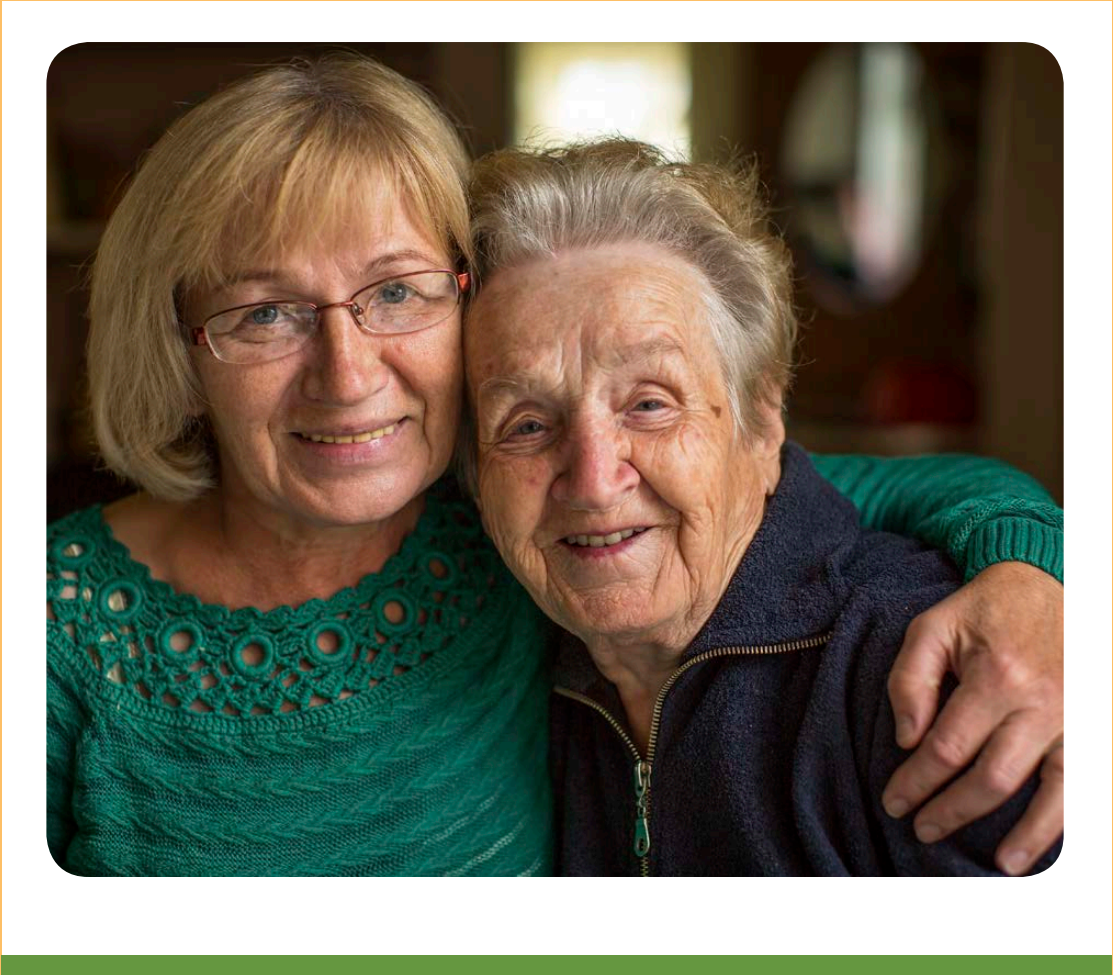


You never gave up



Together, we never gave up

IN MY YEARS OF VOLUNTEERING for the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin, one thing has remained constant: when people come to the Society for help, they have run out of resources and are close to giving up all hope, succumbing to a life on the streets.

Your determination to help people facing these daunting challenges inspires me every day — whether I am helping prepare meals in our Free Dining Room or chairing a board meeting to strategically bolster our mission.

Each day, you are on the front lines with us to provide critical services and an open heart for people who come to us, like:

- *Bill, an army veteran from Corte Madera, who finds that his wonderful life has taken a terrible turn when a stroke renders him unable to work and he is days away from becoming homeless*
- *Barbara, whose severe mental illness causes her to obsessively roam the streets of San Rafael, seemingly destined to spend the rest of her life sick, homeless and alone*
- *Sean, a young man with a troubled background, who yearns to attend college but is living under Highway 101 in Marin without any prospects for a better life*

Thankfully, you never give up on people like Bill or Barbara or Sean.

