonderful basketball player and entertainer, and an even better man. Meadowlark Lemon was the world’s ambassador, and he will be greatly missed by the billions of people he made smile and laugh. We were so blessed that Meadowlark was a regular volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul. God bless you, our dear friend.”



From left: Jimmy Walker, chairman and founder of Celebrity Fight Night, dining room guest, Crystal, daughter of Meadowlark Lemon, and Cynthia, wife of Meadowlark Lemon. Early this year, we were honored and blessed to have Cynthia and Crystal visit our downtown dining room. They each spoke about Meadowlark and his joy for life, and they also shared an inspiring message with our guests.



From left: SVdP staff members Richard Vigil, Joseph Yanez and Chad Tidwell, Harlem Globetrotter Meadowlark Lemon, and SVdP staff Jose Luis Cardenas, pose for a photo in our downtown Phoenix Henry Unger Dining Room.



## NO ONE SHOULD LOSE THEIR HOME: FATHER & DAUGHTER CREATE FUND to help people in life's toughest moments

We've all been there. . .living our life day-to-day when suddenly an unexpected challenge or situation comes barreling into our life. . .and we need help. Whether it's financial, physical, or emotional, these situations cause us to reach out for support from our friends, family and community.

Mary Lou Goldstein can greatly attest to this kind of situation. When she was a young child, she lost her mother. Although deeply saddened by this loss, she shares that she and her father, William O'Brien, became very close after this.

Growing up, Mary Lou's father raised her to be confident and encouraged her to be or do anything she wanted in life. Along these lines, he also taught her about the value of working hard and helping others. Mary Lou shared that when her father was a child, his family lost their home because of financial hardship. They eventually got back on their feet, but the experience stayed with him for the rest of his life.

"My father always told me, 'No one should ever lose their home.' He also told me he wanted me to find out the best way to use our blessings to help others," she said.

Many years after he passed away, Mary Lou reached out to St. Vincent de Paul to set up a fund in honor of her father. She wanted to see this fund, aptly named the 'William Anthony O'Brien Fund,' help those in need 'at the moment.' She truly believes, as did her father, that life's challenges can happen to anyone at anytime.

"You never know when you may need a little bit of help to either stay in your home or get back on your feet," she said.

But why St. Vincent de Paul? Mary Lou shared that growing up, she and her father had known about the work of St. Vincent de Paul. And she knew that there are many people living in Arizona who work hard and support their families, but sometimes need a little lift – like Richard and Roshon.

Richard, a truck driver, and Roshon, a certified nursing assistant, were happily raising their five children in Peoria a year ago, when suddenly Richard was involved in a car accident. His injuries were minimal, but they were about to receive some life-changing news. While going through routine medical tests immediately after the accident, the doctors discovered a cyst on Richard's brain, unrelated to the accident. This cyst started causing seizures and blackouts. He had to leave his job and begin the long road of applying for disability. Pregnant at the time, Roshon had to go back to work, but didn't make as much as her husband did. After several months of living check to check, the family was facing eviction. They lived in a trailer home, and the air conditioning broke. Roshon said they were afraid to ask the landlord to fix it because they didn't want to risk losing their home.



"That assistance helped in a major way. We probably would have faced eviction. I've never had to ask anyone for help like that before. It really was a last resort. . .and a blessing. I don't know where we would be if [SVdP] didn't help us."

So they sought help from St. Vincent de Paul, and thanks to the William Anthony O'Brien Fund, we were able to step in. SVdP staff member Janie Fulks helped Richard and Roshon pay their rent, and she even called and spoke with the landlord to help speed up the process of not only removing the eviction notice, but requested they fix the air conditioning as soon as possible.

"That assistance helped in a major way. We probably would have faced eviction. I've never had to ask anyone for help like that before. It really was a last resort. . .and a blessing. I don't know where we would be if [SVdP] didn't help us," Roshon said.

Roshon shared that since that time, they are doing so much better. After having her daughter in October, she has since gone back to work.

This isn't a one-time scenario. Every day, families in Arizona face these life-changing situations, and many feel as if they have nowhere to turn. We are so thankful for generous donors like Mary Lou and her late father, William Anthony O'Brien, who help working families survive these unexpected setbacks.

