



You reach higher

ALWAYS REACHING HIGHER

IN MY MANY YEARS of volunteering for the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin, one thing I notice again and again is how **YOU** expand our capacity to reach higher, to extend ourselves further, to collaborate and coordinate more to help people in desperate and immediate need. Nothing we do is easy.

*Each person who comes to us for help is underwater, gasping for air, not sure what is up or down or how to get to shore.*

Thanks to your generosity, we have the means to launch many innovative approaches to solving hunger, homelessness, poverty and illness.

This means that we never stop looking for ways to upgrade the expertise of our exemplary staff, in order to solve local problems on a bigger scale with lasting results. When we saw our remarkable results, we asked you to help us reach higher, and you said yes. Thanks to the tremendous confidence and support of our donors, in three years, we've grown by 50% with an annual budget of nearly \$5 million. We increased our investment equally in housing first strategies; individually-tailored crisis interventions; and pressuring for the changes to our local system of care which prioritized resources for those who are the **MOST** fragile and vulnerable among us. The results have been outstanding.

The Free Dining Room is still **ENDING HUNGER** every day, serving as the **GATEWAY TO SERVICES** for those in need. You help us reach higher, offering more options for healthier food choices while initiating conversations with our diners about the challenges they face. Your generosity connects them with services they need to get to higher ground and achieve stability.

Your compassion is **PREVENTING SUFFERING** through financial aid to thousands of households teetering on the brink of homelessness. These individuals and families just need a little help to recover from a sudden rent increase, car repair, or unexpected medical expense.

You are **ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS** for veterans, seniors and disabled adults and families by providing permanent supportive housing throughout Marin County; by stabilizing dozens of critically challenged people at our new *Bridge to Housing* program; and by continuing to support our work with community partners in order to create a new system of care which provides long term solutions for people with the highest needs. We do it quickly and compassionately, while steeped in the values which make this organization singularly unique in our community.

Please enjoy this report which shares the tremendous results of your generosity. Most of all, I want to thank **YOU** for reaching higher with us!



Rich Gallagher  
President, Board of Directors

YOU HELPED 10,000 PEOPLE IN CRISIS IN 2018



Thank you for making it possible to **DO MORE** in all of our programs in 2018!

GATEWAY TO SERVICES

Your support of Marin's only Free Dining Room served 200,000 hot, nutritious meals to children, adults, seniors and veterans. Outreach workers interacted more with diners to help with housing searches and medical support. Last year, 25 homeless individuals received on-site job training and Community Court resolved outstanding tickets for more than 350 homeless or low-income participants burdened with fines for minor offenses.

PREVENTING SUFFERING

Your Emergency Help Line and Home Visits successfully prevented homelessness for 1,800 families with direct financial aid for rental assistance, medical costs, car repairs and groceries. Thanks to 200 trained volunteers who donated 23,500 hours (equivalent to 13 full-time staff), you stepped in to prevent needless suffering and eviction for 3,202 adults and 1,641 children.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Your *housing first* strategies are working! You expanded to 44 housing units, including 13 new Bridge to Housing beds. Your Housing Outreach Team (HOT) collaborative has housed more than 130 chronically homeless people with supportive care, providing long-term solutions that save our community \$5.5 million annually.





You helped Mitch access a housing voucher from the Veterans Administration and search for his family. Then you reached higher to break through bureaucratic barriers so that Mitch could reunite with the daughter he thought he had lost forever.

**PUSHING THE SYSTEM**

**YOU DON'T TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER**

**MITCH SERVED IN THE NAVY** during the Vietnam War. Honorably discharged, he began civilian life with a new wife, working grueling hours in the fishing industry in Southern California. Years later, his marriage ended, and Mitch traveled to San Rafael to be near his brother.

Despite his best efforts, Mitch's past traumas led to a depression he could not shake. His life spiraled downward in a swirl of drugs, lost jobs and more failures. Eventually, Mitch summoned the courage to check himself into a residential treatment program. Eighteen months later, he was sober for the first time in many years.

Now 70 years old, Mitch was experiencing the relief of sobriety, yet still did not have a place to live. Thanks to your support of the Free Dining Room, Mitch did have healthy meals every day and the fellowship of people who cared about him. On a visit to the VA Hospital, doctors diagnosed Mitch with advanced lung cancer, likely due to chemical exposure while serving in Vietnam. With this news Mitch questioned the point of his life on the streets and was filled with regret for losing touch with his children.

*But you did not let Mitch give up on life.* Your support allows us to do "extra" things like help Mitch search for his family. Mitch cried when we put him on the phone with his daughter, and she said she wanted to see him. Suddenly, he had something to live for.

Next, St. Vincent's HOT team helped Mitch secure a VA housing voucher, ending his two-decade battle with homelessness. Mitch wanted to use his voucher to live near his daughter, but a transfer was denied based on the VA's regulations about medical access.

*You could have stopped there, but you reached higher.* You provided the counselors who worked painstakingly to find a medical provider who satisfied VA regulations. After a lengthy negotiation, the transfer was approved!