How do you make a difference? Each day, you keep the lights on at our Free Dining Room so that “all who enter” are provided nourishment *and* a helping hand. You assist people who are homeless to find work, structure and purpose. You prevent people from **becoming** homeless by providing emergency rent and a plan to achieve financial stability. Each day, you offer hope to someone who felt hopeless. You never gave up, and neither will we.

Together, failure is not an option — we can find solutions and your generosity helps us to do that every day.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Rich Gallagher
President, Board of Directors

You never gave up on Margie

Margie was 46 years old when her 20 year marriage ended in divorce. She was left with little income and soon suffered the painful foreclosure of her Florida home. Shocked by her unexpected circumstances, Margie packed her car and headed west, hoping to stay temporarily with a friend in California. But Margie's run of misfortune continued when her car broke down on Highway 101 in Marin.

Margie walked into our office completely out of money. She was afraid, dispirited and embarrassed. We helped calm her down and invited her to meet with a



volunteer at our Housing Help Desk. After being told of Margie's Florida roots, we quickly called the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) in Florida to see if they could help. Although Margie was almost ready to give up on herself, **you never gave up on Margie**. That night, you paid for Margie's Greyhound bus ticket and food for her trip back home. When Margie arrived in Florida, a volunteer met her and drove her to a women's shelter where she could get the guidance she needed. But your commitment didn't end there. We continued working with SVdP in Florida for the next few weeks to ensure Margie's success. Thanks to you, Margie is now in low income housing, has begun a new job, and is starting her life over again.

- The Society assisted 120 homeless people to “return home” to a stable living situation in another area
- Last year the Free Dining Room served 184,002 meals and received donated food valued at \$763,063

You never gave up on Barbara

Barbara suffered for a very long time on the streets of San Rafael. Homeless and delusional, she seemed to create a terrible scene everywhere she went. Deeply saddened by her deteriorating condition, we were determined to help. When we told Barbara we would find her a place to live, her demeanor changed dramatically. She had fewer public outbursts. Instead of ranting about being persecuted, she began to talk about finding a home in Nevada, close to some old friends.

While we worked to find Barbara a place she could afford on her \$926 per month



disability benefits, she slept safely at our Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (REST) program. Even though her mental illness made it difficult for us to find appropriate housing for her, **you never gave up on Barbara**. Thanks to your generosity, we kept searching for a year until we found a place in Nevada that met her needs. You paid for her move-in costs and for someone to travel with her to make sure she made it safely to her new home. Today, Barbara is living in a small cabin in a quiet town in Nevada. Her big-hearted property manager has found caring community members to provide Barbara with ongoing support, helping her grocery shop and bringing her to church each week. Thanks to you, Barbara is now living a decent and happy life.

- More than 80 homeless households received rental deposit assistance to move into permanent housing
- According to Marin's most recent survey, 30% of those experiencing homelessness are mentally ill

You never gave up on Bill

At age 74, Bill was living a happy existence in Corte Madera. He loved his work as an antiques dealer. Unfortunately, a series of small strokes upended his comfortable life. Soon his savings were gone. Unable to work because of his declining health, Bill found it impossible to cover the cost of rent. He was deeply afraid of becoming homeless. With nowhere else to turn, Bill called the Society for help.

Our volunteers visited Bill immediately. First, we helped pay his rent to stop his impending eviction. Concerned about his precarious future, our volunteers



recommended that Bill meet with our social worker to create a better long-term plan for his life. As we learned more about Bill, we discovered the good news that he was a veteran who had been honorably discharged. Our team quickly helped him apply for the Veterans' Administration housing voucher program. With that voucher, he could stay in his current apartment, despite his health problems and reduced income. Although the procedure took several months to complete, **you never gave up on Bill**. You continued to pay his rent until his voucher support came through. Bill's anxiety and fears subsided. Your generosity made it possible for this senior citizen, who had honorably served our country, to live out his life with a roof over his head and the security he desperately needed.