Would you like to join us helping families avoid homelessness through the William Anthony O'Brien Fund?

**There are three ways to donate:**

1. **Call** 602-266-GIVE
2. **Send a check:**  
'The William Anthony O'Brien Fund'  
c/o St. Vincent de Paul  
P.O. Box 13600  
Phoenix, AZ 85002-3600
3. **Donate online** at [stvincentdepaul.net/give](http://stvincentdepaul.net/give).  
Click on 'Give to a Fund' on the donation page and choose 'William Anthony O'Brien Fund'

## LEGACY CIRCLE: A LASTING MELODY

As she sat at the keyboard, she was amazed that such a wonderful noise could come from the black and white keys. Even more unbelievable was that *she* was causing those keys to make that wonderful noise.

A couple of months ago we received word that one of our donors, Ida, had passed away. Ida held the work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul close to her heart. She continued her legacy of love and compassion by naming the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in her estate.

When we called her niece, Celine, to thank her for helping to administer her aunt's estate, Celine shared many memories of her aunt, including that she was an accomplished pianist. She knew how much Ida loved St. Vincent de Paul and music, and wished there was a way to combine the two as a lasting legacy to her aunt. With the help of our team in our Dream Center and Family Dining Room, we found a way.



Through our Dream Center, children who join us for dinner in our Family Dining Room are able to get help with homework, reading, science and a host of other activities. One more activity was about to be added to the list of hands-on experiences for the children. Through the generosity of Ida, we were able to purchase, at a discount, several piano keyboards, sheet music and training materials to teach the children how to play the piano. We were blessed further as one of our faithful volunteers knows how to play and offered to give the children lessons!

Each time a child's little fingers play on the keys, those musical notes are a sweet melodious tribute to our friend Ida.

For more information about planned giving, contact Donna Rodgers at 602.261.6884 or [drodgers@svdpaz.org](mailto:drodgers@svdpaz.org).

# 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.



### Holiday Inn Forges New Partnership with SVdP

We are honored to be in a new charitable partnership with Holiday Inn Express, located in Desert Ridge at 4575 E. Irma Lane. The location is featuring an upcoming month-long fundraiser in the hotel lobby. Proceeds from the sales of extraordinary sports memorabilia in the lobby will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul. They are also offering 20% off any guest stay, where guests simply have to mention SVdP's partnership to take advantage of the discount. In addition, under the direction of Robert Bruno, hotel manager, the hotel will be hosting quarterly drives for toiletries and gently used towels. As a separate offering, Mr. Bruno will provide entertainment to St. Vincent de Paul through his company, Phoenix DJ.



### Keep Phoenix Beautiful Keeps SVdP Beautiful

Keep Phoenix Beautiful's Recycle Arizona program was instrumental in supporting St. Vincent de Paul's Urban Farm through sponsorships from Chipotle and other organizations. More than 100 volunteers from local companies, such as Toyota Financial Services, volunteered in the farm during our November Urban Farm Day. Volunteers spent the day harvesting fresh produce to support SVdP's five valley-wide dining rooms. Volunteers also received Chipotle gift cards and T-shirts designed to promote healthy living and keeping Phoenix beautiful.



Hunt Real Estate broker, Larry Dignan, helps with the toy drive to benefit SVdP.

### Hunt Real Estate Gives Generously During the Holidays

Hunt Real Estate hosted their first annual Christmas Toy Drive for St. Vincent de Paul this past December. All real estate agents participated in gathering over 100 toys to support children during our Family Evening meal held each night on our main campus. The agents from Hunt Real Estate were supported by real estate broker, Larry Dignan, and have decided to hold quarterly drives to support the work of SVdP.



### HSAG Brings Smiles to Kids' Faces for Christmas

A new partnership recently began with Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG), which resulted in a toy drive to support St. Vincent de Paul's Palomino Christmas event in December, along with a generous cash donation. HSAG gathered over 300 toys from employees to help provide gifts to children from the Palomino Elementary School. Children purchased these gifts for only \$1 during the one-day "shopping spree" held at our Bell Road Thrift store.

