



LEADING WITH LOVE



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
SOCIETY OF MARIN

TWENTY YEARS AND COUNTLESS BLESSINGS: Leading the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin County



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
SOCIETY OF MARIN



Dear Friends,

Reflecting on my 20-year tenure at the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin County, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve a mission rooted in **compassion, dignity, and fellowship**. I've had the privilege of leading a devoted team of staff and volunteers committed to helping our most vulnerable neighbors build safer, more stable lives.

When I began my career at St. Vincent's, our primary focus was emergency needs—providing food, clothing, and shelter. While those services remain vital, **our work has grown to address more complex challenges such as homelessness and housing insecurity**. I'm proud of programs like the Homeless Outreach Team and the Housing Help Desk, which have guided thousands toward stability and self-sufficiency.

Partnerships have been key to our impact. Collaborating with donors, government agencies, faith communities, nonprofits, and volunteers has expanded our reach and deepened our effectiveness. **I've seen firsthand the power of our community uniting to address systemic problems with creativity and resolve.**

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role has been walking alongside people in crisis—hearing their stories, witnessing their resilience, and feeling their gratitude. Their courage in seeking help inspires us to continue evolving our service approach. **At St. Vincent's, we see those we serve not as problems to be solved, but as people to be supported and empowered.**

Over these two decades, I've learned that true change is built on a steady, compassionate presence. **At St. Vincent's, we show up every day—16,000 consecutive days over 44 years at the District Council, and an incredible 79 years and counting for our 11 parish-based conferences.** Whether through a warm meal, emergency rent, or long-term support, we continue to do whatever we can to help our neighbors who need us.

I want to thank my wonderful mentors, board and conference members, donors, and colleagues who have made this work so personally rewarding. I'm especially grateful to my family for supporting me in my devotion to St. Vincent's. As I look ahead, I'm wholly confident in the strength of our foundation and in our ongoing work toward love and justice in our community. **From the bottom of my heart, thank you.**

With immense gratitude,

Christine Paquette
Executive Director

Kathleen Lazor Woodcock
Chief Philanthropy Officer



Meredith Parnell
Chief Program Officer



“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me.” — *Matthew 25:35-36*

Thank You for Showing Love to Our Community for 78 Years



MARIN'S ONLY FREE DINING ROOM SERVED 180,000 MEALS IN 2024

With perpetually rising grocery prices and other economic downturns, we have observed an increase in the diners we see daily. Among these children, families, and Veterans are an **uptick in older adults** who have never previously required our services but are now facing struggles due to living on a fixed income with rising prices. **Many are forced to choose between rent and food.** With the support of hundreds of compassionate volunteers, donors, and our warmhearted kitchen staff, we served more than **180,000** meals for our neighbors—that is almost **500 meals every single day.** No one should go to bed hungry.

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS AND PROVIDING EMERGENCY AID

With the beautiful support of our generous benefactors, last year we distributed more than **\$1.1 million in rental assistance and other emergency direct aid** to hundreds of our vulnerable Marin neighbors struggling to make ends meet. Your acts of kindness and grace directly prevented countless evictions and provided families on the edge with a newfound sense of hope.

CONTINUED SUCCESS WITH ENDING HOMELESSNESS

St. Vincent de Paul's mission of ending hunger and homelessness in Marin paired with your belief in our team continues to produce remarkable results in every layer of our community. Your kindness has allowed **SVdP's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)** to continue to work closely with the County of Marin and other local service providers to **house more than 800 chronically unhoused people** since 2017, with a success rate of nearly 95% of people still permanently housed. In 2024, SVdP housed an additional **136 families, individuals, and Veterans through our Rapid Rehousing Program.** This achievement saves our community **millions of dollars annually.** Not only are we saving taxpayer money, but businesses, hospitals, and our clients thrive when homelessness is prevented and ended.

Never Too Late To Start Again

You are helping us create second chances for the most vulnerable among us.

