



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
SOCIETY OF MARIN

# InsideView

SVDP BENEFACTOR'S FATHER AT AN SVDP FUNDRAISING EVENT, 1937

2026 NEWS  
80TH JUBILEE EDITION

## Carrying Forward a Legacy of Compassion

**A** S WE CELEBRATE OUR 80TH JUBILEE of St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin, we reflect on a **legacy of compassion** that has flourished in our community. For **eight decades**, our organization has been a beacon of hope for countless individuals facing hardship. This diamond jubilee is not just a milestone; it is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our donors and volunteers who have shaped our journey. **Together, we have created a legacy that continues to resonate throughout Marin County.**

Legacy is more than what we leave behind, it is the impact we make in the lives of others. Each act of kindness and every dollar contributed has woven a rich tapestry of generosity that defines our mission. As we honor our past, we invite you to consider how your legacy can intertwine with ours. By including St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin in your estate plan, you ensure your commitment to compassion continues, allowing us to **provide essential services to those in need who come to SVDP.**

Imagine the lasting influence of your contributions, not just today but for generations to come. **Your support can inspire others and create enduring change in our community.** As we look forward to the next chapter, we ask you to think about the profound impact you can have on our shared legacy. **Together, we can continue to build a future filled with hope, resilience, and unwavering support for those who depend on us.**

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey and choosing to leave an enduring impact **on our Marin community.**

**Legacy** *noun* / legase/

1. charitable intentions expressed through an estate plan ensuring your support continues beyond your lifetime.

**LETTER FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

# Your Legacy Strengthens Our Future

Dear Friends,

Since our introduction to Marin in 1946, you have helped build a legacy of compassion that continues to shape our community eighty years later. Your steadfast dedication ensures we can continue our vital mission of ending hunger, poverty, and homelessness in Marin County. **We are honored to carry this legacy forward with you for the next eight decades.**

For so many of those we serve, imagining a secure future can feel impossible. When someone is on the brink of losing their home, it may feel like the world is against them and that there is no way back to a place of stability. Through your generosity, you step forward and remind people that they are not forgotten. **Together, we are not only saving lives today but shaping the future, too.**

In the pages ahead, you will read stories that reflect our lasting legacy. Stories of individuals who found new beginnings, stability, and volunteers whose continued involvement inspires us. **You make these stories possible!**

We remain committed to preventing homelessness in Marin. Thanks to your profound generosity, in 2025 we housed **145 individuals** along with the assistance of one or more SVdP safety net programs. Our Homeless Prevention Program, the largest in Marin County, prevents more than 1,800 households from eviction each year. This is a legacy of shelter and dignity. **Together, we are moving people from crisis to safety and into a place they can call home.**

In 2020, a generous **\$1.5 million bequest** from a longtime SVdP volunteer and benefactor transformed our future. Their legacy gift enabled us to purchase our 747 and 745 B Street office buildings, ending the need to lease three separate sites. For the first time, our case managers and Housing Help Desk can work together under one roof, strengthening collaboration and expanding the support we provide to our community. **None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary kindness of that bequest.**

As we celebrate our **80th Diamond Jubilee**, we look ahead with hope and determination to end hunger and homelessness in Marin County. By including St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin in your estate plan, you too can help ensure our mission of compassion and hope thrives for generations to come.

***With heartfelt appreciation, we thank you for being part of the legacy of St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin.***

With gratitude,

Christine Paquette  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Kathleen Woodcock  
*Chief Philanthropy 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. Matthew 25:35**

## A Christmas Day Miracle

**R**ain pounded the roof of the St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room on Christmas morning as volunteers lifted spirits with carols and a warm, traditional holiday meal. Fifteen minutes in, a young mother, Kara, stepped inside with her two children, ages three and six months. They were soaked, wearing only wet pajamas and socks. The little boy had no shoes. Both children were hungry, cold, and frightened.

Julie, one of our volunteers, stopped singing carols immediately. After fifteen years volunteering at the SVdP Help Desk, she recognized a crisis when she saw it. Michela, SVdP Auxiliary Board Member, noticed too, and one of the children clung to her,



scared, shivering, and silent.

Kara explained in fragments: she had escaped domestic violence, was living in a car, and everything they owned was wet or ruined. Their dog had soiled the car seats. Her life was chaos, and she seemed overwhelmed and unsure of where to turn.

Julie rushed to SVdP's warm gear closet to find jackets, warm clothes, and gift cards. Michela found diapers and blankets. Volunteers gathered around the family, helping the children eat, wrapping them in dry clothing, and even bringing them into the music so they felt welcome.

**Because of the trust we built on Christmas Day, we are continuing to work closely with this family, offering steady support as they navigate the difficult path ahead.** That moment of connection opened the door to a deeper relationship, one

rooted in compassion, consistency, and the belief that no one should face hardship alone.

