

Thrift Stores Update

By Amber Martinez, Special Projects Manager

Warehouse Clearance Sales were strong at the SVDP thrift stores this past summer. More furniture and books than usual were delivered to the stores and put on sale. This was done to make 15,000 plus sq. ft. space available to lease at the District Council Warehouse at 9235 San Leandro Street, Oakland. For leasing details contact Catherine Valee, Realtor, Wells and Bennett, at (510) 531-7006. This Herculean task was a joint effort by all areas of the retail business including donation collections, sorting, pricing, categorizing and distribution to the six thrift stores. A pizza party, recognition luncheon with awards was held on August 1 to honor hard working SVDP staff and Warehouse employees.

A line of "Crosley" appliances is a new feature at SVdP thrift stores. Crosley, made by Whirlpool, offers its manufacturer's warranty. This family of new large appliances is the latest addition to other new furniture items. The retail stores continue to sell new sofa and loveseat sets and new mattress sets, including the very popular pillow top style at unbeatable prices! The next time you are in the neighborhood stop by and take a look! Call for information (510) 636-4249.

Store hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

COMPARE OUR PRICES:

New Mattress and Platform Sets		Pillow Top Sets	
Twin set	\$129	Twin set	\$199
Full set	\$149	Full set	\$299
Queen set	\$199	Queen set	\$359
King set	\$249	King set	\$399

*tax not included

Saint Vincent de Paul stores

Alameda
2315 Lincoln Ave.
(510) 865-1109
Manager: Leah

Berkeley
2009 San Pablo Ave.
(510) 841-1504
Manager: Sylvia

Fremont
3777 Decoto Road
(510) 792-3711
Manager: Beth

Livermore
1817 W. 2nd St.
(925) 455-1104
Manager: Margaret

Oakland (East)
9235 San Leandro St.
(510) 636-4252
Manager: Cornelia

Oakland (Downtown)
2272 San Pablo Ave
(510) 834-4647
Manager: Aida

Dining Room
(510) 451-7676
Sr. Wm Eileen

Food Locker
(510) 636-4250
Jerry Ratti

Charitable Bequests

Consider making SVDP a recipient of your final bequest. It was awarded a 4-star rating by Charity Navigator for excelling in the area of strong fiscal management. Contact our new Executive Director, Philip Arca at (510) 636-4247.

DONATION ENVELOPE ENCLOSED!

The enclosed envelope is for the support of SVDP emergency services for poor and/or homeless men, women and children in Alameda County. We accept any donations large or small. You will receive a blessing back when you Help Us Help Others.

How to Reach Us

District Council: (510) 638-7600

Philip Arca, Executive Director (as of 9/8/03)
(510) 636-4246 • parca@svdp-alameda.org

Inga Lewis, Administrative Assistant to E.D.
(510) 636-4247 • ilewis@svdp-alameda.org

Food Donations: (510) 636-4250

Auto Donations: (510) 636-4245

Dining Room: (510) 451-7676

Visitation Center: (510) 444-3790

Men's Center: (510) 444-0269

Info: info@svdp-alameda.org

Announcements

Wish List: Hygiene items needed daily for Men's and Women's Centers in Oakland. Soap, shampoo, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotions, combs, diapers, etc.

Special thanks to Lisa Laguna, a postulant with the Daughters of Charity, for her year of service to the women and children whom we serve at the Visitation Center. We were blessed with her presence and gifts of patience, understanding and humor. We wish her well in her continued formation at the Seminary in Los Altos Provincial House.

Donation Acknowledgement

All Saints \$2,500 donation
St. Leander \$1,000 donation

Upcoming Events

Ozanam School – September 13, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A presentation and interactive half-day session implementing the "Serving in Hope" video and formation guide – Our Vincentian Vocation. This is a presentation of the Extension and Spirituality committees of the District Council to provide opportunities for spiritual growth and vocation enrichment. Lunch is included so please RSVP by calling Inga Lewis at (510) 636-4547 or e-mailing to ilewis@svdp-alameda.org.

