



You changed everything

55,909 Acts of Generosity Changed Everything

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO when I started volunteering at the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin, we faced many challenges. The number of people experiencing homelessness in our community was increasing, and the visibility of this crisis was obvious. As a devoted group of volunteers and donors, we did our best to feed, clothe and assist people in need. Our work was valiant and important, and yet we struggled with how to help people get out of crisis mode and into a more stable life going forward.

Today, so much has changed. To be exact, **55,909** acts of generosity brought us from “there” to “here.” How did we arrive at this very specific number? The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin received 55,909 unique and generous gifts in those 15 years. Each gift arrived with a personal dream from its donor—a desire to end suffering in Marin County by providing a more stable, healthy and happy life for struggling individuals and families including **A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE**. Together, we are seeing this dream come true.

Today, thanks to your support of the Society, chronic homeless in Marin is down 28% with new housing units for this special population on the horizon. Our Homeless Outreach Team is helping house people experiencing chronic homelessness while also vastly improving our community’s system of care for people in desperate need of help. At the same time, you helped 1,800 families **AVOID FIRST TIME HOMELESSNESS** through our “home visits” program. And, as you’ll see in this annual report, you are also helping us launch a new “Rapid Response” program, our innovative response to immediately assist anyone experiencing homelessness in Marin.

In recognition of this impact, the Society’s executive director, Christine Paquette, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin were recognized with the prestigious *Excellence in Leadership Award* at CVNL’s Heart of Marin Awards luncheon in January, 2020. Indeed, we have come a long way.

I know that some of you have been supporting this work for dozens of years while others are new to our family. But as I come to the end of my tenure as President of the Board of Directors for the Society, I see more than ever that this is a joint effort among all of us who are devoted to making Marin County a more compassionate and humane community. When you helped us change again quickly to respond during the COVID-19 crisis, I witnessed the power of our dreams coming together. For every family and individual suffering in our community, you give them a piece of your own dream and the tools for a better life. With your devotion to the Society, you change our community; you change the lives of people in need; and, indeed, you change yourself as well. Yes, you change everything.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Rich Gallagher
President, Board of Directors

You Lifted Up More Than **10,000** People



Thank you for improving everything we do for vulnerable children, adults, seniors and veterans, even during the pandemic.

MORE SUCCESS WITH ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Your *housing first* strategies are working consistently throughout Marin! In only two years, your Housing Outreach Team (HOT) collaborative has housed more than 200 chronically homeless people with supportive care, providing long-term solutions that save our community \$8.5 million annually.

PREVENTING SUFFERING

You gave more to support direct financial aid, offsetting the higher costs of housing, food, healthcare and car repairs for people in crisis, preventing homelessness for more than 1,800 families, including 3,202 adults and 1,641 children. Your generosity assists the work of more than 200 trained volunteers who donated 23,500 hours and work hard in our Emergency Help Line and Home Visits crisis intervention programs.

HEALTHIER MEALS AND MORE DIRECT ASSISTANCE

Your Free Dining Room served more than 205,000 hot nutritious meals and added more heart-healthy food options for people with compromised immune systems, including our new vegan salad bar. During Marin's safety power outages, you fed twice as many people for several days. Your Dining Room opened doors for people who needed assistance with housing searches; and offered help through Community Court, allowing 350 low-income people to resolve outstanding fines for minor offenses through community service.

“It was hard for me to ask for help. I was afraid we would lose everything our family and workers had done to support ourselves. We feel so blessed that people we don’t even know, cared about us. Thank you!”



You returned this family to self sufficiency

RIGO WAS PROUD to operate his own small business. Starting out as a gardener in his hometown of Novato, he was able to build a thriving tree service business. Early in their marriage, his wife Alda handled the books and scheduled customers while their children were in school. This required long hours and late nights budgeting for paychecks and materials, while tucking a little bit away “for a rainy day” when they could.

Rigo and Alda were hard workers and well-liked by their customers in Marin, so business grew steadily. The couple modeled for their sons the hard work that paid for the family’s condominium and put food on their table.