**Thank you HSAG, for putting smiles on these precious kid's faces.**



### D.L. Withers Construction Adopts Six Families for Christmas

We are very grateful for the support from D.L. Withers Construction, as they adopted six families through St. Vincent de Paul's yearly Adopt-A-Family program this past December. This program allows individuals, families and businesses to "adopt" families in need. Through their donor, families receive gifts and food for a Christmas meal to help alleviate the financial stress of the holidays. Employees from D.L. Withers participated in this partnership by having a gift-wrapping party at their company holiday celebration. Thank you D.L. Withers for your providing a special Christmas to families in need!



# The Society of a Thousand Thanks



## Sundt Corporation Helps Combat Stress and Depression at Ozanam Manor

Through their partnership, Sundt Corporation supported residents of Ozanam Manor with a generous gift of \$4,000. This gift will be used for a new program that will increase the number of outings and activities our residents can participate in. These activities and outings give residents an opportunity to alleviate stress and provide fun opportunities during their stay, which also helps to combat depression and improves their overall health and well-being. Thank you to Sundt Corporation for their generous gift!

Sundt Corporation employees Sherri (far left), Yvette, Maria, and Joann, pose for a photo with SVdP sous chef Eryck (left) and volunteer, Daniel.

## APS Helps Feed the Hungry and Inspires Hope in Dream Center

APS employees continue to support St. Vincent de Paul through their committed and gracious volunteer opportunities. Every month during APS' new employee orientation, new hires receive a tour at SVdP and then participate in a volunteer activity immediately following the tour. In addition to volunteer hours, APS recently awarded SVdP with grants worth \$75,000—\$25,000 to support our five valley-wide dining rooms that serve more than 4,000 meals daily, and \$50,000 to our Dream Center to support an upcoming virtual education program. In this program, Dream Center kids will not only get help with their homework during the Family Evening Meal, but they'll be given resources, such as take-home laptops, to further their education outside of the Dream Center.



## Larry Miller Toyota Gives Back in More Ways than One

Larry Miller Toyota Charities was gracious with St. Vincent de Paul again this last year by supporting our annual Restoring Hope breakfast in November. Their generous gift of \$10,000 was also part of a larger "all-employee" day of service where more than 100 employees participated in volunteer activities in every program on our main campus. The total number of volunteer hours exceeded 900. It was an amazing day for SVdP and Larry Miller Toyota and we are thankful for their support!



## Humana Healthcare Hosts Holiday Food Drive and More

Humana Healthcare hosted a holiday food drive, along with their generous volunteer program in December. This food drive garnered over 2,400 pounds of food! Their generosity continues to grow as they recently agreed to maintain our Dream Center playground (located on our main campus) by keeping it clean and well kept on a quarterly basis. We are blessed to have such an amazing gift which will keep the children at the Family Evening Meal happy and healthy!



**MidFirst Bank Provides Holiday Meals to Families in Need**

MidFirst Bank was instrumental in supporting our Turkey Tuesday event last November. Their gift of over \$1,400 helped provide holiday meals to families who would otherwise not be able to enjoy a delicious holiday dinner. We are so grateful that MidFirst Bank continues to find innovative ways to support St. Vincent de Paul, as they did on Turkey Tuesday with their “Coin Counter Van.”

David Melgoza (right) from MidFirst Bank talks with Channel 12 News anchor, Bruce Cooper, about their partnership with SvDP during Turkey Tuesday.



**Spirit of Giving Extends From CenturyLink to Children During Christmas**

CenturyLink once again partnered with St. Vincent de Paul to help fund our annual Palomino Christmas event with a gift of \$2,000. Along with their financial support of this heartwarming holiday event, CenturyLink employees also volunteered during the event so they could witness first-hand the joy of all the children who shopped for their loved ones that day.

CenturyLink employees Calvin Fenn, Claudia Vargas and Justin Lynch, present a check at the Palomino Christmas event.