St. Vincent de Paul's Sober Living Environment (SLE) Program is a supportive housing placement that **provides an opportunity for individuals who have experienced intense hardships related to drug and alcohol misuse, mental health, and various health challenges to seek another chance.** This program serves low-income clients, those experiencing homelessness, and people newly graduated from detox or treatment who are sober to gain financial assistance for moving into an SLE. For merely \$3,600 we can house an individual for three to four months while they work on their sobriety in a structured environment.

This program **wouldn't be possible without the support of Wells Fargo Bank.** If you would like to contribute to this amazing program, **please specify the designation as the Sober Living Environment Program on your next gift to SVdP.**

In 2024:

92 clients served

70% success rate*

Let's continue this fight together!

*success determined by the client's continued sobriety

Please enjoy the following note of gratitude showcasing how your gifts make a difference:

Elena's Story

Prior to moving to a sober living environment, I was staying at my mother's house and struggling with alcohol addiction. Isolation and alcohol were my daily routine. I had been in treatment facilities in the past and did not think SLEs were for me. I could not have been more wrong.

I didn't have any money to enter a treatment program. I knew I was falling apart but I didn't know where to turn for a helping hand. I became

“ I have not been excited about life in a long while and being in a supportive sober environment has given me that again. Truly grateful is an understatement.”

extremely isolated due to my drinking and just felt like I was sinking without anywhere to go. I learned about SVdP and finally a feeling of joy and hope washed over me after speaking with [SVdP Case Manager] Matt Smith.

The \$3,600 SLE rental assistance covering three months of full rent I received from SVdP is the sole reason I was able to get into a sober living environment. This saved me in so many ways. This program taught me new tools that gave me a new and improved perspective on my life that didn't require drinking.

I could not be more grateful to SVdP and to Matt for the support given to me throughout



this process. This was only possible with their and *your* help.

I have been sober for over a year. It was a great gift to be in an environment of peers

“ My mother says it’s like looking at ‘me’ again.”

with similar issues. **It was incredibly freeing to tackle daily issues without alcohol with the support of like-minded individuals.**

Being in an SLE, attending daily mandatory support meetings, and participating in group education classes has allowed me to grow as I prepare to reenter society again. There has been a huge shift in my motivation and attitude due to my time in an SLE.

Prior to getting treatment, I was looking at who I had become and was in too much of a depressive state to bear facing it. Moving into a sober living environment is by far the best thing that could have ever happened to me. **It completely changed my outlook and integrated me back into society. I have a daily schedule now and always wake up ready to start my day.** My mother tells me it’s like looking at “me” again.

I have not been excited about life in a long while and being in a supportive sober environment has given me that again. I see and hear the stories around me, some worse, some better... but being brutally honest with myself, I know I can’t go back to what I was and where I was at physically and mentally.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for literally saving me! It is because of you that I finally feel alive again.

Together We Are Changing Lives

Cold nights and harsh glares had become the close friends of 60-year-old Henry over the many years he spent experiencing homelessness in Marin. As a lifelong resident of Marin County, he was outpriced of the rental market and had nowhere else to go. He found himself camped out in a flimsy tent across from a strip mall, quickly becoming mentally and physically depleted.

Henry knew in his heart that this was no way to live. He was not having his basic needs met on the street and was becoming increasingly dissatisfied with his current living situation. It was time for a massive change and Henry was ready to do whatever was needed to get his life back.

St. Vincent de Paul was there to lift up Henry. Our case managers worked closely with him and were able to secure a Section 8 Housing Voucher. **This was lifechanging.** From living in a place not meant for human habitation, to knowing he would always have a warm and safe roof over his head meant everything to Henry.

However, it was not an instant paradise. After

having spent so many years experiencing homelessness, he found it extremely difficult to adjust to being housed. He started to hoard items and regularly have friends over, often resulting in noise complaints. This left him feeling frustrated and not knowing how to proceed.

Not willing to let this fail for him, St. Vincent de Paul stepped in and worked with Henry and the property manager of his new place to establish ground rules and create a healthy routine and lifestyle that would leave everyone feeling victorious.