But disaster struck in October when the engine of their commercial truck died. Most upsetting to Rigo was that the cost to fix the engine exceeded their emergency savings by thousands of dollars. Without the truck, his crews could not work. To make matters worse, they could not qualify for a small business loan, and it was the end of the month and their mortgage payment was due. In desperation, Rigo called St. Vincent’s for help. Thanks to you, St. Vincent’s sent volunteer counselors to meet with Rigo and Alda in their home the next day...the only community service of its kind in Marin County for people in crisis.

That’s when your generosity changed everything. You came through with a lifeline by contributing to Rigo’s own savings for a down payment to the mechanic. With your help, our volunteers helped Rigo negotiate a payment schedule for the balance. With this plan, Rigo and Alda quickly got their truck back on the road

before they were forced to cancel more jobs. Their mortgage payment was made on time, and, thankfully, their young sons were protected from this stressful, serious family financial crisis. As a result, the boys were able to stay focused on their school work, thanks to you.



Your generosity changed everything for 1,800 families in crisis, including 3,203 adults and 1,641 children here in Marin.

You succeeded where hope was lost




IT SEEMED LIKE YVETTE was wishing to become invisible when she cautiously entered our Free Dining Room one day in September. Sitting alone, she appeared sunburned, exhausted and scared, weighed down by her faded backpack and a lifelong history of trauma, beginning with a childhood filled with abuse. Yvette was silently struggling with a persistent fear of others. Sleeping outdoors took a heavy toll on Yvette's mental health. Yvette looked like she had given up all hope.

But you were not going to give up on Yvette. Your support of St. Vincent's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) meant that someone kept reaching out to Yvette—no matter how many times she denied needing anything. Nine weeks later, Yvette finally agreed to accept help. Your HOT team quickly guided Yvette to find affordable and safe housing with a housing voucher. Yvette's case manager was by her side to help her sign the lease and make a plan for how her new housing assistance would pay her rent on time. But the story didn't

end there. You made sure HOT was there to check in daily with Yvette to ease the transition from street life to housing, and teach her the life skills she needed, such as understanding how to use an ATM.

You didn't just change **one** thing for Yvette, **you changed everything**. Emboldened by her progress, Yvette worked with her case manager to complete her application for health insurance and then located health professionals she trusted with her physical and mental health. She was no longer trying to just survive; instead she decided to thrive. Because of you and the ongoing support of her HOT case manager, Yvette is on track with a long-term wellness plan that makes her proud of how far she has come, and ready for the world to see her again.

A woman with long, wavy brown hair is shown in profile, looking down. She is wearing a dark, possibly olive green or black, jacket with a visible collar and buttons. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on her hair and the right side of her face, while the rest of the scene is in deep shadow. The background is dark and indistinct, suggesting an indoor setting with some architectural elements like a door or wall.

Sitting alone, she appeared sunburned, exhausted and scared, weighed down by her faded backpack and a lifelong history of trauma, beginning with a childhood filled with abuse.

You changed everything about homelessness in Marin County



First, you helped create St.Vincent's Homeless Outreach Team. Since that launch, Marin's chronic homelessness rate has been reduced by **28%**.

More than 200 medically fragile people are now living indoors thanks to this community-wide improvement and St.Vincent's supporters, with more to come in 2020.

By changing our community's response to homelessness, **50%** of Marin's homeless veterans have now received housing, with less than 50 veterans left to be housed.

We can do it!

This year, more than **twenty-two** families left homelessness and found safe, nurturing homes for their children in Marin County, thanks to you. With more help, we can assist more families in 2020.

Success breeds success. In response to our community success, this year Marin County was granted monthly federal housing vouchers to support an additional 50 people who are suffering from chronic homelessness. Working together, we can get 50 more people off of the streets in 2020.

Your generosity has launched our new "rapid response" program in 2020, an exciting,

St. Vincent's transformative programs save money, resources and lives.

innovative response to helping even more people by aiding them to get off the streets today and end their homelessness forever.