# TRIBUTES

Gifts received October 1, 2015 - February 29, 2016

## IN HONOR OF

- Stephen Abbotton  
Lionel Varvel  
Shirley Gannarelli
- Dr. Larry Allen  
Jenny Norton
- Anne - Birthday  
Frank Brodish
- Alfredo Ramon Aros  
Alfred Aros
- Jack Arthur  
David and Kate Arthur
- John Assaf Family  
Margaret Ebel
- John Augustine  
Bonnie Benne
- Mildred Babb  
Lorrie Lincoln
- Michele Stapley Bagley  
Larry and Ronda O'Neill
- Earl J. Baker, M.D.  
Karin Epstein  
Gordon and Carol Ray  
Randi Rummage  
James and Randi Rummage  
David Thuleen
- Mike and Iris Barlow  
Karen LoPinto
- Frank Barrios  
Thomas and Martha Carr
- Basha Family  
Anonymous
- C. Thomas Bashwiner  
Thomas and Patricia McCauley
- Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bate  
Terry and Sally Hothem
- Herb and Donya Bauer  
Anne Marie Chiappetta
- Theresa Bean  
Faye Estep
- Rebecca Beltran  
Lydia Warnick
- Gary Benites  
Darla Nutting
- Willie and Helen Berthelot  
Tonya Berthelot
- BHHS Legacy Foundation Staff  
Gerald and Nancy Wissink
- Keith and Kevin Blackburn  
Cyndi Roberts
- Mr. and Mrs. Seamus Blaney  
Anne Marie Chiappetta
- Sister Mary Richardine Blue  
Jay and Babette Glaser
- Amy and Kenneth Bowman and Family  
David St. John
- Sr. Colleen Braun  
Holly Forseth
- Bob and Mary Brown  
Terry Sterns
- Michael J. Brown  
David Brown
- Nancy Brown  
Shirley Hahn
- The Browns  
Sarah Schnupp
- Beverly Buechner's living relatives  
Beverly Buechner
- Mr. and Mrs. John Burns - Merry Christmas  
Sharon Burns
- Nancy Bustamante  
Darla Nutting
- Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Camilo  
Anthony and Johanna Tesoniero
- Kathleen Carnahan  
Margaret Ebel
- Mary A. Casey  
Joseph Smith
- Timothy E. Casey  
Michael and Elizabeth de los Santos
- Jean and Tom Castleberry  
Mark and Jennifer Manion
- Jerry Castro  
Ginny Hildebrand
- Anne Marie Chiappetta  
Cynthia Johnson
- Michael Chorak - Birthday  
Patricia Chorak
- Michael Chorak - Christmas Gift  
Patricia Chorak
- Shannon Clancy  
Mary Chou-Thompson  
Steve Martinez
- Reverend Robert Clements  
Phillippe Reynolds
- James Coehrs  
Anthony Calvis
- Eileen M. Coleman  
Richard Coleman
- John Conroy  
Jaclyn Sommerville
- Marg Cooley and Kathryn Habel  
Mary Catherine Smith
- Joan Corneilson  
William Ron and Mary Green
- Charles J. Coronella, Sr.  
Charles Coronella
- Charles and Chloretta Coutts  
David Coutts
- Paul Cox  
Diana S. Dowling
- Rod Crotty  
James Lieberthal  
Clifford and Robin Cutler
- Daniel Cummings Family  
Margaret Ebel
- John and Patricia Cummings  
Margaret Ebel
- John Cummings, Jr. Family  
Margaret Ebel
- Ken Davies - Gratitude  
Myra Schroot
- Flora Dean  
Toni Reynolds
- Amanda DeBusk  
Jim and Toni Gnotta
- Louise and Bill DeBusk  
Jim and Toni Gnotta
- Rebecca and "baby" Michael DeBusk  
Jim and Toni Gnotta
- Regina M. DeChicco  
Diane Conners
- Frances Dennis  
Roy and Anne Dennis
- David DePue  
Darla Nutting
- Joseph Anthony DeStefano  
Patricia DeStefano
- Ike Devji  
Karen Brooks
- Eldon Diamond  
Zachary Bondurant
- Lawrence DiCarlo  
Richard and Deborah DiCarlo
- Samuel DiCarlo  
Richard and Deborah DiCarlo