- 15% of patrons at the Free Dining Room are veterans
- Our Housing Help Desk had more than 2,800 visits from people seeking emergency aid this year

You never gave up on Paul and Jeff

Paul was 35 years old, homeless and working at a retail store in Mill Valley. Jeff was 42 and homeless after becoming disabled due to a car accident. Both Marin natives, Paul and Jeff met at our Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (REST) program. They shared their difficult stories of barely surviving on the streets and became friends when they bonded over the San Francisco Giants. While Paul and Jeff were grateful to have a place to sleep at night, their anxiety rose knowing our winter shelter would soon close for the season.



Paul and Jeff came to the Society's Housing Help Desk day after day, determined to work with our staff and volunteers to find housing they could afford – a daunting task in Marin County with its high cost of living. Despite this challenge, **you never gave up on Paul and Jeff** and their dreams of ending their homelessness. Thanks to your generosity, we located an efficiency studio apartment in Marin and enabled these two friends to become roommates. You even paid the rental deposit and move-in costs that neither man could afford. Upon receiving the news that the landlord had accepted their rental application, both men broke down in tears. Jeff said, "Neither of us has ever felt such kindness. Please tell everyone how much we appreciate all the help we've been given."

• 102 women and 294 men received shelter last year in our winter REST program

• 57 faith communities and civic groups served meals and sat down to eat with our guests

You never gave up on Anne

Anne is a single mom with one daughter already out of the house and two teenagers still at home. She had a prestigious career in San Francisco and loved her Larkspur apartment. Everything changed when Anne suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car accident. Although she had medical insurance, uncovered medical costs depleted her savings. Then, Anne's neurologist gave her the terrible news: her short term memory would never be recovered, and her only option was to apply for permanent disability. Anne immediately moved to a small apartment in San Rafael



and cut her family budget in half. But this was still not enough. Before long, Anne's rent and bills became unmanageable, and she was shocked to realize that she might soon be homeless. At a neighbor's recommendation, Anne called the Society. Sympathetic to the shock of Anne's new limitations, we walked her through each painful adjustment required to live on her income. We helped her find the courage to reach out to family members for additional support. Through this entire process, **you never gave up on Anne**. You generously covered Anne's rent until her disability benefits were received, so that she would not have to lose another apartment. Today, Anne and her daughters have found the strength required to face their struggles.

- Our volunteers conducted 1,419 home visits to provide emergency aid to 3,971 people

- 36% of the people served through our home visits program are children

You never gave up on Sean

Sean was a young man sleeping under the freeway in San Rafael before finding shelter at our Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (REST) program. After experiencing a difficult childhood, Sean did not have anyone encouraging his dreams. He hoped to someday work in the technology field but did not know how he was going to get there.

Sean came to the Society and enrolled in our new job stipend program. His confidence grew as he performed data entry work rapidly and efficiently. Sean's



outstanding job performance quickly earned him higher level responsibilities. This experience gave him a renewed belief in himself and he enrolled in computer programming classes at the College of Marin. Although he came to us alone and confused, **you never gave up on Sean**. Your kindness provided Sean with a rental deposit and move-in costs to secure a low-cost work/live loft in San Rafael. With this home office, he launched his own digital services business and now has so many business clients that he was able to graduate from our job stipend program. Thanks to you, Sean is now happily supporting himself, continuing his education, and dreaming about a future full of promise.

• 12 individuals learned new job skills and responsibilities in our job stipend program

• 70% of Society employees first came to us because they were homeless

You never gave up on Librado

You may remember Librado from our last Annual Report. As a new father, you helped him turn his life around from a past of addiction, violence and incarceration to become a responsible father, employee and role model for everyone who came to our Free Dining Room.

When the Society gave Librado a second chance for employment despite his criminal past, he made the most of the opportunity and was promoted to guest services manager. Buoyed by his accomplishments and excited about his future,



Will you help someone like Librado get a second chance today?

Librado decided to shift his career to become an addiction recovery counselor. "In my new job I use a lot of the skills I learned when I was managing the Free Dining Room," Librado says. "I learned patience, how to make split-second decisions — and how to really listen and understand people better." Because **you never gave up on Librado**, he was awarded a full scholarship to earn his counseling certification.

He says, "You believed in me when I did not have anyone on my side. You taught me there is always hope and now I'm happy I can pass that message on to others."

Please allow us to give help and hope to others like Librado, by making a gift to the Society today.