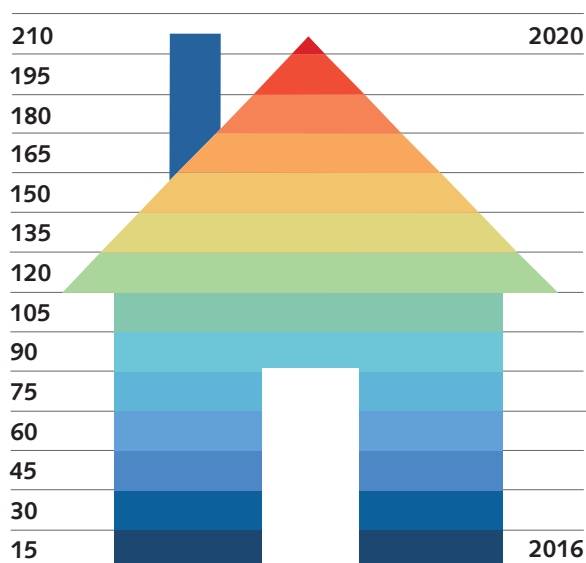
THE GOAL

Our goal is to house at least 50 more chronically homeless people this year. We are making tremendous gains. Everyone benefits from a more positive business environment and improved community health and well-being.

With a **93%** success rate keeping persons experiencing chronic homelessness housed, we believe that we can change everything for the better with your continued support.

Now, thanks to you, all of Marin is ending chronic homelessness together—one person at a time.

Number of people housed



WE CAN'T STOP NOW

Your gift right now is critical to building on many years of proven success. More than 55,000 gifts to St. Vincent's have already contributed to making St. Vincent's and our community a leader in ending chronic homelessness.

Please contribute as generously as you can to our collaborative community goal of **ENDING** chronic homelessness in Marin forever. Your gift will also prevent homelessness and end veteran homelessness in Marin County for good.

Help us strengthen this collaborative approach that is working!

Please give!

Your gift right now will house 50 more chronically homeless people, and prevent nearly 2,000 people from becoming homeless.

Our community is saving \$8.5 million annually by housing 200 high-risk people*

*Based on Santa Clara 2015 6-Yr Cost Study
<http://destinationhomesc.org/homenotfound/>

**"I couldn't think straight
and had no idea what
might be possible. Instead
of going downhill, now I
can really move forward.
Thank you."**



He asked for socks and you found him a home

SETH WAS LIVING A HAPPY LIFE, after serving as a United States Marine and marrying his high school sweetheart in Marin County. With his dog Jake by his side, Seth worked as a professional dog trainer in San Francisco for more than 10 years, building relationships with many grateful clients. But this high period for Seth abruptly came to an end when a hit and run auto accident left him with severe chronic pain and the inability to continue his self-employment. His body was broken, and his marriage crumbled. Seth fell into a dark depression.

When medical bills and his divorce left Seth financially tapped out, he lost his apartment and tried to pet sit for former clients when he could. On the nights he was on his own, Seth's dog kept him warm in the cab of Seth's truck. Seth knew he was drinking more than he should. With debts mounting and his panic rising, Seth came to St. Vincent's hoping for food and clean socks. Little did he know that your support meant that he would find so much more.

Thanks to you, St. Vincent's Housing Help team met Seth and jumped into action, knowing this veteran deserved more than the painful life he was living. After speaking to Seth, they learned that he had a brother in Nevada and organized a telephone reunion that day. Seth was surprised and thrilled when his brother said he could live with him, if only he could get himself to Nevada.

What happened next? Your generosity provided travel costs which made it possible for Seth and Jake to get into their truck and head straight to

Nevada, to the new life that awaited them. Within minutes, you changed everything. This once-lonely veteran was all smiles as he waved out the window of his old, sturdy truck on his way to a better life.



Your Rapid Response program helped dozens of people last year travel to supportive housing solutions beyond Marin County.

