



YOU MADE THE IMPOSSIBLE...POSSIBLE

TOGETHER, THE IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES POSSIBLE

IN MY MANY YEARS of volunteering for the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin, I notice again and again how *your* participation in our mission allows people in crisis to get the help they need immediately. Your generosity gives the Society the flexibility to act quickly, take chances and employ creative solutions that have not yet been tried.

When people face evictions, hunger and homelessness, the accompanying fear and uncertainty can be overwhelming. By the time they come to us, most have exhausted their resources while trying to fix the problem on their own, and many feel that their situation has reached an impossible impasse. When you step in to help, you shine a beacon of hope into what is often the darkest moment of their lives. You make the “impossible” possible.

YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE SOCIETY ALLOWS US TO DEFY SOME OF TODAY’S HOUSING MYTHS.

MYTH: “I’ll never find a place I can afford; I can’t find anything in this area.”

We hear this statement from many discouraged people who are either homeless or unable to stay in their current residence due to Marin’s rising rents. Despite Marin’s serious housing shortage, our Housing Help Desk assists low-income families and individuals find housing they can afford *every single day!* See our story about James on page five...

MYTH: Some people are too mentally ill, addicted or sick to have housing.

In fact, chronically homeless people need housing the most. Their lack of housing results in higher costs to our community when they continue to suffer on our streets. Your investment in our new Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) program is achieving excellent results using a “housing first” strategy to care for people with multiple, life-threatening challenges. See our story about Carlene on page seven...

YOU ARE THE HERO WHO MAKES THIS WORK POSSIBLE.

Thankfully, as a generous benefactor, you know that no one is too sick or too difficult to deserve help. Together, we are advancing bold and innovative approaches to ending homelessness for men, women and children who have suffered for far too long.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Rich Gallagher
President, Board of Directors

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OUR GOAL is to provide compassionate care and critical services to residents of Marin who are struggling to make ends meet, but are not receiving the help they need. For over 10,000 people in 2016, thank you for making the following possible:



Crisis assistance preventing **1,200** families from losing their housing



Job Stipends and Training for **18** homeless people



Permanent housing secured for **114** people living on the streets



Community Court providing justice for **370** people living in poverty



Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (REST) for **311** homeless adults



Supported housing for **15** chronically homeless individuals with multiple health problems through our new Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) collaborative



Free Dining Room serving **200,000** hot meals to children, adults, seniors, and veterans



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for James

JUST BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS, James was diagnosed with Stage 3 cancer. For decades, James worked as a highly regarded nurse at San Quentin State Prison. His job benefits included living in a modest house in San Quentin Village. After his diagnosis, James wanted to keep working, but found it impossible to do so while grappling with prolonged and difficult treatment protocols. Sadly, he was forced to retire at age 62.

Retiring from his nursing job also meant that James had to leave his beloved home of 23 years. With Marin's high cost of living, he was afraid he would soon be on the streets with no job, no home and a life-threatening disease. Despite a lifetime of self-sufficiency, his problems suddenly seemed insurmountable and fighting cancer made it impossible for him to focus on any of them.

That's when you came to the rescue. Unwilling to watch James fall into despair, you helped him find an apartment in Vallejo that he could afford on his fixed retirement income. You gave James the required rental deposit and helped him with other move-in costs, greatly reducing his anxiety. Most importantly,

you provided a compassionate response when James desperately needed one. Today, James is continuing treatment, lives in a safe environment and feels immense gratitude for the love given to him by his "St. Vincent's angels."

“*St. Vincent's is a key partner for the County of Marin in addressing the unique needs of people in our community living in poverty. They are always there for people who are hungry, for people who are at risk of losing their housing and for people in crisis who have become homeless. Their services are provided with dignity and compassion. We appreciate St. Vincent's informed approach and unwavering commitment.*”

– DAMON CONNOLLY
District 1 Supervisor
County of Marin

“*I was always the one taking care of people who were sick. My heart is so full right now. Thank you, angels, for taking such good care of me!*”

– JAMES



YOU MADE THE IMPOSSIBLE...POSSIBLE

for Carlene

CARLENE WAS 56 and had a serious drinking problem. She lost her friends, her home and her job, and ended up living on the streets of Marin for many years. Carlene tried to get help, but bounced in and out of detox programs and shelters without success.