Thanksgiving Meal, Nov. 27, Free Dining Room

District Council Meetings: Sept. 13 (Ozanam School) Oct 11 (Panel Discussion on Partnering with Social Service Agencies), Nov 8 (State of the District Council), Dec 7 (Annual Christmas Party at St. Margaret Mary)

THE VINCENTIAN QUARTERLY

News from the St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County • VOL. XXVI NO. 3 • Fall 2003

NEW HORIZONS Men's Center Opens

By Sister Marion Bill, DC

On Tuesday, June 3, 2003, the new St. Vincent de Paul Champion Guidance Center for Men opened with a blessing by Father T. O'Malley of All Saints Parish, Hayward. Stephen Krank, Coordinator, Tawanda Gilbert, Help Desk Coordinator, Sister Marion Bill, DC, Manager, and five volunteers welcomed the first men to visit the Center on opening day. In the four hours of service, forty-six clients came to the Center for assistance, and since then the average number has been close to sixty visitors a day.

The Center is located at 2280 San Pablo Avenue in downtown Oakland. It is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Clients are able to use shower and laundry facilities, receive clothing and hygiene items. Recreational activities include playing games, watching television and socializing in a safe and secure environment. Hot noontime meals are available in the adjacent Free Dining Room. Overall, the men who come are very appreciative of those who serve at the Center and of the various services being provided to them.

Stephen Krank, the new Men's Center Coordinator, was born in the Bay Area into a military family, and spent much of his childhood traveling. He has prior work experience in advertising and fund-raising. But most importantly, with respect to his current position, he has worked administering various self-help programs with men who are homeless, suffering from addictions or part of the prison system. Before returning to the Bay Area, he spent three years directing the Men's Center in Houston, Texas, a 170-bed social model, detox and residential facility for alcoholics and drug addicts. As with the Center, most of the residents there came off the street.

Stephen has a real gift for reaching and helping men in these difficult situations. He and the other staff and volunteers have set a true Vincentian tone of Christian welcome and hospitality, at the same time setting down definite behavioral expectations for each man who comes for services. Stephen has developed and implemented a Membership Agreement that is reviewed and discussed with a Staff member or Volunteer and signed by each new client



who enters the Center. He has also put into place an Intern Volunteer Program by which any interested man using the services of the Center can commit to coming to help clean the Center or perform other appropriate tasks.

Of the 480 visits during June, the first month of operation, 243 men have returned more than once, and many have come back repeatedly. The fact that each day about 13 men come for the first time, indicates how well the Center is being received and utilized. Of these first 480 visits, 190 visits were made by homeless men. Attendance and utilization have continued to increase steadily. The Golden State Warriors donated Warrior sports equipment and logo clothing that has been framed and mounted in Plexiglas on the walls of the Center to create an upbeat atmosphere.

The Men's Center has gotten off to a good start! Obviously, it is meeting an ongoing need in the community. This ministry is truly a worthy extension of the work of St. Vincent de Paul and his love and respect for those men so often neglected or forgotten.

Volunteer opportunities are available – there are a lot of good reasons to become involved in this worthwhile program. Contact Stephen Krank at (510) 449-0269.

Young Adult Leadership Team Formed

By Melanie Anquay, Young Adult Coordinator

Alameda County formed a Young Adult leadership Team! A meeting on volunteer recruitment will be held on Saturday, October 18th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Visitation Center. Team members include Jean Gatan,

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president's message

by Vaughn Donahue

I am providing some highlights of the Summary of District Council Activities and Programs for 2002. My purpose in doing so is to give our supporters, donors, staff, and volunteers a greater appreciation of our efforts and awareness of what we do to help the needy of Alameda County. This "roll-up" has been forwarded to the National Headquarters and from there it will go to our Bishop.

Overall we have 47 conferences affiliated with our District Council. Thirty-five of our conferences have an active spiritual advisor and there are a total of 804 members.

We reported that we have seventeen active committees to which we welcome additional volunteers. Please call me if you are at all interested in joining or working with any of the committees at (510) 638-7600.

