



Believe
There is
Good in the World



Believe There is Good in the World...

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF WITNESSING THE GOOD IN THE WORLD

We at St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin are anchored in our belief that there is good in the world, as we witness good each and every day in our work. The work we do is made possible through your goodness. St. Vincent's is blessed to have gracious benefactors, volunteers, and staff who give freely and generously of their time, talent, and treasure to better the lives of those less fortunate. **We thank you for being the good.**

As we move forward from one of the world's most devastating modern-day pandemics, we also witness the serious collateral damage that COVID has created in our community—loss of employment and housing, food insecurity, profound isolation, simmering anxiety, emotional instability, and mental illness—**yet still, we persevere**. We have made it through another tough year of unknowns, adjusting to new challenges and proving to each other what we are truly capable of achieving—**75 years and going strong!**

We are proud to share the positive impact that St. Vincent de Paul Society has had on our community this past year. It is an honor and a privilege to partner with you in our journey to end hunger, poverty, and homelessness in Marin. We will always be transparent with you and we promise to be good stewards with your gifts. **Thank you for being the good!**

With immense gratitude,



Herb Foedisch
President, Board of Directors

Grace

Grace helps us weather life's storms

Finds light in the darkness

Keeps faith strong when evidence for it is hard to discern

Thank You for Being The Good for 75 Years



MARIN'S ONLY FREE DINING ROOM SERVED 180,000 TO-GO MEALS IN 2021

Throughout the tumultuous challenges brought about by the pandemic, your free dining room stayed **open every single day** to feed our community's most vulnerable children, families, seniors, individuals, and veterans. With the support of hundreds of volunteers and our resilient kitchen staff, we served more than **180,000** nutritious to-go meals for our hungry neighbors—that is almost 500 meals every single day. No one should ever go to bed hungry in Marin.

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS AND PROVIDING EMERGENCY AID

With your generous support, we distributed more than **\$1.8 million in rental assistance and other emergency direct aid** to thousands of people struggling to pay rent or make ends meet. You helped prevent evictions and provided families in need with life enduring blessings.

CONTINUED SUCCESS WITH ENDING HOMELESSNESS

Your dedication to ending homelessness continues to show incredible results throughout our community. With your help, **SVdP's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)** continues to collaborate with the County of Marin and other local service providers to successfully **house almost 500 people** experiencing chronic homelessness, with **122** individuals and families housed in 2021. Today, **94.83%** of all people our collaborative has housed are still living in their homes. This incredible achievement saves our community an additional **\$2 million** annually.

William's Story

We often complain that life isn't fair. Often-times our use of the phrase is said after dealing with a single major setback or maybe just after a minor inconvenience. However, for 70-year-old Mill Valley native William, life has been particularly cruel for a long time.

At the tender age of 9-years-old, William was abandoned by his parents and was placed in an institutionalized boys home until he reached adulthood. Besides the glaring absence of his family, he also struggled to find resources and support services to deal with his early childhood trauma regarding issues such as neglect and abuse. He had no option for therapy to grow from his trauma and was beaten down by the relationships he had with caregivers and older children in his living situation who often further abused him and others. With this lack of support from the adults in his life, William grew into negative behaviors that impacted his ability to be placed in foster care or a similar family setting that could have provided him some stability.

A conversation with William will reveal a life that no one should be forced to experience. A remarkably resilient individual, William has memories of his parents battling alcoholism and instances of domestic violence in his home prior to his institutionalization. He remembers moving around frequently and having trouble staying in school due to the lack of attention given to diagnosing and treating his learning disabilities. He was never given the opportunity to learn to properly read and

write. Today, William is unable to read and is only able sign his name.

William is now 70-years-old. He has been experiencing chronic homelessness for more than 35 years in Marin County. His only experience living indoors throughout these years was when he was in institutional settings such as in a hospital or in jail. Otherwise spending his time bouncing between homeless encampments, he was able to keep afloat up until 10 years ago when he began to develop severe medical issues, a direct result from the hardships put on his body from liv-

ing on the street. This would ultimately result in his hospitalization. For someone in William's situation, being able to afford hospital treatment was out of the question and in response he was finally referred to the SVdP Homeless Outreach Team (HOT).