Julie thought of the nativity story, Mary seeking shelter with nowhere to go. **What would Jesus do?** On that rainy Christmas morning, the answer was simple: offer kindness, warmth, and dignity. **A room full of volunteers rediscovered the true meaning of Christmas.**

St. Vincent de Paul's Free Dining Room serves breakfast, lunch, and to-go dinner every single day, offering a hot, nourishing meal to anyone who is hungry. **For 46 years, we have never closed our doors to you.**

Your support of St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin makes this possible. **Because of you, our neighbors have a place to find warmth, hope, dignity, and a delicious meal when they need it most.**



## Did you know?

In 2025, our Free Dining Room served more than **180,000 warm, nutritious meals** to hungry children, adults, seniors, and Veterans.

## A Legacy of Service

**F**or Miriam, supporting St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin is more than a commitment, it is a family tradition woven through generations. Her connection to the organization stretches back nearly a century, beginning with her grandfather, a second-generation Irish immigrant living in England. He found purpose and community through his local St. Vincent de Paul conference, and his dedication left a lasting imprint on the family.

When he passed away, Miriam's father, Brendan, stepped into his role, continuing the work with the same determination. As Treasurer for the diocese in northeast England, he became known for his



resourcefulness and heart. Brendan organized raffles, visited local businesses to gather donations, and rallied neighbors to support families in need. His efforts weren't just administrative, they were personal. He believed deeply in the dignity of every person, and he passed that belief on to his daughter.

Miriam carried that legacy with her when she moved to Mill Valley in 1998. After years of volunteering and witnessing firsthand the impact of St. Vincent de Paul's programs, she joined the board of directors in 2021. **Her decision was grounded in the same values that guided her father and grandfather: a conviction that meeting basic human needs is essential, and a trust that St. Vincent de Paul delivers help efficiently, compassionately, and where it matters most.**



These photos of Brendan at St. Vincent de Paul events in Sunderland, UK in the 1970s remind us that the work we do today is part of a much larger story. It is a story of families who pass down generosity of communities strengthened by service, and of the enduring belief that we are all responsible for one another.

**Miriam's journey reflects the heart of St. Vincent de Paul: a legacy of compassion carried forward, one generation at a time.**



## You Are Invited to Join our Legacy Circle

**M**any of our supporters join our Legacy Circle by naming St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin as a beneficiary in their will or trust, either through a percentage of their estate or a specific dollar amount. Thoughtful estate planning is one of the most meaningful ways to ensure that your values live on, and it allows you to make a lasting impact without affecting your current financial security. Bequests of every size are welcomed and deeply appreciated, and each one becomes part of a long, proud tradition of generosity that has sustained our mission for eight decades.

Planning the future of your estate is not always simple. Still, most of us recognize that these choices are too important to leave for others to make. **When you center your decisions on the legacy you hope to create, the aspirations you hold for your loved ones and for St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin, the path forward becomes much clearer.**

As we celebrate our 80th jubilee, the importance of legacy becomes even more profound. Your legacy will provide housing, nutritious food, and emergency

crisis intervention services for vulnerable children, families, older adults, and Veterans for years to come. Your commitment ensures the compassion and stability we have offered for 80 years will continue to reach those who need it most. Your legacy will become a beacon of hope that lights the way generations will follow.

When you join our Legacy Circle, we look forward to inviting you to our exclusive Legacy Circle events with our Chief Executive Officer, Board President, and Chief Philanthropy Officer.

**“Compassion, kindness, and respect for those who are suffering are the special qualities that endear the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin County to my heart. They are the core ideals that I believe in and that I want to know will continue long after I’m gone” - Richard Gallagher, Board President & Legacy Circle Member**

## LEGACY GIVING AT A GLANCE

### BEQUEST THROUGH YOUR WILL OR TRUST

#### **A gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime**

Document your gift of cash, property, or a percentage of your estate value.

### IRA-FUNDED CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

#### **Gift and receive income during your lifetime**

Share your assets in a plan that provides income for life and passes the remainder to SVdP Marin.

### GIFT OF RETIREMENT ASSETS

#### **Leave more of your estate to your heirs**

Name SVdP Marin as your retirement plan beneficiary and pass less-taxed assets to your heirs.

### GIFT OF APPRECIATED SECURITIES

#### **Gift while avoiding capital gain taxes**

Give your appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds to sell and use the proceeds.

### GIFT OF LIFE INSURANCE

#### **A large gift with a small investment**

Donate a life insurance policy you no longer need or name SVdP Marin in a policy.

### CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST

#### **Preserve your assets for your heirs**

Use appreciating assets to create a trust that supports SVdP Marin for a specified number of years, after which the assets are returned to you or your heirs.

