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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MAJOR SPONSORS!

Launch of the Homeless Outreach Team is HOT

David was raised in a family of well-established Marin business owners. After graduating from a local high school, David started to experience the first signs of mental illness. His family was understandably concerned and did not know how to help. But David’s illness made him feel confused and anxious, resulting in outbursts and unpredictable behavior. His situation only became exacerbated when his family became estranged, and he was evicted from a series of apartments. Despite these challenges, David’s family was able to secure a unit in a single room occupancy building where he lived contentedly for several years. When the building was deemed unsafe due to building code violations, he had to vacate the apartment. David’s stability was undermined. Homelessness once again, he could no longer easily access his medications or find an affordable place to live.

In his forties and homeless, David’s mental health deteriorated rapidly. His symptoms increased and his hygiene and physical health were affected. David became one of San Rafael’s chronically homeless and mentally ill residents and lived on our streets for many years. A hulking man well over six feet tall, David presented as a scary figure to others. In truth, David was child-like, confused, and struggled to follow simple directions. The Society did everything possible to keep him clothed and fed, but we were deeply afraid that David was going to die on our streets. Could we not do better for one of our own—a resident of Marin County who was not getting the life-saving help he needed and deserved?

This is what we stopped in.

With your support of the Society’s launch of HOT (Homeless Outreach Team), David became the first individual to be served by this innovative program. With HOT, we gathered various Marin County social service agencies, county leaders, police and the department and street outreach workers to focus solely on David’s case while stressing our motto, “Housing is a must. Failure is not an option.” With this determined approach, our team, with the help of the robust network of agencies, county leaders, police and fire departments and other support services, we were able to bring David back onto the streets while stressing our motto, “Housing is a must. Failure is not an option.”

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Thank you to everyone who made this special night a success!

The Society’s annual fundraising gala
Pennies from Heaven
took place on Saturday, September 10th at St. Hilary Church in Tiburon.

Thank you to all our major sponsors!

Lead Sponsors
Huber House Charitable Foundation
Failure to Thrive Insurance Services
Herb and Joan Fernandez
Robert and Marla Schaaf
Harvey and Craig Hartman
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SPEAKING UP

2016 NEWS
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin County
You Save Lives!
A BIG THANK YOU

WE NEED YOUR HELP

It is sometimes thought that everyone who eats in our Free Dining Room is homeless, penniless, and came from somewhere outside Marin to get services. We would like to dispel some of those perceptions with results from our recent survey of 84 diners:

- 85% have lived in Marin 5 years or longer
- 49% have lived in Marin for more than 20 years
- 80% have some income, and 42% are disabled

Surviving the shoebox they were worried about becoming homeless.

- 34% said that they would go hungry, and another 30% said that it would be a financial hardship, if they couldn’t receive meals at the Free Dining Room.

20% of our diners are families.

Thanks to your support, the Free Dining Room is open 360 days a year and served over one million meals since 1981, ensuring that none of our neighbors in Marin County will go hungry.

With your help, every month the Society provides life-changing services for 310 people. The chart below shows that the police department arrest rates in downtown San Rafael were 30% lower in the last two years, causing tremendous stress for families. With your help, every month the Society provides life-changing services for 310 people.

We couldn’t do the amazing things we do without our amazing volunteers. In the past year, over 30,000 hours of work from over 300 volunteers contributed to the Society’s mission. Volunteers are there helping in every instant where help is needed, giving time and talent to serve their neighbors.

It’s easy to become a volunteer! To join our team, please go to our website at societyforhomeless.org, and apply, email us at volunteer@vhes.org or call 415-454-3303 x18.

The Power of a Story

In this newsletter, we share stories of the people you help in order to shed light on their lives and highlight the tremendous impact of your generosity. When we compose a newsletter, we ask ourselves “What’s the success story we do want to share and—more importantly—how can this story help others who are still struggling in our midst?” We are not merely “celebrating” the happy endings on these pages as much as we are shining a light on their lives and highlighting the tremendous impact of your generosity.

Carla and David lived a quiet life in a Canal Apartment. While working at a restaurant and taking care of their sons, Joaquin and Raul, they lived on a very tight budget...