HOT is a program designed to bridge the system gaps and assist those in the greatest need for permanent

housing. After review-

ing William's case, HOT assigned him a SVdP intensive case manager that assisted with getting him off the streets and provided help with understanding vital documents and applying for Disability and Medi-Cal. Shortly after engaging with HOT, William was also awarded a subsidized studio apartment for seniors in Mill Valley.

While housing was an undeniable lifesaver for William, the benefits were not immediately felt. He initially struggled with tasks such as regular showering and washing dishes and clothing. However, over time he learned to become more independent and adapted well



Photo Credit: Ron Greene



Photo Credit: Ron Greene

to indoor living thanks to constant support from his case manager. William had also previously fought substance abuse issues throughout his life but after living in his new housing, his substance use reduced significantly and he has had no further interactions with the police.

Three years after successfully living in his unit, William was awarded a Marin Housing Authority housing voucher which allowed him to move into his own one-bedroom apartment in San Rafael. This move placed him closer to his medical, dental, and case management providers along with other crucial resources such as public transportation and grocery stores.

Seemingly at a time in his life when nothing could go wrong, William was unfortunately not at the end of his problems. In 2020 he was hit by a vehicle and sustained significant damage to his legs. His SVdP HOT case manager supported him in seeking out legal counsel which ultimately resulted in William receiving \$175,000 for his suffering. The money was placed in a Special Needs Trust and will go toward specific needs such as a motorized wheelchair, care providers, and therapy. Finally, after 70 years, William can take a well-

deserved break. He has made friends in his neighborhood, is able to make his own medical appointments, and continues to meet with his case managers twice a month. With SVdP and HOT behind him, William has finally found his footing and has been given the building blocks to live the rest of his life surrounded by support and motivated by his own unwavering inner-strength. **Thank you for being the good.**

"Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

Luke 6:27-38

Relive the Christmas Miracle

Growing up the fifth of six kids, siblings were about the only thing our parents could offer us. When I was two, my older brother who was three at the time, was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. My earliest childhood memories all include hospital visits, hospital smells, or some form of hospital something. We lived on the grounds of City of Hope National Medical Center for a large chunk of time since my brother's health was so dire.

We had no money. My parents were gutted—not only did they have a son fighting for his life, but my father could hardly put in the hours at his sales job to make the commission needed to support us. We received various forms of financial assistance where we could. I can still smell the free pizza lunch our local elementary school would donate to low-income students on Saturday afternoons.

Christmas came in 1984 and my parents had to face the music—there would be no Santa. With no money in the bank, no credit available on their cards, and no cash on hand, they told my older siblings that Santa was not going to make it this year. They were crestfallen. That Christmas Eve was somber. My older siblings wrapped their McDonald's toys they received from the Ronald McDonald House donations



for families of pediatric leukemia patients to give to me, my brother in the hospital, and my younger brother.

That night we all went to sleep in our one-bedroom apartment knowing the morning would come and go like any other day. Suddenly there was a knock at the door. We opened it to find presents loaded up on our front porch, stacked higher than our heads, along with a Christmas dinner to prepare. Although I was too young to remember this Christmas miracle, I love when my family comes together to share this fond memory. I still wish I knew who delivered those presents that Christmas so I could personally thank them. They brought magic to our lives during a time when we needed it most. Best of all, they implanted the true meaning of Christmas at such an impressionable age that is still woven into the fabric of our lives today.

ESSENCE OF THE MIRACLE

"I still wish I knew who delivered those presents that Christmas so I could personally thank them. They brought magic to our lives during a time when we needed it the most. Best of all, they implanted the true meaning of Christmas at such an impressionable age that is still woven into the fabric of our lives today."

“ This is not just us doing nice things for people in need, this is us paying it forward.”

I have many stories since that Christmas of how my family has given back to similar families in our situation, but the best memories are still yet to be made. This year my husband, Jeff, and I supported St. Vincent de Paul by setting up a Santa's workshop in our dining room and spent the month of December planning meaningful gifts to SVdP families in need.