- Margaret Ebel  
Rosemary Tynan
- Steve Elinger  
Darla Nutting
- The John Eisenpeter Family  
Mariana Goodwin
- Bob Endsley  
Ronald Brown
- Janice Ertl - for her years of service to SVDP  
Jack and Marisue Garganta  
Mort and Nancy Lippmann  
James Seward and Julie Karcis  
Mark Wheaton and Vicki Copeland, M.D.
- Steve Eslinger  
Darla Nutting
- Mimi Esser  
Frances Cody
- Donna Farrage  
William Farrage
- Reverend William Fitzgerald  
Maureen Longo
- Bev Flick  
Mary Clouser
- The Clients of Framework Legal, PLLC  
Framework Legal, PLLC
- Phil Francis  
Dorrance Family Foundation
- Pope Francis  
Jane Werth
- Steve Fry  
Darla Nutting
- Rick Gao  
Jim and Toni Gnotta
- Amy Gallagher  
Margaret Gallagher
- John and Joanne Gallagher  
Margaret Gallagher
- Sean Gallagher  
Margaret Gallagher
- Lorena Gayton  
Darla Nutting
- Michael and Kathleen Genrich  
Anne Marie Chiappetta
- Bruce Glenn Family  
Margaret Ebel
- Mary Lou and Robert Golembiewski  
Scott Golembiewski
- Ann Goodman - Merry Christmas  
Christopher Goodman
- Joe Goodreau  
Kristin Thayer
- Bill and Carol Goodsell  
Ronald Pamachena
- Annette Green  
Cynthia Ellerington
- Harry Gries Family  
Pam Del Duca
- Jason Grub  
Joseph and Linda Miller
- Loretta Guido - Happy Birthday  
James Farrell
- Dr. and Mrs. Oliver Harper  
Neil and Michele Irwin
- Rick and Donna Hartz - For a happy healthy 2016  
Rosemarie Longbine
- Michele Haynes  
Mildred Munson
- Aunt Helen  
Diane Conners
- Jeanne and Denis Hendricks  
Frances Howard
- Cooper and Max Henry  
Gail Bradley
- Chris and Kate Hickman - Wedding  
Dallas and Celeste Hickman
- Hickman's Family Farms  
Global Benefits LLC
- Rozanne Hird  
Anonymous
- Rose Hobaica  
Christopher and Teresa Davia
- Theresa Hofmann  
Peter Hofmann
- Christopher Holzer  
Todd Holzer
- Marijean Hutchinson  
Anne Marie Chiappetta
- Mary A. Jaggard  
William Ron and Mary Green
- Stephen Jenkins  
Thomas and Martha Carr
- John  
Kerri Jacobsen
- Cindy and Harper Johnson  
Anne Marie Chiappetta
- Norma Johnson  
Robert Johnson
- Mary Elizabeth and Danny Jones  
Leo Jones
- Matt Juechter and Terri Ritter  
Tadge Juechter  
Gregory Throne
- Paul and Mary Beth Kalkbrenner  
Kristen Kalkbrenner
- Clients and Business Partners of The Karas Group - Luxury Real Estate  
Christopher and Jennifer Karas
- Karl Kasowski  
Marylouise Stevens
- Paul Kelly  
James and Christine Evans
- Donna Killougey - Birthday  
Marianne Bayardi  
Beth Cohn  
John and Susan Junker  
Robert and Darlene Trzepakowski  
Carol Winstanley
- Bob and Sally Klein - 57th Wedding Anniversary  
John and Mary Pisani
- Thomas Kline  
Zoe Hyland-Agee
- Christine and John Kling  
Anne Marie Chiappetta
- Donald and Mary Lou Kostuch  
Ruth St. Romain
- Ron and Joan Kudulis  
Michael and Karen Williams
- Pete Kuhnen  
Darla Nutting
- Margarite Kurtz - 85th Birthday  
Lucille Francies
- Shirley Larkin - Birthday  
Judy Bee
- Ben Larsen - Aegis  
Karen Brooks
- Daniel Leff  
Dorothy Kilburg
- Joe and Mary Ann Lenox  
Claude and Carolyn Brown
- Vincent and Patricia Leone - Merry Christmas  
Susan Fulghum
- Judy and Fred Ligon  
Barton and Mary Ann Thompson

