

### You were there

### You Turned Tragedy into Triumph

**MOST OF US** would agree that **NOTHING** could have prepared us as individuals for the events of the Covid-19 pandemic and corresponding restrictions. Yet, at the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin, we know that **EVERYTHING** we have done for the last 74 years prepared us for the profound community need that arose in the past year. By helping generations of Marin residents through thousands of personal crises, we knew we would have to respond quickly, creatively, and compassionately to keep our programs up and running for those who needed us during this trying time.

Today, on behalf of all the people we've served, I'd like to share with you some of the highlights of that work over the past year and take the opportunity to say **WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU**. Each day throughout the pandemic and continuing into this very moment:

You nourished people in crisis — without missing a single day of serving meals.

You prevented homelessness by helping to distribute nearly \$1,000,000 of emergency rental aid — for those who needed it the most.

You helped more people than ever get off the streets and into safe shelter and housing — during the most dangerous health crisis in modern-day history.

While many of us were homebound with limited personal activities, the beauty of our investment in the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin meant we could still be there as a strong community force fighting the hunger, fear, uncertainty, and destabilization many of Marin's most vulnerable residents experienced.

This year's Annual Report is recognition of that effort and acknowledgment that together as donors, volunteers, friends, and supporters—we **CAN** uplift the lives of Marin's families, veterans, and seniors who are in dire need, and we can turn tragedy into triumph.

With gratitude,

Herb Foedisch

President, Board of Directors

# You Were There to Help More Than **10,000** People



#### **DINING ROOM CONVERTS TO SERVING "TO-GO" MEALS IN ONLY 12 HOURS**

Your Free Dining Room stayed open every single day to feed people safely during the pandemic, first relying on volunteers until our kitchen could reopen safely. Our staff and younger volunteers served more than **203,000** nutritious, hot "to-go" meals for our clients with compromised immune systems and extremely high-risk levels for Covid-19 infection. We also added hand-washing stations and distributed free masks to our clients for their protection.

#### PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS AND SUFFERING

You helped distribute nearly **\$1,000,000** in rental assistance and other emergency direct aid to thousands of people suffering from sudden job losses or hourly cutbacks during the pandemic, preventing people from getting behind on their rent or being subjected to future evictions.

#### CONTINUED SUCCESS WITH ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Your housing first strategies are continuing to work consistently throughout Marin despite the pandemic. In only a few years, St. Vincent's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and our Marin County collaborative have successfully **housed more than 325** veterans and other people experiencing chronic homelessness, saving our community as much as \$13.6 million annually.



## You rescued a family from danger

PAULA GREW UP IN MILL VALLEY. A single, hard-working mother of two young children, Paula bravely left an abusive relationship to live a life free of violence. Despite her best efforts to handle the costs of food, rent, childcare, and medical expenses, she periodically needed help. St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers from her local parish were there for this struggling family, stepping up when needed to help with small amounts to cover the costs of food, rent, "back to school" supplies or medical expenses when Paula fell short. Paula called St. Vincent's volunteers her "angels."

One terrible day, law enforcement officers advised Paula that her abuser was being released from prison. Through family members, she knew that he planned to come looking for her. That's when Paula's survival instinct kicked in. She quickly found a new apartment in another state where she could transfer her customer service job. Desperation set in when she faced two obstacles to her escape: She couldn't afford all her moving costs, and access to her new apartment was delayed for maintenance repairs. That is when she called her angels at the St. Vincent de Paul Society, her voice shaking with fear.

Immediately, our volunteers knew this was a race against the clock. The clock started ticking on a Saturday when the moving and storage contractor threatened exorbitant daily fees for any delays in payment. Our volunteers quickly negotiated an extra 24 hours for payment with the moving company and also called her new landlord, advocating for her to move in before the repairs were complete. The landlord agreed.

Then, our St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers got busy raising the \$4,000 Paula would need by Tuesday morning. You were there for Paula and her children. Our St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin volunteers successfully raised the funds in only three days so Paula and her children could quickly leave town.

Thankfully, Paula and her children escaped this dangerous situation and happily moved into their new home far away. She was so relieved when she tucked her children safely into bed, she quietly whispered prayers of gratitude to you and all her "angels" from St. Vincent's.

### Twinning: Volunteer SVdP Conference Groups Join Forces

Throughout the world, St Vincent de Paul Society volunteer Conferences support each other when there is a need that one conference cannot afford—in a unique process called "twinning." In Marin, we are blessed with extraordinary cooperation, collaboration, trust, and responsiveness among our eleven conferences that use twinning as a powerful tool to help those in dire need like Paula and her children.