Our four children loved curating the gifts by researching what the popular gifts were of 2021 based on the ages and genders of the children. Occasionally they would even jump in on wrapping, even if our one-year-old would often undo their effort! Although they still love to receive, it is heartwarming watching our children's excitement for giving increase each year as they decide how much of their allowance they want to contribute to the cause and generally game plan how we are going to support our community.



I also call in the troops, my siblings, to swing by our house, help with wrapping, contribute what they can, and relive the Christmas miracle we received back in 1984. I also remind my children, this is not just us doing nice things for people in need, this is us paying it forward like someone did for me many years ago. That is the true meaning of the season. Gifts will come and go, but the magic and hope you give to others is the true gift.

Tylee Holden currently runs Operations for Atomic Machines, a hardware startup building robotic manufacturing platforms. She is a longtime supporter of St. Vincent's and we are blessed to have her.

WHEN GIVING IS ALL WE HAVE

Alberto Ríos

One river gives its journey to the next.

We give because someone gave to us.
We give because nobody gave to us.
We give because giving has changed us.
We give because giving could have changed us.
We have been better for it,
We have been wounded by it.
Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet,
Big, though small, diamond in wood-nails.
Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too,
But we read this book, anyway, over and again:
Giving is, first and every time, hand to hand,
Mine to yours, yours to mine.
You gave me blue and I gave you yellow.
Together we are simple green. You gave me
What you did not have, and I gave you
What I had to give—together, we made
Something greater from the difference.

Introducing our Conferences – Finding Joy in Service

We find joy in service. We serve with no expectation of recognition or reward. Just knowing our effort and energies are helping those who receive them fills us with peace and contentment, and a richer life experience. The more we share the work of our hands and the love in our hearts, the more our joy grows, sending ripples of blessings into the world.

The foundational work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society across the world is the practice of our members making home visits to people who are in danger of losing their housing and afraid of becoming homeless. Our St. Vincent de Paul members are called “Vincentians” and they do the critical work of visiting these at-risk seniors, low-income families and people with disabilities who have trouble paying rent, utilities, and other bills.

“The more we share the work of our hands and the love in our hearts, the more our joy grows, sending ripples of blessings into the world.”

When someone who is precariously housed calls our B Street office for help with rent or a utility bill, one of our Prevention volunteers answers the call and refers them to their neighborhood group of Vincentians, called a “conference.” Once the conference gets the referral, they arrange for a pair of Vincentians to make a home visit to the person in need.

These Vincentians provide open-hearted and judgment-free listening, referrals to other county resources, and financial assistance to landlords and other vendors when appropriate. In addition, many of our conferences run food pantries and conference members show up to



Photo Credit: Elliot Karlan

home visits with a bag of groceries or a grocery gift card. Most conferences also organize a special Christmas program to ensure that the families they serve can celebrate. Last year, more than 200 of our Vincentian volunteers spent **hundreds of hours listening to and meeting with our neighbors in need and distributed more than \$450,000 in financial assistance** to keep these struggling neighbors housed.

Marin is currently divided into eleven Vincentian Conferences: Our Lady of Loretto and St. Anthony's serve Novato; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel serves Marin City, Mill Valley and Sausalito, Sacred Heart serves West Marin; St. Hilary's serves Tiburon and Strawberry; St. Anselm's serves San Anselmo and parts of San Rafael, St. Isabella's serves northern San Rafael and Marinwood, St. Patrick's serves Corte Madera and Larkspur, St. Raphael's serves east San Rafael, St. Rita's serves Fairfax and parts of San Anselmo, and St. Sebastian's serves Greenbrae, Kentfield and parts of San Rafael.

If you're interested in volunteering please contact Meredith Parnell at mparnell@vinnies.org

OUR CONFERENCE STORIES

Marjie's Story as a Conference Member

As Conference members of St. Vincent de Paul Society, we are all blessed to be in a position to assist folks facing challenges, sometimes overwhelming challenges in life and providing some support... and hope! We have recently been working with a single mom with three kids aged 16, 18 and 20. As with many folks on a fixed income, it can be challenging to keep current on monthly bills. The mother has been dealing with dental issues and recently discovered that her daughter, age 16, needed a root canal procedure. We were able, through SVdP, to send her dental provider \$1,500 to cover the daughter's dental expense. I've been with SVdP for years and worked with many clients, but for some reason this situation struck me how, to a family struggling to "make ends meet," being relieved of such a heavy financial burden is **truly a miracle... beyond words!** As is, by extension, any assistance provided with a smile and **"no strings attached"** to countless families and individuals by SVdP each year. We feel such gratitude toward our generous and caring benefactors for making possible so many miracles in our community. We wish we could thank them personally for providing such blessed financial and emotional relief for our neighbors.