LEADING SUPPORTERS

YOUR GENEROSITY CHANGES LIVES

“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, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

\$25,000 +

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EXPAND OUR CIRCLE OF SUPPORT



YOUR GIVING CHANGES LIVES

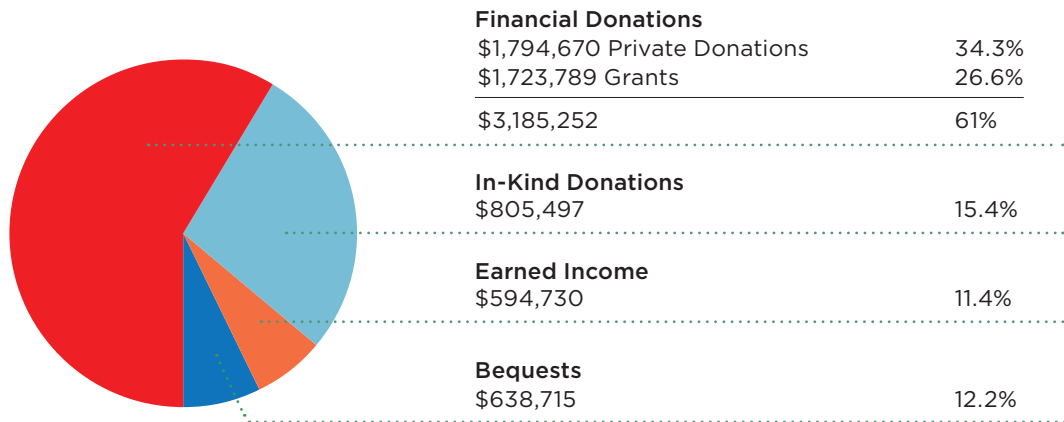
We can't stop now. Please help expand the life-changing work of **3,500** generous donors, **2,900** dedicated volunteers, and **28** outstanding staff members to make housing, food and a chance for a better life possible for thousands of people who are hurting. Please contribute as generously as you can. **Thank you!**

“ Together, the changes we are making lift up the lives of vulnerable children, adults, seniors and veterans in our community. Let's keep going!”

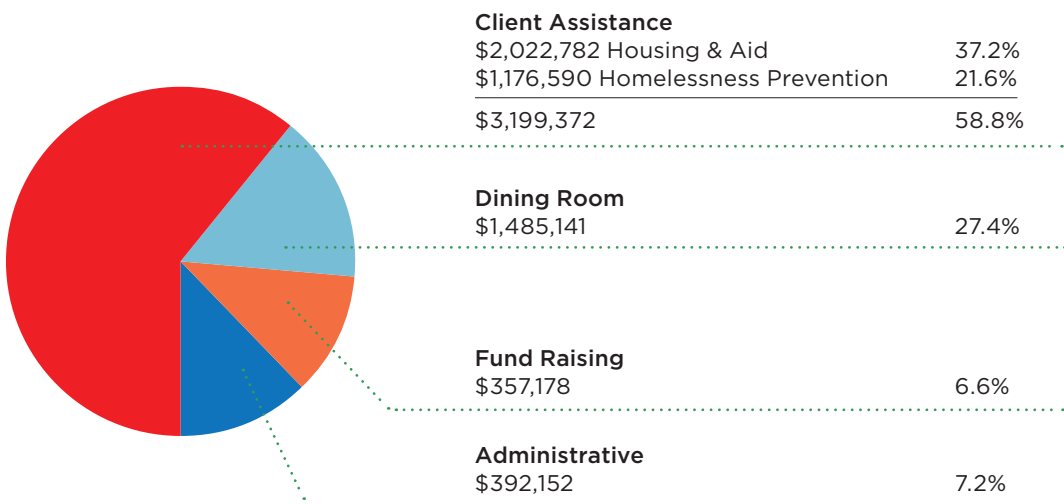
—Herb Foedisch, Vice President, Board of Directors St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF MARIN
2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOTAL INCOME \$5,227,194



TOTAL EXPENSES \$5,433,843



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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