

Because of you



Because of you

MY FIRST EXPERIENCE at the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin was volunteering in the Free Dining Room. I was so inspired by the stories of people helped by the Society that I soon became a financial supporter and then a board member. Your generosity makes these stories, and so many others, possible.

- *Jimmy, a 48 year old Army veteran, returns from duty and is stunned to find himself alone and depressed, sleeping in a doorway.*
- *Lovely, raised as a foster child, now endures a harsh world without help or a place to live, and with a baby on the way.*
- *Catherine, a 78 year old retiree, faces medical bills that have led to the shock of a lifetime: an eviction notice and nowhere to go.*

Because of you, these stories did not end tragically.

Because of you, Jimmy has connected with friends who care for him, Lovely's baby was not born homeless, and Catherine will spend her last years living with dignity.

Last year, you changed the lives of these three people along with 16,000 other lives. You fed the hungry; you prevented poor people from suffering the indignities of homelessness; you helped people find jobs; you wrapped your arms around our forgotten veterans; and you sheltered those who are sick and cannot care for themselves.

Please know that for every dollar you can contribute today, 90 cents goes directly to fighting the ravages of mental illness, poverty, addiction, and misfortune in our community.

Thanks to you, St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin is at the forefront of employing innovative local and regional solutions to these heartbreaking issues.

With your continued support we will prevent and end tragedies in our community the best way we know how: together, one person at a time.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Rich Gallagher
President, Board of Directors

Break the cycle

"Growing up in foster homes, I never had a stable life. When I became pregnant, I was homeless and scared. I did not want my baby to have the same kind of childhood that I had. I came to the Society for help, and you answered my prayers. Thanks to you, my son was not born homeless, and now we have a place to live! Best of all, I discovered that I am a really good mom."



After a traumatic childhood living in foster homes, Lovely ran away at the age of 17 and was homeless for the next 12 years. She got in trouble with the law, lived outdoors, and slept in a tent. Yet you were always there for her. Throughout her years of struggle you provided nutritious meals for her at the Free Dining Room. You helped clear up her legal problems through our Community Court so she could start a new life. When she gave birth to Travis last September, you helped this young family move into an affordable apartment and secure basic furniture. Now, Lovely has a real home for the first time in her life, is attending barber college and taking parenting classes. More importantly, thanks to you, baby Travis has a healthy home and a real chance for a bright future.

- More than 70 homeless households received rental deposit assistance to move into permanent housing.
- More than 500 people got a second chance for a better life by attending the Society's Community Court.

Feed my soul

"I thought the Army would be my family, but it did not last. After my discharge, I felt alone and forgotten, but you gave me a place to belong. I don't have much money, but I do have my family at the Free Dining Room. I know that people would miss me if I went away. Some days that is the only thing that keeps me going."



Jimmy had a career in the military, but, like many veterans who serve our country, the transition to civilian life was difficult; he could not find employment or a place to fit in. Life lost its meaning. But you changed that for him. When Jimmy first arrived at the Free Dining Room, he was invited in for a meal and made to feel welcome. After years of feeling unwanted and suicidal, he finally felt at home. Over time he spent more time helping out and has become a respected volunteer. When Jimmy first came to us, he looked scared and sad. Today, thanks to you, Jimmy's smile can light up a room.

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- 15% of patrons at the Free Dining Room are veterans.
 - Last year the Free Dining Room served 171,002 meals and received donated food valued at \$931,194.

Save us from losing everything

"I knew that it was going to be tough financially when the baby came, so we saved money. But then everything went wrong; suddenly, we didn't have rent money. I can't believe that strangers came and saved us, but I sure am grateful."



Kevin and Maryanne saved money carefully in the months leading up to her maternity leave, but after an emergency C-section and medical complications, she was unable to return to work. Their income was reduced and their carefully laid out plan suddenly collapsed. Faced with an eviction notice and afraid that their family would become homeless, Kevin and Maryanne called the Society. Thanks to you, emergency help was on its way, and their rent was paid. Your kindness helped this family get past the most terrifying time in their lives. Instead of finding themselves homeless, this young couple is stable and able to pursue their dreams of family life.