After becoming completely blind in one eye and beginning to lose sight in her other eye, Carlene kept drinking to ease her pain. She sustained many injuries due to walking into traffic or falling down, which resulted in frequent hospital visits and police arrests. Looking at Carlene, it was impossible to imagine that she was going to live much longer.

Undaunted, you never gave up on what might be possible for Carlene. You sponsored our new Housing Outreach Team (HOT), which offered her the chance to move into a hotel room with supervision from a caregiver.

You provided the shelter, food and supportive services that Carlene needed to get better safely and off the streets.

With this personalized care, Carlene's health began to improve, eliminating her emergency room visits. Her thinking cleared, and she eventually gave up drinking altogether.

Your support made it possible for Carlene to find resources for living independently despite her blindness. Carlene also was able to access the benefits to which she was entitled. Because you believed in the "impossible," Carlene is now living in good health in her own Marin apartment with a live-in caregiver and a whole new chance at life.

“*St. Vincent's incredible leadership was instrumental in launching the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) program. Now, the most desperate people on our streets are finally getting the help they need. The City of San Rafael is extremely fortunate to have such an innovative and dedicated partner.*”

– ANDREW HENING
City of San Rafael
Director of Homeless Planning

“*I didn't think anyone cared. Now, it feels like I have finally woken up from a really bad dream. Someone does care. Thank you for helping me.*”

– CARLENE



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for Mary and Max

MARY HAD LONG SUFFERED in an abusive marriage until she found the courage to flee with her seven year old son. The situation was especially challenging because Mary is developmentally disabled and has limited literacy skills and Max has been physically disabled since birth.

Forced to leave the family home in the dark of night, Mary was told she qualified for an emergency housing voucher from the county, but then she received a letter rejecting her application. Mary cried inconsolably, convinced that she and Max would remain homeless.

But you restored hope to this vulnerable family. When Mary came to our Housing Help Desk, our volunteers patiently helped her appeal the housing voucher decision. It turned out that the application, with its many pages of complicated questions, was impossible for someone with Mary's limited reading comprehension to complete.

Your caring generosity enabled Mary to resubmit the application – this time with success!

Once Mary's housing voucher came through, you helped her find an apartment and provided her with the furnishings needed to safely settle with Max into their new home.

Today, your generosity continues to support this high-needs family with our compassionate volunteers who check in on them regularly.

“*I am proud of our outstanding and committed staff, volunteers and supporters. We are absolutely determined to end suffering in our community.*”

– CHRISTINE PAQUETTE
Executive Director
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin

“*Thank you for everything you did to help me and Max. I can breathe now that we are safe. I thought the world had ended but now it has just started!*”

– MARY



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for the Dixons

JIM AND MARGIE DIXON were a hard working couple who lived in Mill Valley with their two teenagers, Rory and Rayna. Not long ago, Jim was devastated when he suddenly lost his job. He agonized about how to tell his family that they had run out of money and would soon be evicted from their rental house.

Just when it seemed things couldn't get any worse, Margie's sister, a single mom, was hospitalized with a complete emotional breakdown. Social services asked Jim and Margie if they would care for her sister's 14-year-old son, David, so that he would not have to enter foster care. Despite their financial crisis, Jim and Margie took David into their home, which made them feel more vulnerable than ever.

A neighbor suggested that Jim called our Crisis Help Line. Thanks to you, assistance was on its way. You helped the Dixons find an apartment they could afford on Margie's salary alone.

You provided the rental deposit they needed to secure the apartment and move in. With this positive turn of events, Jim and Margie regained hope. Jim soon found another job and the Dixons once again became a thriving family. David and his cousin Rory have become inseparable at their new high school. Rayna was just awarded a full scholarship to attend private school. Once again, you turned a crisis into a happy ending, this time for two Marin families in need.