**For more information about our Legacy Circle, please contact Kathleen Woodcock at [kwoodcock@vinnies.org](mailto:kwoodcock@vinnies.org) or (415) 297-6587**

## Stability Restored

**B**ritt, a Marin resident for 45 years, had always dreamed of being a homeowner. In 2010, her dream came true, and for the past 15 years she has cherished the stability of her own home.

For more than 25 years, Britt has dedicated her career to the nonprofit sector in Marin, serving our community with compassion and commitment. **She never imagined she would one day be the one who needed help.**

Britt has faced significant health issues throughout her life, yet she has met every challenge with resilience. In June, Britt suffered a fall down the stairs in her home, shattering her knee into 19 places and breaking her tibia. She spent 39 days in the hospital.



When Britt finally returned home, she discovered she did not qualify for Medi-Cal because her disability income was considered too high. Those weeks in the hospital created a **huge financial burden** for Britt, with bills piling up faster than she could keep up. With no way to cover her perpetual expenses, she had no choice but to return to work in early November, still recovering from her injuries.

Despite never missing her mortgage payments for 15 years, Britt was facing the risk of losing her home after not having enough income. **Asking for help was difficult and embarrassing, as she had always been the one offering support to others.**

After multiple roadblocks and rejections, Britt reached out to St. Vincent de Paul. Britt remembered the many times she referred her own clients to SVdP, and she knew SVdP would help her. A call on Thursday resulted in a delivered check to Britt on Monday in the amount of her monthly mortgage payment.

**“SVdP made me feel really worthy of the help,” Britt explained. That one month of support gave her the breathing room she needed to regain her footing.**

Today, Britt is able to continue her work at Integrated Community Services, where she is celebrating her 8th anniversary. She remains devoted to teaching independent living skills to people with disabilities, proving that even in moments of hardship, her commitment to community never wavers. **“SVdP saved my house,” Britt shared. “It was a really stressful time, so I am really grateful for SVdP.”**

**St. Vincent de Paul is blessed to have 11 conferences throughout Marin County who help people like Britt.** Our conferences make countless home visits and phone calls to support our mission. These dedicated volunteers play a critical role in preventing homelessness before it begins. By stepping in with rental assistance, utility support, and other essential resources, our conferences help stabilize households at the very moment they are most at risk. They keep our neighbors housed, hopeful, and connected to a community that refuses to let them fall.

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin has the largest and longest running housing prevention program in Marin County. **Because of you, we can continue preventing people from falling into homelessness every year. Thank you.**

### Did you know?

In 2025, St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin **prevented 3,200 people from falling into homelessness** through our Vincentian Conference Volunteers.

# Celebrating our Annual Pennies from Heaven Gala

## Voted Best Charity/Nonprofit Gala!

**W**ith generous support from our extraordinary benefactors, Pennies from Heaven 2025 **raised more than \$700,000** in support of our mission!

We see how quickly life can change. Homelessness can affect nearly anyone. For many of our neighbors, a single illness, lost job, loss of a loved one, or economic setback can make it impossible to cover rent or keep up with a mortgage.

At St. Vincent de Paul, we are committed to creating a Marin County where no one has to fear going without food or shelter during an unexpected hardship.

Thank you for your support, for we cannot do our work without you. **We look forward to seeing you at our 2026 Diamond Jubilee Pennies from Heaven Gala on Saturday, October 3rd.**



**We are excited to share our Marin Independent Journal Readers' Choice Awards!** Thank you, Marin County, for voting for St. Vincent de Paul. **We are beyond honored and blessed to serve our community.**

- Best Assistance for Food Insecure (Nonprofit)**
- Best Homeless Support Services (Nonprofit)**
- Best Charity/Nonprofit Gala (Pennies from Heaven)**
- Best Nonprofit Luncheon Event (Fashion Show)**
- Best Nonprofit Organization in Marin**
- Best Place to Work**



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**Donations support**



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
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**Saturday, April 18**  
**9 am to 12 pm**

**Our Lady of Loretto parking lot**  
**1806 Novato Blvd, Novato**

Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC

## Employee Matching Gifts

Did you know many companies offer Employee Match Programs? Check to see if this is offered at your company and double your gift to SVdP.

**FEDERAL TAX ID #94-1207701**

For questions, please contact  
Kathleen Woodcock,  
kwoodcock@vinnies.org or 415.297.6587

## Stay in the Know

Subscribe to our email mailing list to stay up to date on St. Vincent de Paul!  
Find more information at [www.vinnies.org](http://www.vinnies.org)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF MARIN  
AND THE VINNIES AUXILIARY BOARD INVITE YOU TO

# Sip x Shop x Socialize

OUR ANNUAL LADIES' BOUTIQUE, LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW FEATURING  
**TRINA TURK**

**AT THE MEADOW CLUB**  
*Thursday · March 12 · 2026*

**SHOPPING**  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**LUNCH AND FASHION SHOW**  
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

**TICKETS \$175.00**  
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To purchase please visit  
[www.vinnies.org](http://www.vinnies.org)

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