## Long road home for this Navy medic



ADAM GREW UP IN KENTFIELD. After enlisting in the Navy in 2000, he qualified for their grueling Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training, where he excelled. However, just two months shy of graduation, Adam was seriously injured and medically discharged from the program. Deeply disheartened but undeterred, Kevin bounced back to serve as a medic (Navy Corpsman) and later as a paramedic for many years. He loved his work but found himself struggling with untreated Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. With both his parents deceased, Adam's loneliness and past traumas brought him to a very dark place.

Lost and confused, Adam's downward spiral turned into a decade of homelessness and even more trauma. Eventually, he found a meaningful job training program, became fully employed, and lived in a temporary housing program. When this housing was scheduled to end, Kevin came to the St. Vincent de Paul Society worried about becoming homeless again.

Thankfully, you were there for Adam. Your support of St. Vincent's work provided a professional case manager to help Adam complete the extensive paperwork required to secure a housing voucher for homeless veterans. Then Adam and his case manager looked for permanent housing together, even during Covid restrictions and the stress of the pandemic. Within a month, his case manager helped Adam find an apartment he could afford, and your generosity paid for his rental deposit, basic furnishings and the supplies he needed to get started. Today, Adam continues to work full-time and receive treatment that has vastly improved his mental health.

After this long grueling journey, this brave veteran feels he has finally found peace and is on solid ground in the place he is proud to call "home."



# You are ending veteran and chronic homelessness in Marin County



We developed a countywide program to end chronic homelessness called the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT). Since 2016, Marin's rate of chronic homelessness has been reduced by nearly half.

Now, by collaborating effectively throughout the county with highly coordinated programs we have prioritized the most vulnerable people. Today, 70% of Marin's homeless veterans have now received housing, with less than 30 veterans left to be housed. With a grant from Kaiser, St. Vincent's has increased our staffing to achieve this ambitious goal of ending veteran homelessness in Marin.

St. Vincent's HOT program case managers find permanent housing solutions to end veterans and chronic homelessness, no matter how difficult or complex their situation—one person at a time.

Today, thanks to you and the help of our community partners, more than **325** medically fragile people are now successfully off the streets. We are determined. We will not

rest until we find supportive housing solutions for every single person suffering on our streets one person at a time. We know we can do it!

Just as important, last year St. Vincent's assisted more than **75** homeless families to find safe, nurturing homes.

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

#### **SAVING LIVES**

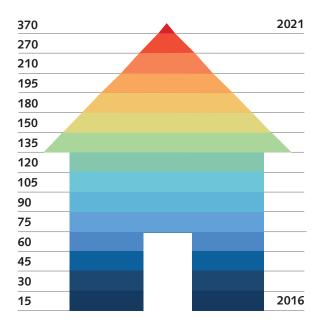
Did you know that the life expectancy\* for homeless people is only 42-52 years, compared to 78 years for the general population?

#### **COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

Providing housing creates a beneficial business environment and reduces costs for taxpayers.

Our community saves about \$13.6 million annually by housing 325 high risk people.\*\*

### Number of veterans and chronically homeless people housed



<sup>\*</sup>www.nationalhomelessorg/factsheets/health.html

### LET'S KEEP GOING

#### Community partners are key

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin works collaboratively, compassionately, and efficiently using *housing first* strategies with other housing and mental health community service providers, city and county officials, law enforcement, congregations, hospitals, and the housing authority.

#### Goals for 2021

Our goal is to house at least **100** more veterans and individuals experiencing chronic homelessness this year. We are making tremendous gains. Everyone benefits from a more positive business environment and improved community health and well-being.

Now, thanks to you, all of Marin is striving to end chronic homelessness together—one person at a time. With our 94% success rate of keeping people experiencing chronic homelessness housed, we believe that we can end this needless suffering.

#### Please give!

Please help us strengthen this collaborative approach that works so well. Your gift right now will house at least 100 more people.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Based on Santa Clara 2015 6-year Cost Study http://destinationhomesscc.org/homenotfound/



## Mystery woman no longer alone

AS COVID WAS IMPACTING all of us last year, we received a call from a concerned community member living in Corte Madera. While walking her dogs, she noticed a woman on a park bench who looked afraid. The caller reported she previously had seen the same woman wrapped in a long green coat sitting quietly on the same bench with a few bags. When the caller attempted to find out if the mystery woman was all right she grimaced and refused to answer. One morning, this neighbor gave the woman a piece of paper with information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Marin.

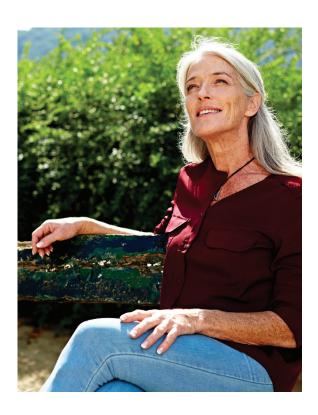
A few days later, the lady in the green coat appeared at our Housing Help Desk. She told us that she had been caring for and living with her older brother in Corte Madera but became homeless when he died unexpectedly. Overcome by grief and fear, she was alone and had no idea where to go. She told us her name was Delia.