Gini Linam  
Sharon Oscar

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lindmark  
Terry and Sally Hothem

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Lindmark  
Terry and Sally Hothem

Andy Lippman  
Glenn and Nancy Lippman

Mort and Nancy Lippman  
Andrew Lippman  
Glenn and Nancy Lippman

Elaine Logsdon  
Dr. Carol Ventresca

Arnold Lucero  
Chris Lucero

Jane MacDowell -  
100th Birthday  
David and Susan MacDowell

Jason Macevicius  
Darla Nutting

Harvey MacKay - 83rd Birthday  
Yolanda Ali

Dr. Suuny Maheshwari  
Dr. Jeanne Wolfe

Bette Maniatis  
Dr. Linda Stehling

Elzey and Jazelle Martin  
Buzz, Janice, Annalise,  
Nick and Anthony Ghiz

Karen and Dominic Mascia  
Margaret Gallagher

David Matusow  
Darla Nutting

Jay Maynes Family  
Margaret Ebel

Austin McCormick  
Darla Nutting

Victoria McMullin  
Thomas and Mary Ellen Roche

The Medical Clinic Staff  
Anthony Milkamp

Rocco Carmen Messano -  
New Born Grandson  
Tom Messano

Bob and Denise Messer  
Natalie Betts

Chuck and Karen Meyer  
Father Edgar Schaefer

Karen Meyer  
Father Edgar Schaefer

Sharron Meyer - Birthday  
Ann Capparelle

Deb Mikkelson  
Darla Nutting

Elmer and Vivian Miller  
Katherine Miller

Cassie and Mike Mitchell  
Jim and Toni Gnotta

Jim Mitchell - Birthday  
Joan Burtnett

Michaela Mitchell  
Jim and Toni Gnotta

McKensie Mitchell  
Jim and Toni Gnotta

Madilyn Mitchell  
Jim and Toni Gnotta

Rose Mofford  
Larry and Helen Burland

Theresa Morris  
Darla Nutting

Meagan Morrison  
Jim and Toni Gnotta

Will Morrison  
Jim and Toni Gnotta

Suresh Munusamy  
Darla Nutting

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Murphy  
Jamie Orta

Murphy Family  
Bryan, Joanna and  
Elizabeth Murphy

Suresh Munusamy  
Darla Nutting

My Dad  
Susan Rugland

Mike Nabor  
Calais Campbell

David Norris - Birthday  
Maxine Norris

Raymond Norris  
David Norris

Matt O'Brien  
Thomas and Bonnie Skochinski

Sherri O'Rourke  
Darla Nutting

Mother of Helen Oakes  
Helen Oakes

Mary Ann Oltman  
Robert Gerald Oltman

Our Four Children for Christmas  
John and Lynne Sutorka

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Owen  
Terry and Sally Hothem

Justin Page - 60th Birthday  
Allan, Liz, Sarah and  
Russell Johns

Mike Parker  
Kim Barden  
Debra Blue  
Ashley Corbiesello  
John Curlett  
Lori Dean  
Dillon Diffie  
Jennifer Espinel  
Gregory Fagan  
Tamra Garrido  
Scott and Kathy Gilbert  
Eugene Hardin II  
Jeffrey Hooker  
Wendy Jarvis  
Arthur Johnson  
Steven Larrea  
Lisa Luckenbaugh  
Barbara Majringer  
Tabatha McClendon  
Daniel Middleton  
Joseph Nassar, Sr.  
Nicole Parker  
Steve Peterson  
Robert Pettengill  
Christine Saeman  
Jennifer Stamper  
Dawn Taylor  
Paul Alex Wells, Jr.  
Doug Whitfield  
John Whitney  
Matthew Yurkanin  
Anthony Zmij

Dr. Steven Parker  
Daniel and Jill Kessler

Albert A. and Daniel A. Peralta  
Ralph Peralta

Gary and Mary Peters  
James and Joann  
Prendergast

Jim Phelps  
David Phelps

Martha Podgurski  
Craig Podgurski

Rob and Erica Pulliam  
Anne-Marie O'Rourke

Mike Randolph  
Darla Nutting

Kevin Roberts  
Boomerang Transport

Gerry Robertson  
Teresa Shepard

Romey Romero  
Timothy Holmes

Dolores Rosenfield -  
Christmas Gift  
Mike and Chris Brannan

Rosie on the House  
Clayton Janson

Patricia Rush  
Margaret Gabaldon

Eugenia Sabud  
Marissa Gregorio

M. Savage  
Donna Strauss

Anne and Tony Scalise  
Susanne Kelsey

My Priesthood -  
Father Edgar Schaefer  
Father Edgar Schaefer

Lori Schaum  
Jim and Toni Gnotta

Barbara Schouten  
Jack Schouten

Dr. Mark Slotterback  
Dr. Jeanne Wolfe

Lyle Scritsmier  
Jon and Susan McGarity

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Seifert  
Terry and Sally Hothem