Henry was determined to keep his new home and took the advice to heart. He cleaned up his space and respected all requests that were asked of him. Today, he remains successfully housed in what our case managers call the “cleanest house they’ve seen.” He also receives ongoing weekly case management.

Your generosity is what enable us to help people like Henry, no matter the circumstances. So many of our struggling neighbors depend on St. Vincent de Paul, and thanks to you we can always answer their cries for help.



The Unsung Heroes of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Society is blessed to have 11 volunteer conferences throughout Marin County.



Meet Suzanne

Five of St. Vincent de Paul Society's conferences worked together **to assist with the financial needs of Suzanne, a single mother living in Novato in desperate need.**

Suzanne is a young mother of three who is making tremendous strides to get back on her feet and **provide her children with a good, safe life** after suffering extreme spousal abuse from her former husband.

Determined and ambitious, Suzanne has recently completed her studies for a bachelor's degree online and has secured a role in the accounting department of a retail chain store. She is making truly commendable efforts.

St. Vincent de Paul conferences are supporting Suzanne with short-term **rental housing assistance**, taking a big weight off her shoulders as she stabilizes in her new life.

Meet Lola

St. Vincent de Paul's St. Raphael's Conference **sprung into action when a struggling young family found themselves unable to pay rent.**

Lola is steadily employed and fully capable of covering her family's expenses, but a back injury forced her to miss work. Having already exhausted her savings due to previous car repairs, Lola and her husband looked to St. Raphael's Conference for help.

To ease her burden during this stressful time, **St. Raphael's was blessed to pay one month of full rent** for the deserving family. This gift saved Lola and her family's housing.

Preventing Homelessness

At St. Vincent de Paul, we find that people typically only need one-time help to stabilize. **Preventing homelessness upstream is the only way we can effectively end homelessness in Marin.**

Celebrating Our Annual Events

***Save The Date for Our Signature Gala
Pennies From Heaven
Saturday, October 11, 2025***



Marin Magazine Best of the County Winner

Best Fundraising Event

Marin Independent Journal Winner

Best Assistance for Food Insecure

Marin Independent Journal Honor Award

Best Charity/Nonprofit Gala

Best Nonprofit Organization in Marin

Best Homeless Services

Most Philanthropic Business or Foundation

Giving Hope to Our Community

Vince O'Brien has always felt compelled to give. Hailing from a civic-minded family in rural Illinois, Vince says that giving back to his community runs in his DNA.

Upon his arrival in the Bay Area more than 40 years ago, Vince was quick to notice how many people were struggling to make ends meet. He started handing out McDonald's coupons to those on the street and once he settled in Marin, it wasn't long before he heard of St. Vincent de Paul. Now further along in his career and with a great ability to give, SVdP became the recipient of Vince's generosity.

As fate would have it, we learned that Vince's name comes from none other than our organization, St. Vincent de Paul Society. With family originating in Ireland, Vince's ancestors were hit hard by the Irish Potato Famine, losing their farm and living in poverty. The only reason they survived was through the aid given by their local St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter in Ireland. To pay homage to St. Vincent de Paul Society, every generation has named a son after Vincent.

It seems like destiny that Vince was meant to find us. He was impressed by our goal-oriented and outcome-focused model and knew we were the best organization to support when it came to seeing tangible results in our community.

"I really like [SVdP's] focus, we feed people, we house people," Vince said. "It's a lean and mean organization with boots on the ground."

Vince says learning about our Housing Help Desk Program deeply resonated with him.

Housing Help Desk provides same day walk-up housing search assistance and immediate direct client aid for people who are newly homeless and chronically homeless. There is no other low-barrier program in Marin County like it. Each month we serve more than 200 Marin residents who come to this program or call our help line due to an urgent housing crisis.

"A society should be measured not by the



successes it creates, but what it does about the people that don't quite fit in," Vince said.

St. Vincent de Paul Society is proud to serve those who need help navigating the complexities of life. **We believe in the dignity of all people,** and will continue to provide compassionate, individualized assistance to help our most vulnerable neighbors obtain nutritious food, affordable housing, meaningful employment, and a voice in our community.