Many times, people like Delia have difficulty finding help. Marin's natives are often not quite old or sick enough to qualify for benefits, but still not self-sufficient enough to afford a place on their own. You were there for Delia. Your generosity provided a professional case manager who developed a housing plan to help her.

With our help, Delia began feeling less overwhelmed but the fear of Covid and approaching winter added to the urgency of finding her a new place to live. Undeterred, St. Vincent's found Delia a shared-living arrangement with an older woman in Terra Linda who could not drive and needed help with errands.

Your generosity paid Delia's small rental deposit and her first month's rent and provided some basic furnishings for her room. Today, she is working part-time with a home care service agency, earning her own way, and making new friends. Thanks to your support, we regularly check in with Delia while she is getting back on her feet and beginning life anew.

Today, Delia says she will never forget the fear and cold of living on that bench or the nice neighbor and people at the St. Vincent de Paul Society who helped her—just out of the kindness of their hearts.



### YOUR GENEROSITY SAVES LIVES

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### The outpouring of support from our community over the last year has been amazing. Joan and I are inspired and grateful for all of St. Vincent's generous supporters."—Herb and Joan Foedisch

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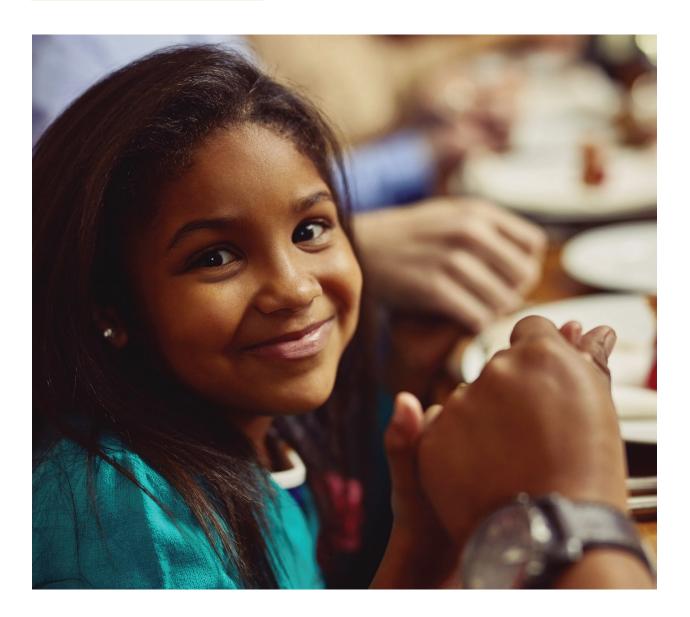
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#### **EXPAND OUR CIRCLE OF SUPPORT**



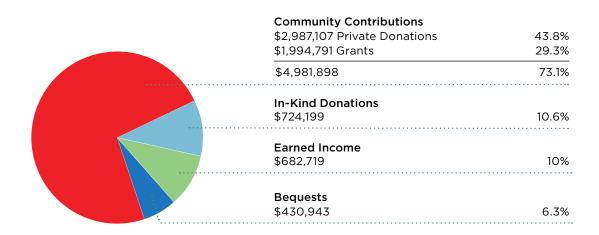
#### YOUR GIVING CHANGES LIVES

We can't stop now. Please help expand the life-saving work of **3,500** generous donors, **2,100** dedicated volunteers and **30** outstanding staff members to make housing, food and a chance for a better life possible for thousands of people who are hurting in Marin. Please contribute as generously as you can. **Thank you!** 

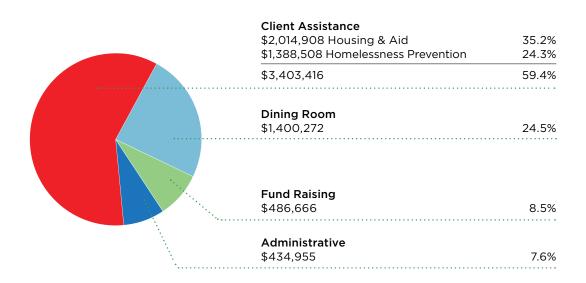
Your gifts make all the difference in the lives of vulnerable children, adults, seniors and veterans in our community. Let's keep going!"

—Suzanne Swift, Vice President, Board of Directors, St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin

#### **TOTAL INCOME \$6,819,759**



#### **TOTAL EXPENSES \$5,725,309**



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. Generous donations received during the pandemic will continue to be distributed in 2021.

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**Christine Paquette** 

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