- You helped the Society's volunteers visit more than 1,332 homes to provide emergency aid in Marin.
- 35% of the people we help through our home visits program are children.

Give me purpose

"My life was completely broken and so was I. But you helped me get better, day by day. Mainly, you helped me get back my dignity and return to work. Getting a job saved me, emotionally, financially and in every other way possible. And I never could have done it without you."



Sandra never expected to need help. She was educated, employed and independent. Yet a family death destroyed the foundation of her life. Depressed and alone, she faced a lengthy legal battle which caused her to lose her job and then her house. Tragically, this once successful, professional woman became homeless in Marin. But she did not have to sleep on our streets for long. Thanks to you, Sandra had a place to go. She came to our Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (REST) Program. Society volunteers listened to her story and provided her with the new support system she so desperately needed. Sandra bonded with the other women in the program and started to feel purposeful again. As her confidence returned, she began to look for work and quickly found a job. Sandra is truly grateful.

• 93 women and 279 men received shelter this year in our REST program.

• 56 faith communities and civic groups served meals and sat down to eat with our REST guests.

Make me whole

"I was struggling a lot, but I did not know how to get by. You showed me a way out of homelessness and gave me my family back, too. It's hard to talk about this without crying. I can't thank you enough for sending me home."



Mark made his living in construction, but Bay Area rents made it hard to survive. He was forced to live out of his truck. Mark knew how to make ends meet, but the older he got, the more difficult it was to battle homelessness. When Mark came to us, he was looking for some assistance with his truck insurance. But our volunteer at the Housing Help Desk was concerned. Mark mentioned his daughter in Iowa, but was reluctant to ask her for help. With encouragement from our volunteer, Mark picked up the phone and did just that. Mark's daughter wanted her dad to live with her, but lacked the funds for his travel expenses. Because of you, Mark's travel costs were paid. He arrived in Des Moines four days later, greeted by his tearful daughter, a safe place to live and a new start at a better life.

- Last year the Society helped more than 105 people return to their families out of the area.
- Our Help Desk had more than 3,800 visits from people seeking emergency aid this year.

Give me a second chance

"I was only 28 years old and had already thrown my life away. Starting over was hard. With my jail record, I didn't know if I would ever find a job. But you did what no one else would do. You gave me a job so I could prove myself."



Librado's life spiraled out of control at a young age. He was an addict, in and out of jail and almost killed in a gang fight. But all that changed when he became a father. Librado entered a drug treatment program and turned his life around. Because you believe in new beginnings, the Society was able to hire Librado to have a full-time job in the Free Dining Room. Today he is a highly respected and responsible employee who works days at the Dining Room and helps manage a sober living house at night. Our diners see Librado as a role model because "if he can do it", they might, too. Thanks to you, Librado has a new life for which he can be proud, and a son who adores the man Librado has become.

- 70% of the Society's employees first came to us because they needed help.
- Thanks to you, we were able to offer them a job and hope for a better future.

Help more people in crisis

"One day, my whole life unraveled. I did not do anything wrong. I had a job and was working so hard, but it did not matter. I was about to lose everything. I turned to you as my last desperate attempt, and you were there for me. You gave me time to turn my bad luck around. You even called to make sure that everything turned out okay!"



When you give to the Society, you give immediate and compassionate care to people who have nowhere else to turn. One-third of the people you help in Marin County are children whose families are on the brink of homelessness. For Marin residents who are not fortunate enough to have good health, family support, or financial stability, a crisis can lead to homelessness and despair. This downward spiral is stopped in its tracks when you intervene with your generosity. Help us remain the most accessible, volunteer-driven solution to homelessness in Marin County today. Prevent and end homelessness with your gift to the Society.

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- Will you help someone who, like Sara, is facing a crisis in Marin County today?