Maria and Jose's Story

Maria and Jose emigrated from Guatemala with their four children, aged 4, 6, 9, and 16 four years ago. Living in San Rafael since, Maria makes her living as a housekeeper and Jose as a construction worker, bringing in a combined \$2,000 per month. Unfortunately, tragedy hit. Maria and Jose contracted COVID-19 and experienced severe symptoms leaving the children in the care of their paternal grandfather. Luckily, both Maria and Jeffrey made a full recovery. They do not receive government benefits or assistance, truly shouldering each challenge on their own. Despite these circumstances, the Conference has been able to support the family by mailing them food sources and helping them meet their monthly rent of \$1,500.

Christian's Story

A deformity in 12-year-old Christian's smile has put a bleak look on his self-esteem. Needing extensive orthodontic work, the bill to get Christian to an ideal oral health state was \$6,350. Christian's parents are both diligent workers in low-paying jobs. Looking for help, the St. Raphael Conference helped pay \$2,500 towards the orthodontist bill. An additional \$2,500 will be provided under the Pilot Project. This left \$1,350 which Christian's family will be able to pay. In the meantime, Christian will start his treatment and begin the journey to self-confidence.

Isabella's Story

Isabella is 70-years-old and recently lost her job and housing due to COVID-19. She previously worked as a live-in IHSS worker after retiring as a taxicab driver serving Marin after many years. Turning to SVdP's Help Desk, the team helped her find subsidized senior housing in Marin. However, Isabella was yet to face the biggest obstacle of all. Her son was reported missing the week of Christmas. Sadly, Isabella was notified that her son passed away in an accident days after Christmas. Isabella's greatest wish was to have a proper service and burial for her dear son. Thanks to SVdP, Isabella was connected to the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference, and they were able to cover end of life services and cremation for her dear son. She felt blessed by this gesture of closure.

We thank our Conference Members for Being the Good.



Pennies From Heaven

Save The Date for Our Annual Pennies From Heaven Gala
Saturday, October 8, 2022



Photo Credit: Mo DeLong

Thank you to our generous benefactors!

Ending veteran and chronic homelessness in Marin County



With the efforts of our **Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)**, a countywide program aimed at ending chronic homelessness, we have helped cut Marin's rate of chronically homeless individuals by nearly half in only a few years.

Putting the most vulnerable in our community first, we have collaborated effectively with Marin County to promote highly coordinated programs that aim to provide people with warm and safe homes.

We can proudly say we housed all 48 homeless identifying veterans in the county. We hoped we had ended veteran homelessness in Marin. Unfortunately, pandemic circumstances have left an additional 28 veterans in need of housing.

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.

last year we have housed **122** homeless families and **nearly 500** individuals since the inception of HOT in 2016.

No matter how complex or difficult a situation may be, our compassionate and highly educated outreach team will continue to fight for each and every person that needs help.

We will not stop until our mission of ending chronic homelessness is complete. We are determined and have you to thank for your belief in our organization to get this job done. Thanks to you,

Meet the Petrofskys

Our organization has been able to thrive for 75 years thanks to the endlessly kind donations put forth by you. With your help we are able to successfully prevent hunger and homelessness and house the most vulnerable individuals in our community. **People like Pete and Peg Petrofsky, who dedicated both their time and resources to St. Vincent de Paul, are the type of people who keep our team out there working to keep our neighborhoods safe.** We are most grateful to the Petrofskys for believing in and supporting the mission of St. Vincent de Paul.