Receiving support from Vince and donors like him is essential to keeping this program, and others like it, running efficiently and effectively. Our community depends on our ability to help when needed and we simply cannot do our critical work without local support. It is people like Vince who keep our neighbors housed and fed. Thank you, Vince!

Please consider joining our Legacy Giving Circle

When you name St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin County as a beneficiary for either a percentage or specific dollar amount in your will, I.R.A. or estate plan, your bequest will ensure that Marin County residents facing the harsh realities of poverty will always receive comfort and assistance.

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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Let us love, not with words but with deeds.”

— 1 John 3:18

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“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”

— Philippians 2:3-4

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Thank you to all our \$999 and below donors!

Major donors gave the amounts specified to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, District Council of Marin County from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

Honoring Christine's 20th Year of Service



This year marks the 20th anniversary of our incredible **Executive Director Christine Paquette's** leadership at St. Vincent de Paul.

From inheriting a dining room that was on the brink of closure, to expanding our organization to a \$6 million dollar budget, Christine has dedicated herself to improving the lives of struggling people in Marin County.

She joined SVdP in 2005 as our Development Director and has now been our outstanding Executive Director for the past 11 years. Under her leadership, **Vinnies has implemented evidence-based practices** to prevent and end homelessness for hundreds of Marin residents each year.

Some of her **many accomplishments** include quadrupling SVdP's budget, launching the County's Homeless Outreach Team which helped to reduce chronic homelessness in Marin County by 28 percent in two years, and expanding critical services and fund development for low-income and unhoused residents during the Covid-19 crisis.

Christine is the heart and soul of our organization. **Listen to what our colleagues and community members have to say about Christine:**

"Her leadership qualities, desire to explore new ways to prevent homelessness and her dedication to SVdP's mission has been particularly inspiring," SVdP Executive Board President Suzanne Swift said. *"Christine has earned recognition from her peers, government agencies, and her Board of Directors. She makes everyone she works with feel included and valued and I am honored to be able to work alongside her."*

"Christine launched a new way of operating in Marin where nonprofits and government agencies came together to render coordinated assistance to one person at a time," Former SVdP Executive Board President Rich Gallagher said. *"It has been a pleasure to work with Christine and see the many positive changes in our community and at St. Vincent de Paul thanks to her skillful leadership and hard work."*

"Christine embodies the theme of our annual report. She leads with love; she leads with grace and compassion," Chief Philanthropy Officer Kathleen Woodcock said. *"St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin is blessed and honored to have Christine at the helm celebrating 20 years of service to our great community."*

Your Gifts Make a Difference

Meet Mia, a local 8th grade student and resident community service superstar. At the young age of nine, Mia recognized the need in our community and saw how greatly impacted our neighbors were by Covid-19, fires, and other catastrophic situations. **She wanted to help.**

Since September of 2020, Mia has been consistently making bagged lunches for our hungry neighbors every single month. She has **made and delivered more than 2,500 lunches** to our free dining room.

It is such a blessing to have Mia's and our community's support. **Your time, talent, and treasure is a gift to our organization.** Together we are ending hunger and homelessness in Marin.



Mia Slowe (left), SVdP Food and Guest Services Manager Fredy Esquivel

WANT TO GIVE MONETARILY?

\$20,000 will provide case management for seven individuals, families, Veterans, and seniors to help them find permanent housing.

\$10,000 will provide case management for three families to find permanent housing.

\$5,000 will provide case management for two seniors to move from living in their cars and into safe housing.

\$1,000 will help feed 250 vulnerable people in our Free Dining Room.