With your help, Mitch moved to a cottage just a few miles from his long-lost daughter. **She will celebrate his return home with a family reunion this summer.**



*Mitch cried when we put him on the phone with his daughter.*



YOU BRING FAMILIES HOME



**MELISSA'S YOUNGER SISTER**, Jamie, struggled with crippling anxiety and mental crises. While Melissa enjoyed long-term employment as a receptionist, the ups and downs of her sister's life were unpredictable. Jamie wanted to work but was unable to keep a job. She had trouble with medications, was often hospitalized, and became homeless several times. Amid all these difficulties, Jamie's world centered around her three-year-old son, Max.

Melissa agonized over her nephew growing up with such uncertainty. She offered to provide foster care for Max and give him the safety and consistency he needed. Jamie agreed to this plan and managed to visit often. Although Max was thriving under this arrangement, there were many tears each time mother and son had to say goodbye.

While Jamie's battles with her mental demons continued to disrupt her life, YOU helped her inch toward recovery. For six years, you were there for her every day with nutritious meals in our Free Dining Room. You made certain she received crisis intervention, expert advocacy, dental care, and,

eventually, a rental deposit for housing. With this help, Jamie just celebrated four years in her own apartment without hospitalization.

*You could have stopped there, but you reached higher.* As Jamie's life stabilized, several questions arose: Was Jamie ready to parent a now 9-year-old Max? Was it better for Max to stay with his aunt? Once again, you provided the case management these sisters needed to find an answer. The solution? St. Vincent's showed the sisters that converting two rent payments into one mortgage made sense. Jamie and Melissa were helped to apply to Marin's Below Market Rate (BMR) home ownership program, in the hopes of one day owning a home together.

Earlier this year, Melissa was shocked to learn her application was chosen! Melissa put her life savings toward the down payment, and your generosity helped these sisters one last time with the cost of moving into their forever home. **Today, the strain of mental illness is no longer the driver of this family's story; instead, Max is now living the life of a happy and healthy little boy, no more tears required.**



**Home Visit counselors intervene to prevent eviction for individuals and families in crisis. Housing counselors walk homeless people through options, help find a suitable place to live, and provide rental deposits and move-in costs.**



You provided Kevin with on-site job training that resulted in long-term employment. Then you reached higher to win Kevin's trust, helping him overcome resistance to medical care. You gave Kevin the dignity to face his diagnosis on his own terms, in his own home.



## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

# YOU MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE



**KEVIN CARRIED EVERYTHING** he owned on his back and slept outdoors. Estranged from his family, he was fiercely independent and insisted that he did not want housing, but he did want to work. Kevin took advantage of St. Vincent de Paul Society's employment training program and was promoted to a permanent position.

Kevin excelled at work, but sometimes the clamoring voices within him couldn't be contained, and he erupted in agitated outbursts. This behavior cost him many jobs in the past, but your support of St. Vincent's means that you accepted Kevin just as he is, allowing him to leave work without penalty when overwhelmed. Amazingly, Kevin maintained his employment at St. Vincent's for four years and was a beloved colleague to his entire team.

You could have stopped there, but you reached higher. When Kevin's physical health deteriorated, he refused to seek medical care despite the increasing concerns of those around him. Why was Kevin so resistant to treatment? One day, Kevin confessed he feared that if he

*Kevin's diagnosis was terminal, but he was not alone.*

saw a medical doctor, he would be locked up in a psychiatric ward for his mental condition, which tragically had happened in the past. After this breakthrough, Kevin was assured by your Homeless Outreach (HOT) Team case manager that he would help Kevin every step of the way while seeking treatment and explain to doctors that Kevin's schizophrenia was under control.

With his case manager's support, Kevin let go of his fear and agreed to see a doctor. Sadly, Kevin's diagnosis was terminal, but he was not alone. Kevin's case manager skillfully convinced Kevin that now was the time to get off the streets for good. Kevin agreed to move into St. Vincent's Bridge to Housing program where he has a live-in caregiver and skilled nursing visits under the supervision of St. Vincent's staff. **After a life of struggling to manage his mental illness on the streets and on his own, Kevin finally has a true family to love and care, feed and shelter him through his last days on earth.**



YOU GIVE SENIORS HOPE



Seniors living on a fixed income are often hit the hardest by rising rents.

**68-YEAR-OLD MARION** was proud of her son. A disabled combat veteran, he lived in veteran's housing in San Francisco and was making gains in his struggles with PTSD. Marion occasionally sent him money, since her 30-year public service pension had always been adequate to fund her simple lifestyle.

However, while Marion's pension stayed consistent, the rent for her apartment kept climbing. One day she realized that she could no longer help anyone else and had to focus on herself. Marion first tried downsizing to a room in someone else's home. But when the cost of her critical medications climbed to \$220 a month, reality set in. Marion became homeless.

"I never imagined I would be on this side of the fence," Marion confided, explaining that she had worked in the public sector helping low-income people qualify for benefits.

Marion came to you weary and worn down. Because you support St. Vincent's job program, she was able to obtain extra income through a job offered to her on the spot. Going back to work at her age was not ideal, but the increase in income made a difference and gave her hope.