Pete lived an extraordinary life. From serving in the Korean War as a construction advisor to working as a construction engineer on major tunnel projects, he ended his professional tenure as Chairman of Jacobs Associates in San Francisco. However, he would say that the greatest thing that came out of his work was meeting his wife, Peg, of 57 years while on a project in Boston.

Peg cared deeply about her community. Whether it was her calling as a social worker or being an **active member of St. Isabella's Parish**, she always put others before herself. Known for her ability to befriend anyone and make people smile, Peg was a blessing to everyone in her life.

Residents of San Rafael since 1966, Pete and Peg knew our community well. The family was first introduced to St. Vincent de Paul when Peg volunteered in our dining room. As a veteran himself, Pete was especially moved by SVdP's efforts to feed and house homeless veterans. After witnessing his uncle live with PTSD for decades due to serving in WWI, he understood the unique challenges these brave individuals face when they come home. Thanks to efforts made by people like Pete and Peg,

SVdP was and continues to be a source of hope and aid for veterans and other chronically homeless people.

Peg regrettably passed away in 2015 with Pete reuniting with his greatest love in late 2020. Pete left an approximate \$2 million bequest to St. Vincent de Paul. **With this gift we were able to purchase a new building at 747 B Street only steps away from our dining room. This will allow us to consolidate our Case Management and Help Desk programs to a single central**

facility. Not only will this foster better collaboration among staff, but it will also provide a warm and convenient area for our most vulnerable clients.

A major improvement from our previous Help Desk system which operated out of a doorway in a side alley, this new indoor space will allow clients to not only avoid having to wait in inclement weather for support, but also provide a private space to work with our Case Managers. We could not be more blessed with Pete's bequest, and we can only hope

he realizes how huge an impact his decision would make in his beloved community.

Known as an honest man and a gardener in his spare time, Pete will be remembered fondly by his loved ones. Our team at St. Vincent de Paul mourn the loss of such an amazing community member but extend our most sincere gratitude for his generous gift. **With his generosity and belief in our organization, we have been able to expand our operations and services and continue to fight hunger and homelessness at the highest level in Marin County.**

Pete and Peg, thank you for being the good.
What a blessing.



Help Desk in Action

As COVID took root in early 2020, many of us took refuge in our homes, safe from the looming dangers outside. For 31-year-old Carson, COVID left him sleeping in his car.

Born in Greenbrae and raised in Marin City, he faced his first tragedy while still a student at Tamalpais High School when his mother passed away from an overdose. This led him to live with his father in Novato where he completed high school and enjoyed a successful stint as a football star. However, a serious injury dashed his ambitions of playing in college and introduced him to opiates.

This wasn't enough to bring Carson down. He moved out at age 18 to attend College of Marin and later Cal State Bay in Hayward where he graduated with a degree in Health Science. Then tragedy hit again. His father passed away when Carson was 24, leaving him in solitude with his substance addiction as his only companion.

Nevertheless, he was able to secure an office job at UCSF but was unable to maintain it due to untreated mental health issues. This led to a pattern of job instability. Quickly losing faith in himself and his growing despair of having no family to fall back on, COVID was the final blow.

Carson found his saving grace at St. Vincent de Paul. At first, our case managers referred him to our **Diversion Program**. Funded by your generous donations, this program supplies individuals experiencing homelessness a second chance by providing short-term rental assistance and case management.

The selfless staff at SVdP continued to help Carson, providing him with mental health services, lessons on budgeting, and help applying for employment. It's thanks to benefactors like you that Carson was able to find an apartment and receive these blessings.

However, despite assistance, trying times persisted for Carson. Struggling with mental health issues and addiction, Carson was unable to

keep his new job and apartment. He was once again looking at his car for shelter.

Carson soon reengaged with SVdP. **After meeting with our Help Desk, a program that provides walk-up housing search assistance and direct client aid,** Carson was successfully as-

essed through the **Coordinated Entry Program** which helps people obtain a housing voucher.

Carson is now in an apartment in downtown San Rafael. He continues to regularly communicate with his case manager where he bravely faces his demons with mental health and substance abuse. Carson is determined to keep his housing and find steady employment. Living up to his description as a man with a kind, winning smile, Carson has proven to himself and others that he can cultivate a healthy consistency in his life.