Lisa Serra  
Jim and Toni Gnotta

Kateri Serra  
Jim and Toni Gnotta

Jimmy Serra, Jr.  
Jim and Toni Gnotta

Ruth Shaver  
Anne Marie Chiappetta

Lex Sheets  
Darla Nutting

Celeste Showelski  
John and Sheryl Powers

Mickey Smith - Facebook Post  
Mary Grimaldi

Matt Smyth  
Darla Nutting

Ken Snyder, DMD  
Morgan Olsen  
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Michael Straley  
Kimberly Straley-Guzik

August Suhr  
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Cyndi Swift  
Darla Nutting

Tom and Beth Takash - Wedding  
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Vince and Joni Tammelleo  
Paul and Heather Tammelleo

Janet Thayer - Birthday  
Anita Hatch-Miller

John Theodore -  
Happy 15th Birthday  
Eypheemia Theodore

John and Joanne Thurau  
Daniel Whelan

Heather Trenholm  
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Amrit Tuladhar - Birthday  
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Rosemary Tynan  
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Carlos and Ann Wagner  
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Joan Casale

Stefa and Roman Wasyl  
Taras Naum

Diana Watkins - Birthday  
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Philip and Marjorie Walters

Robert (Bob) and  
Mary Jo Wilmes  
Bill and Elaine Myers

Bill Woodroffe and  
Joyce Smitheran - Wedding  
Maxine Norris

Theresa Worth  
Michael Worth

Elaine Yielding  
Jeanette Yielding

Steve Zabilski  
Gerald and Dolores Nasenbery

Steve Zabilski and  
Family for Christmas  
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Steve Zabilski and  
Shannon Clancy  
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Collin and Steve Zeis Zandar  
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Robin Lyon  
Chuck Morris Family  
Jonathan Lyon  
August Suhr  
Jim Lyon Family  
Gail Suhr  
Jim Voorhees Family
- George Edward "Ed" Sweeney**  
Erich and Tiffany Spillman  
Virginia Sweeney
- Kirsten Swing**  
Christine Slobodin
- Mr. and Mrs. Tailor**  
Manjula Tailor
- Louis Tartaglia**  
Wanda Tartaglia
- Bob Tatum**  
Ruth Bennett
- Duane and Peggy Tegeler**  
Charlie Tegeler
- Ahlene Lang Thackrah**  
Stanley and Rosemary  
Linderman
- Grandma and Grandpa Thackrah**  
Allison Ghan
- Francisco Timoteo da Costa**  
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- Edward and Veronica Tinney**  
William Tinney
- Chai Chen Too**  
Ann Benjamin
- Peter M. Troglia**  
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- James H. Turk**  
Barbara Turk
- Mary and Chester Urzendowski**  
The Mary A. Urzendowski  
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Ana Usher
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David Vacala
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Phyllis Villalpendo
- Emil J. Vukovich**  
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Pamela Fields
- Elaine Webb**  
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- William A. "Tony" West, Jr.**  
Buzz and Amy Bartylla  
Robert and Georgia Bohm  
Robert Bulla  
Monnie and Martin Calfee  
Dorothy Christensen  
Neal and DeLois Helm  
Dwayne and Carol Dobson  
Mary Hartsook  
James LeValley  
David and Jody Lippman  
Terry Murphy  
Cliff Running  
Sandra Steinhilber  
Virginia Sweeney  
Linda Yee  
Richard Zacher
- Dr. Robert "Bob" Westfall**  
Abigail Anderson  
Theresa Anderson  
Redfield Baum  
Don and Jean Cain  
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Denita Williams
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- David J. Wood**  
John and Susan Zemblidge
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- Husband of Anya Woody**  
Anya Woody
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Thomas Wright
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Shirley Wright
- Sayied H. Yameen and Rozella Tettman Yameen**  
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Marc and Carmen Brodeur
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Victoria Lively
- Sister Mary Roqueta Zappia, RSM**  
Al and Jan Ghelfi
- Ted and Helen Zbiegien**  
Guy and Vicki Allen
- Frank and Maria Zuckschwerdt**  
Maria Tiedens



# WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY AT SVDP?



## DAVID HICKS

*Shifting Gears bike shop volunteer*

Time at SVdP: 2 years

My favorite memory is when my old boss Ernie told me, 'Dave, we need 100 kids bikes for the Palomino Christmas event.' He told me this in August and asked if I'd like to take that on. So we started fixing up the bikes, more than our normal amount. By late November, we had 100 kids bikes ready. It was great knowing that these bikes were going to all those kids and it was probably their first bike. Most of us remember our first bicycles – what a thrill it was. And to know that these kids would be getting that same thrill...well, all of us volunteers do this work for a similar reason, and that's one of them.

## LAURA ORTEGA

*Family Evening Meal guest and mother of 5*

Time at SVdP: 5 years

One thing I'll remember the most in coming here is what happened with my oldest son, Jose. He was a volunteer here and then he got a [One At a Time] scholarship from St. Vincent de Paul. He went to college and studied mechanical engineering. He recently graduated in January from ASU with his degree and started applying for jobs. He just got a call from one of the companies he interviewed with and found out he got the job! We are really happy and grateful he had this opportunity. I told him we need to celebrate this and say thank you to God for everything we've received.



## JUDY BAWCOM

*Vincentian at Our Lady of Mount Carmel*

Time at SVdP: 25 years

There is one person who I've always admired — Paul Kelley. He recently passed away. He was co-president of the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, with his wife, Mary Helen. Some of my favorite memories during my time here were the times I got to hear him speak. He lived his faith and he was an inspiration to everyone through his words and actions.



## YASMIN ESTRADA

*Dream Center student*

Time at SVdP: 1-2 years

My favorite memory is when SVdP took us [Dream Center children and SVdP volunteers] on a field trip to the Desert Botanical Garden. They taught us about different kinds of plants and it was really pretty. My favorite plant was the cactus, because there were so many. Some were tall and some were small. They taught us all about the different sizes. On the way back from the trip we stopped at a park and got to eat and play in a little water park. It was really fun. I've been on field trips with my school before, but this one was different because I got to meet more kids from different grades.



## RICARDO REYES

*Family Wellness Program education programs manager*

Time at SVdP: 3 years

When I was volunteering in the medical clinic as a Spanish translator, I remember one time a patient didn't have money for his bus fare to get back home. Every one of the nurses here pitched in to pay for his fare. That really made an impression on me, because they weren't just trying to help him with his health, they were concerned about how he was going to get home. It was so inspiring to see them go above and beyond what they were doing.



## TERRI THOMAS

*Security Department administrative coordinator*

Time at SVdP: 8 years

My favorite memory was when I was volunteering at Ozanam Manor as a mentor. It's not just one resident I remember in particular, but more generally, it was always wonderful to see the residents finally make the transition to getting a house or apartment. And then to see a year later, maybe through an email or on Facebook, that they were still out on their own, progressing, and seeing that they were on an upswing, rather than a downswing. That was really heartwarming to see and a nice experience to be involved in.





# VINCENTIAN CONNECTION

P.O. Box 13600, Phoenix, Arizona 85002-3600

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## Show us your support

### ARIZONA GIVES ★ DAY

APRIL 5, 2016



Arizona Gives Day is a 24 hour online giving experience open to all Arizona nonprofits. Prizes are available for those with the “most donors” and “most donations” in 24 hours. Last year, SVdP raised over \$65,000 to feed, clothe, house and heal our neighbors across the state.

#### AMOUNT RAISED IN 2015 BY ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

\$ 57,000 *donations*  
+ \$ 8,000 *3rd place prize for most dollars*  

---

**\$65,000** *total amount raised in 24 hours*



## Can you help us come in first place this year?

Here's what you can do:

1. Go to [www.stvincentdepaul.net/azgives](http://www.stvincentdepaul.net/azgives) and make a donation. You can do this on April 5th, or visit the website today to schedule a donation.
2. **Tell your friends.** There are prizes for “most dollars raised” and “most donors” in 24 hours.
3. **Sign up to be a SVdP ambassador.** Create a personal fundraising page to invite your friends to participate. Call us at (602) 266-GIVE for more information.