“*We believe that everyone needs food, housing, dignity and a chance for a better life – no one can do it alone.*”

– SUZANNE WALKER
Deputy Director
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin

“*You gave us a lifeline when we were desperate. Keeping our family together has meant the world to us. We hope we can help others in the future.*” – JIM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

\$25,000 +

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Ines Miller Revocable Trust
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“*We invite you to join this generous and visionary group of people who are committed to ending suffering in our community.*”

– RICH AND JEAN GALLAGHER

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PLEASE EXPAND the critical work of

- 3000 generous donors
- 2800 dedicated volunteers
- 19 staff members

to make food, housing, dignity and a chance for a better life for thousands of people *possible!*

Please contribute as generously as you possibly can today.

Thank you!

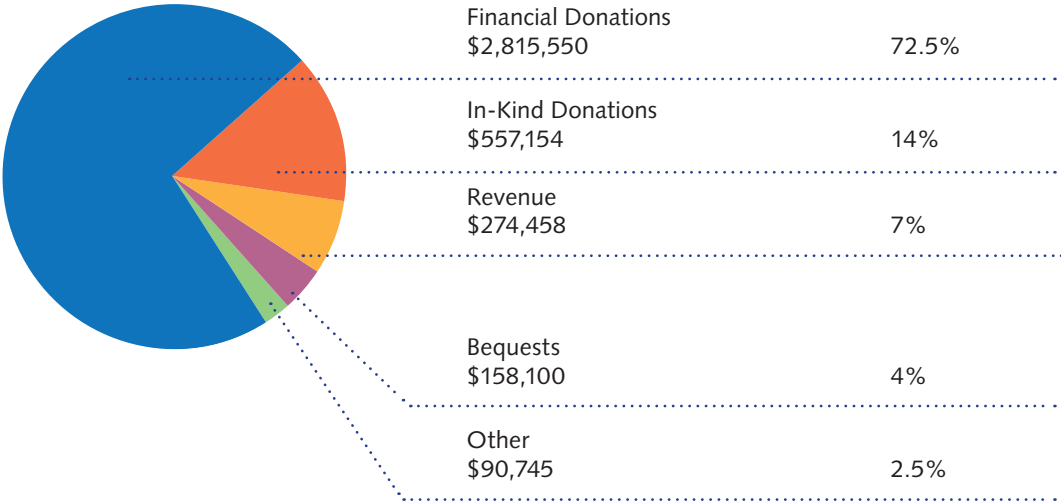
“*We are greatly blessed by the compassion and loving kindness of each person who supports the St. Vincent de Paul Society. They offer a beacon of hope and nourishment to all who are suffering.*”

– MONSIGNOR SHEERAN
Marin Catholic, Director of Mission
and Ministry

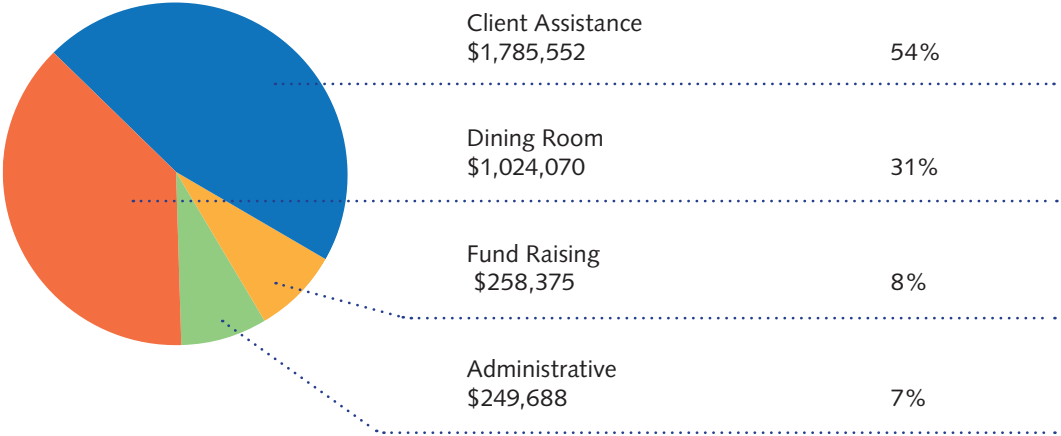
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF MARIN

2016 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total Income \$3,896,007



Total Expenses \$ 3,317,685



The services at the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin are available to all who reside in Marin County. Your donation stays in Marin County.

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