Carson and countless others have SVdP and its generous donors to thank for helping them get back on their feet. Our belief in the dignity of all people paired with your heartfelt donations allow us to **put words into action** and help people like Carson. From Carson and all of us at SVdP, **thank you for being the good.**



LEADING SUPPORTERS

YOUR GENEROSITY SAVES LIVES

Thank you for joining St. Vincent de Paul on our journey to end hunger, poverty, and homelessness in Marin County!

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“The work that St. Vincent de Paul Society does in Marin is so admirable. Their passion to house people who are experiencing homelessness is palpable and they achieve excellent results year after year. I am honored to support this vital organization and its good works.”

— Benefactor, Janet Mills

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Charles and Gabriella Cross
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Derek and Ann Lee
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Andie & Bob Kunst
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“We have supported SVdP over the years because we know this organization is doing the most to address the needs of the homeless and the hungry people of Marin County. The work that St. Vincent de Paul does fits perfectly within the scope of our Mission Statement to ‘help address the health and welfare concerns of the adults and children in our community.’ Thank you for the good work SVdP is doing!!” —Bob Kaliski, Harbor Point Charitable Foundation

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Lyle Schlager and Andria Langenberg
Patricia and William Langley, Jr.
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Anthony Zanze
John and Marie Zeiter

generous

[jen(ə)rəs]
ADJECTIVE

1. (of a person) showing a readiness to give more of something, as money or time, than is strictly necessary or expected.

2. showing kindness toward others.

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

SAVING LIVES

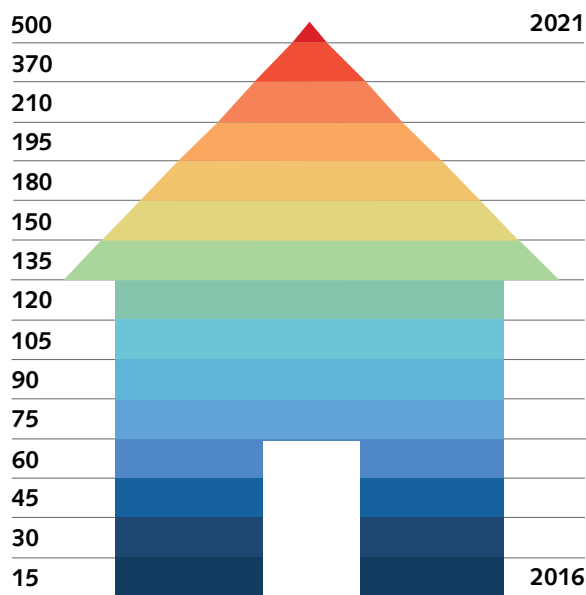
Did you know that on average chronically homeless people live 28 years less than a housed person?

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

It costs our community \$65,000 for every chronically homeless adult annually but only \$25,000 to provide supportive housing. Providing housing creates a beneficial environment for all business owners and reduces costs to taxpayers.

Our community saves \$2 million annually by housing 100 high risk people.*

Number of veterans and chronically homeless people housed



*Based on the City of San Rafael's Homeless Population data
<https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/departments/homelessness/>

LET'S KEEP IT 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 2022

For this next year we aim to house at least 100 more individuals or veterans experiencing chronic homelessness. We are on the path to ending homelessness in Marin. Winning this battle will improve community health and well-being and create a positive environment for businesses to flourish.

Thanks to you, the entirety of Marin is striving to end chronic homelessness together—one person at a time. With a 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 proven collaborative approach that works so well. Your gift right now will house at least 100 more people in 2022.

THANK YOU FOR BEING THE GOOD!

75 Years and Still Going Strong



YOUR GIVING CHANGES LIVES

After 75 years together, we can't stop now. Your gifts change lives. Please help us expand the critical work of **1,800** generous donors, **2,000** dedicated volunteers and **40** outstanding staff members to make housing, food, and a chance for a better life possible for thousands of people needlessly hurting in Marin.

Please give what you can.