You could have stopped there, but you reached higher. When St. Vincent's shared housing program had an opening, Marion was able to move out of a homeless shelter and into a room she could afford. She was surprised to find that she enjoyed socializing with her new community and making friends with several of her new neighbors.

Thanks to you, Marion is blessed with a happy new beginning. **Away from the perils of homelessness, Marion looks forward to spending time at home and again focusing on helping her son, who remains her pride and joy.**



**You helped Marion supplement her income, then reached higher to place her in an affordable shared-living arrangement. The Society offers rooms below market rate for low-income tenants in four shared-living homes.**



YOUR GENEROSITY LIFTS US HIGHER

“We invite you to join this generous and visionary group of people helping us find a way to end suffering every single day”

—Rich and Jeanne Gallagher

Major donors gave the amounts specified to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, District Council of Marin County from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

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- 3,500 generous donors
- 2,900 dedicated volunteers
- 26 outstanding staff members

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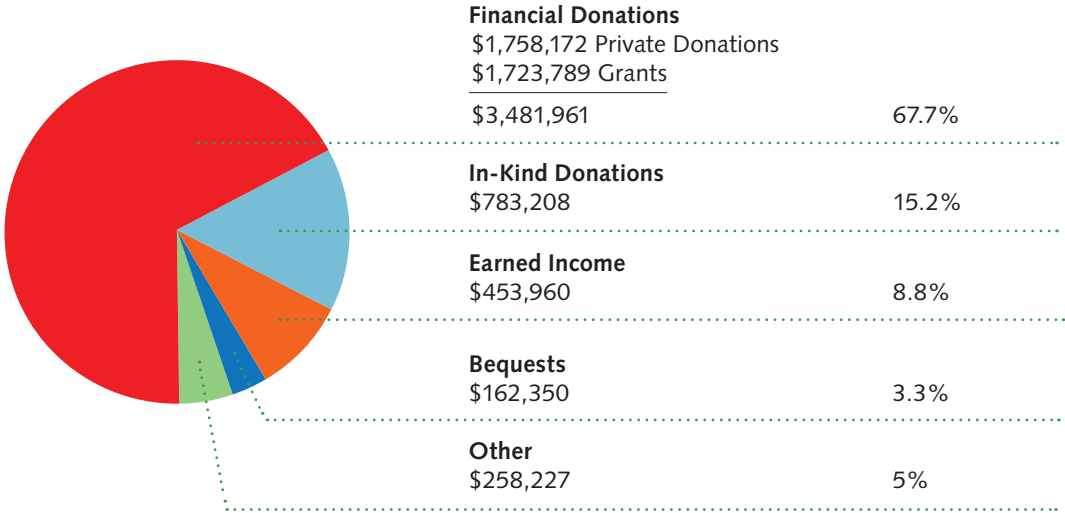
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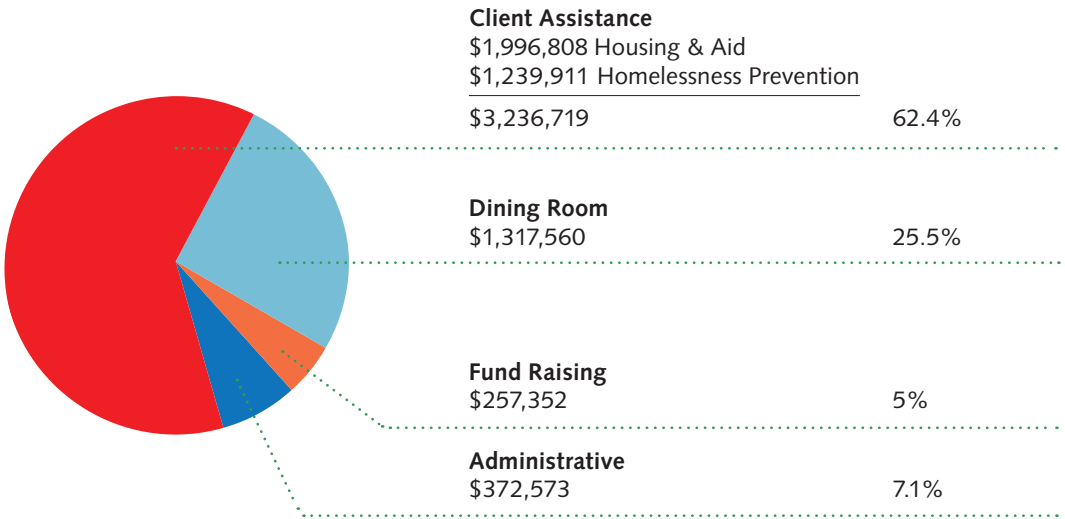
“Supporting St. Vincent’s allows us to share our many blessings with local people in need, who come for nourishing meals to sustain their lives, and find the help they need to make their way in the world.”

—Bob Kaliski, CEO & Board Chair  
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TOTAL INCOME \$5,139,706



TOTAL EXPENSES \$5,184,204



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