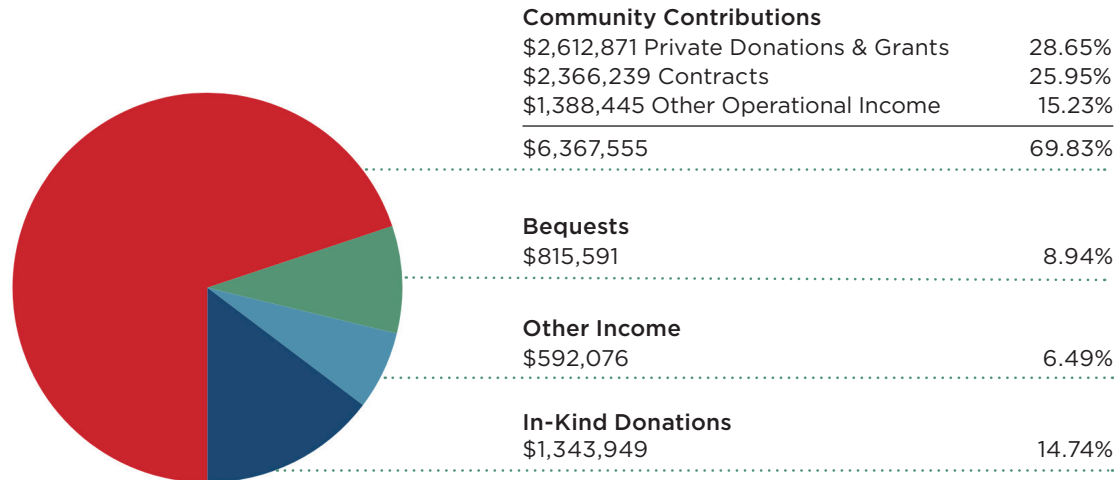
\$500 will pay for a precariously housed family's utility bill for three months to help them stay housed during a crisis.

\$100 will pay for a vehicle registration for a senior on our waitlist who is living in a car.

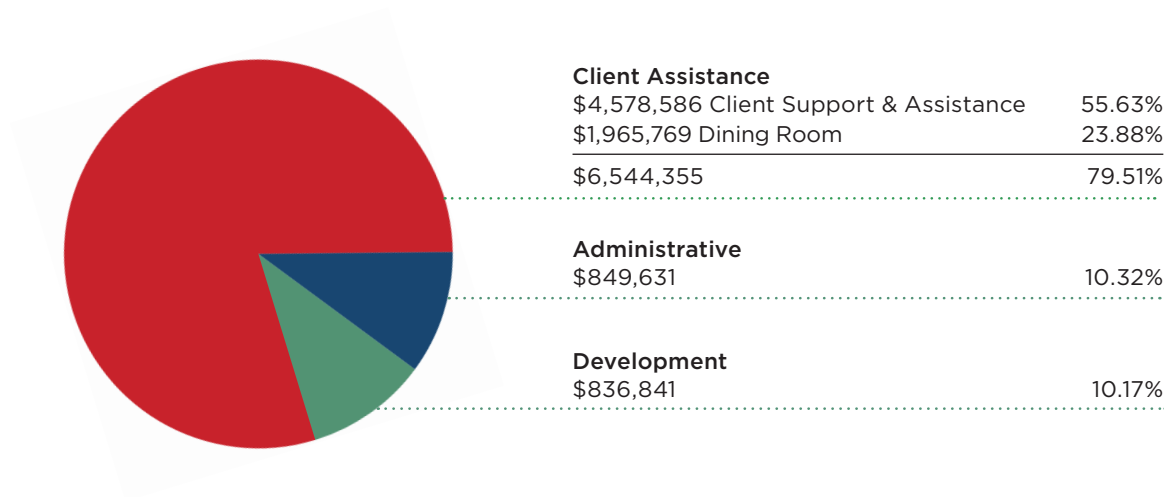
**WE THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE SUPPORT OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF MARIN!**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF MARIN
2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOTAL INCOME \$9,119,171



TOTAL EXPENSES \$8,230,827



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.

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DONATE NOW

Visit vinnies.org or **scan** the QR code below to give today.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Pennies from Heaven Gala

October 11, 2025

CONTACT

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of Marin County**

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San Rafael, CA 94901

Mailing Address:

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www.vinnies.org

415-454-3303

Platinum
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SVdP has earned a 2025 Platinum Seal of Transparency with Candid, a philanthropic research database connecting donors and grantmakers with nonprofit organizations.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
SOCIETY OF MARIN

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