Your generosity saves and rebuilds lives.

\$25,000 +

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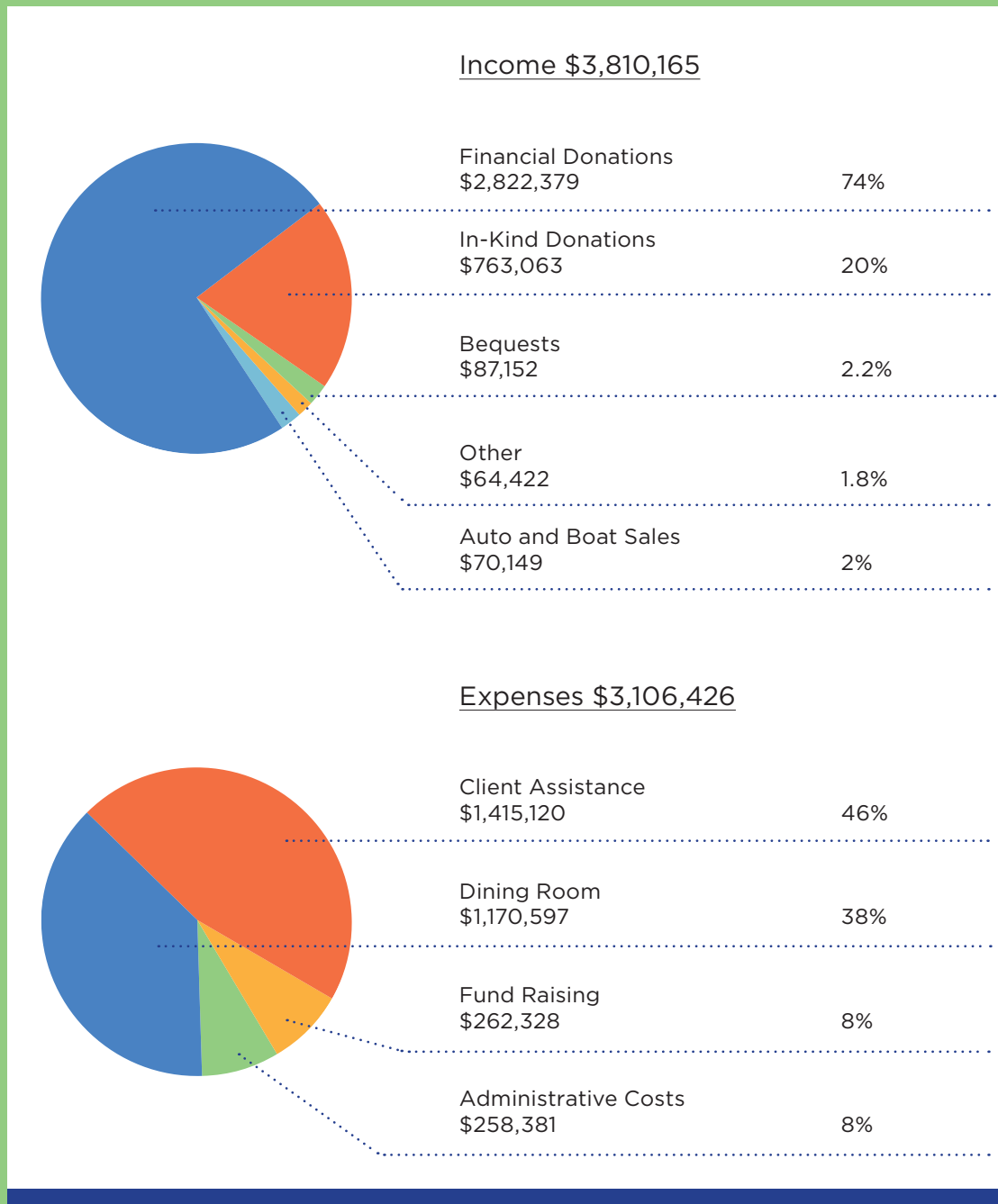
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St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin

2015 Financial Summary



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.

This Annual Report reflects the audit of our income and expenses for the fiscal year which ended September 30, 2015. Please note that \$640,000 of designated funding received in fiscal year 2015 must be spent in fiscal year 2016. Copies of the audit are available by request.

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