Your support of the Society prevents and ends tragedies

\$25,000 +

William E. Simon Foundation
Jolson Family Foundation
John and Vicki Kryzanowski
Marin Community Foundation
County of Marin
Mack and Jeanne Miller

\$10,000 – \$24,999

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\$1000 – \$2499

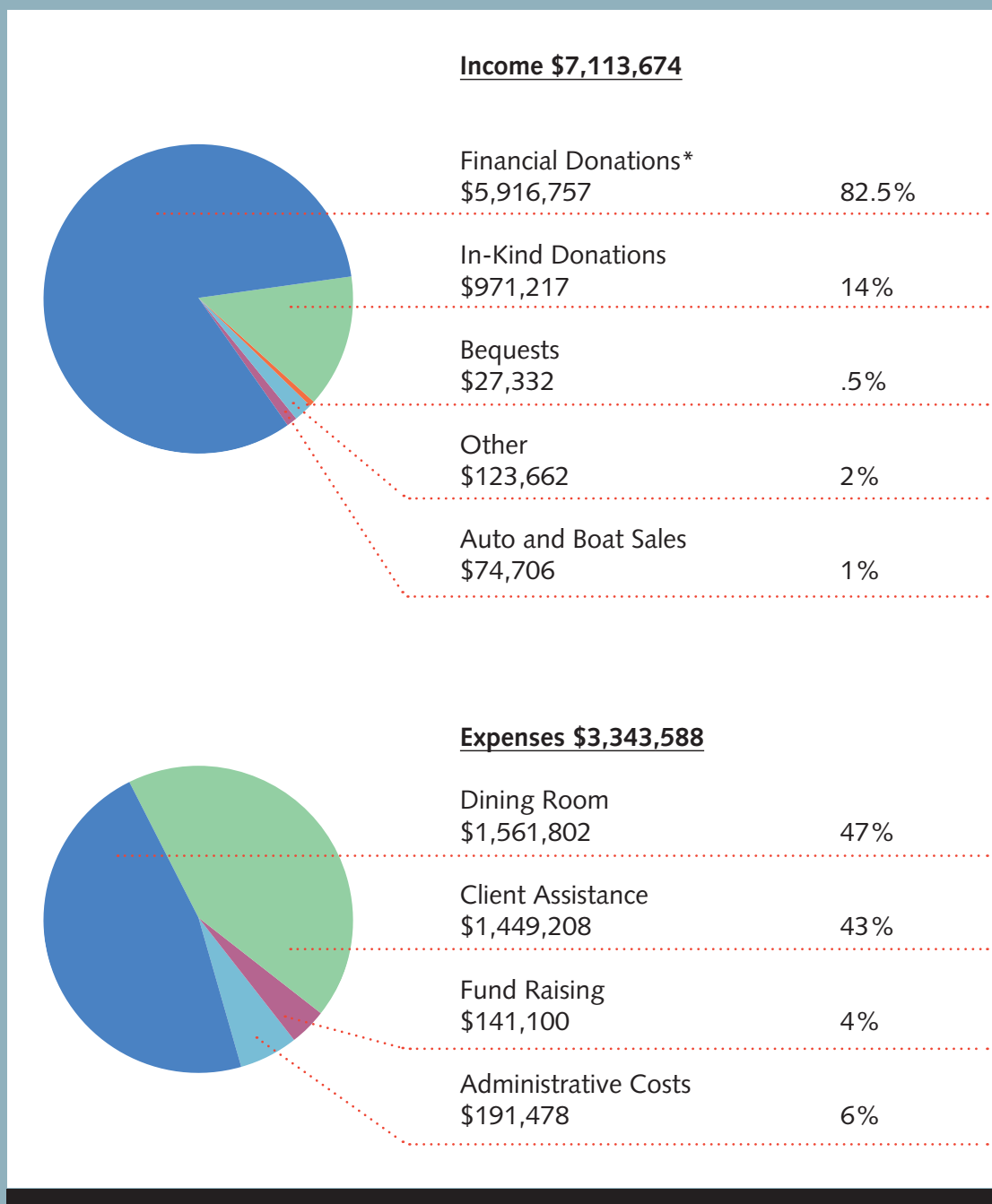
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Rene Zakhour
John and Marie Zeiter

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin

2014 Financial Summary



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

*This income includes a special one-time gift of \$4,000,000 that has been designated by the board for a future major project to aid homeless individuals and to provide for emergencies. If you would like to help contribute to this fund, or for more information, please contact Board President, Rich Gallagher.

This Annual Report reflects the audit of our income and expenses for the fiscal year which ended September 30, 2014. Copies of the audit are available by request.

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St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin County

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415-454-3303

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www.robinbrandes.com

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