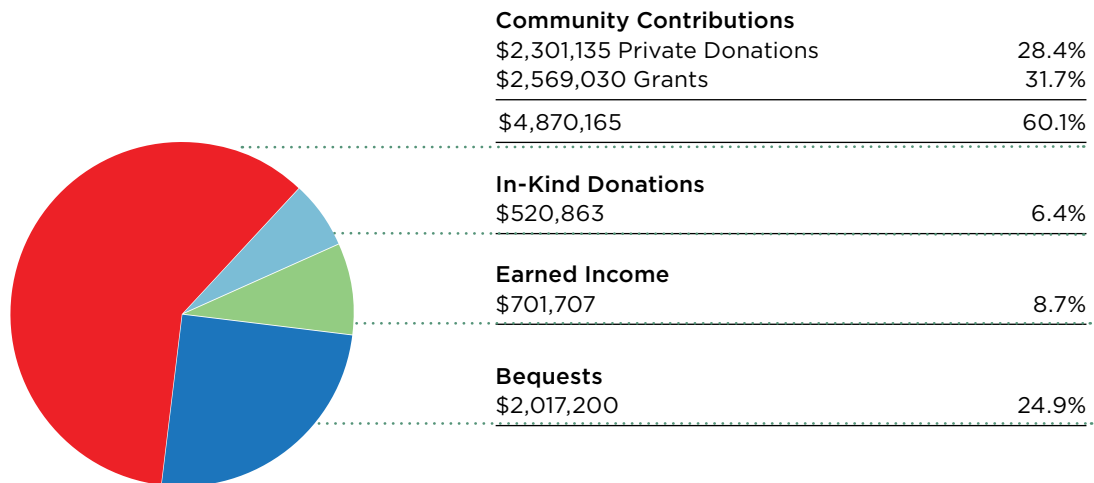
Thank you for being the good!

“Homelessness for even short periods of time has negative impacts on people’s physical, behavioral and mental health, can strain familial and social relations, have lasting impacts on future employment opportunities, and can entangle people in the criminal justice system.”

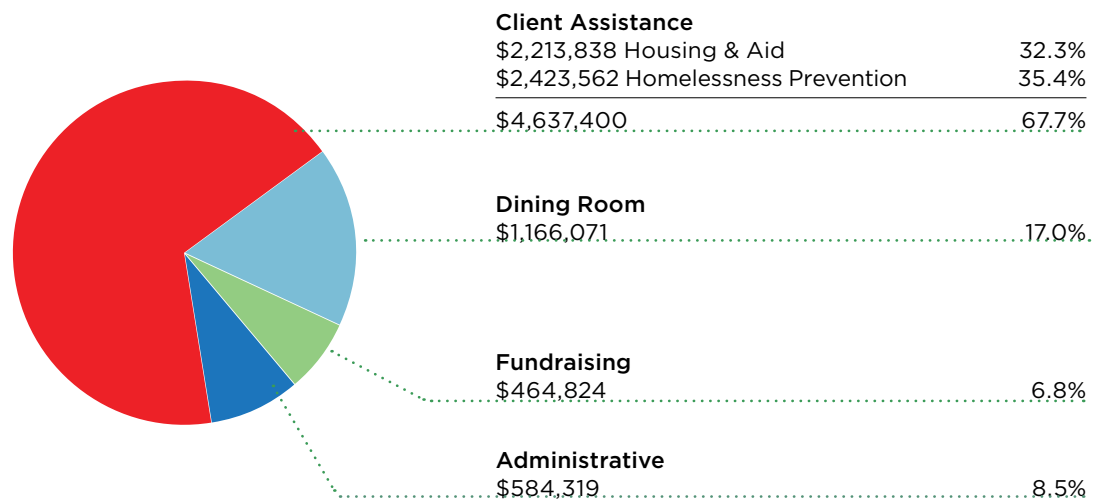
—Chris Herring, assistant professor of sociology at UCLA.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF MARIN
2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOTAL INCOME \$8,109,935



TOTAL EXPENSES \$6,852,614



The services at 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 2022.

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SVdP has earned a 2022 Platinum Seal of Transparency with Candid, a philanthropic research database connecting donors and grantmakers with nonprofit organizations.

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CONTACT

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of Marin County**
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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
SOCIETY OF MARIN

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