With SVDP's immediate need for budget cutbacks, we were advised to institute a reduction in force. We would like to acknowledge the dedicated and hard-working employees

that accepted retirement packages: Amalia "Molly" Bongay (35 yrs), Edgardo "Gary" De Guzman (20 yrs), Fay Miller (24 yrs), Mary Williams (27 yrs), Sylvia Caballero (14 yrs), Steve Diaz (35 yrs), and Isaiah "Red" Turner (24 yrs). A Retirement Recognition Luncheon was held on May 31 in the District Council Conference Room. A delicious buffet was catered by The Treasure Island Job Corps Center prepared by student interns under the capable direction of Herbert Huber, Supervisor. We send our deepest condolences to the families of those selfless servers that have made their transition: Molly Bongay and Fay Miller. Between them they gave over 50 years of service to the Society.

Summary of Conference Activities, 2002

Total Cases Handled	39,078
Total Service Hours	61,175
Total People Served	59,931
Total Spent for Clients	\$519,532
Total In-Kind Help Given	\$647,733

Al Morgan Recipient of Diocesan Award

Al Morgan, the President of the St. Columba Conference in Oakland, received the Diocesan Medal of Merit. Al has been an instrumental part of ensuring the survival and vitality of his parish, St. Vincent de Paul Ministry within the West Oakland Deanery. Al also served on the Board of Trustees of Alameda County. Currently, he serves on the Men's Center, Food Locker, and Twinning Committees. His background as a career Air Force serviceman and retired Oakland Police employee has proved invaluable to his ministry. Sr. Mark Sandy, SVDP Free Dining Room Manager, wrote in her nomination letter, "that despite his current round of chemo and his inability to drive at this time, Al finds a chauffeur, makes his usual rounds, and seldom misses a scheduled meeting." Let's hear it for Al Morgan!



SVDP Western Region Monthly Newsletter, July 2003.

DONATIONS To find out more about donating to St. Vincent de Paul please call 1-800-YES-SVDP. We are especially in need of Cars, Boats, Motorhomes, Antiques and Collectibles and Financial Contributions. We invite you to inquire about our "Corporate Partners" program for employee donation drives at your company. Call Amber Martinez at (510) 636-4253.

District Council Program Summary for 2002

Aid to Needy Conferences: Twenty conferences came to the aid of 12 Conferences in excess of \$8,327.

Conference Discount on Store Purchases: Thirty-nine Conferences saved over \$20,000 on the cost of merchandise at our stores.

Dining Room: The Dining Room served 399,564 meals last year and distributed an additional 50,000 to 10 satellite dining facilities. The income for the year was \$427,424 and the total expenses were \$802,441.

Food Locker: Twenty-nine Conferences purchased food totaling \$261,711 for the year, and over \$510,000 worth of free food that was distributed to them. In addition, over \$500,000 more of free food was distributed to social service agencies in Alameda County.

Visitation Center: A total of 17,156 visits of women and children were welcomed into the Center last year. The women were able to shower, wash clothes, eat, share experiences, and relax while their children played with toys, and games under caring supervision.

Mary Williams, Dining Room Cook, Retires After 27 Years

In a surprise reception in May, the St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room in Oakland paid homage to Mary Williams, who retired May 30. Over more than a quarter century at the Dining Room, Williams often prepared up to 1,400 meals in a single day and became adept at improvising meals that hungry diners would enjoy. Each year Williams worked with some 1,200 volunteers, who also enjoyed her cooking during their 15-minute lunch breaks." *The Catholic Voice, June 2003*

Back-to-School Haircuts for Children in Need

By Melanie Anguay, Young Adult Coordinator

Free haircuts were given to elementary and high school children in the Visitation Center as a Back-to-School event on August 18. Caprice Batchelor, a hair stylist from the fashionable Grasshopper Salon in San Francisco's SOMA district, cut hair for 16 children who were preparing for their first day of school. Over the years Caprice has also given free hair cuts to other underprivileged children at group homes and other non-profit agencies.



The haircuts were basic but each child was given the opportunity to choose their own hair style. For instance, Adam Armstead, a friendly 8-year-old boy preparing for 3rd grade, wanted a trendy line through his hair. Some children were so excited to get their hair cut that they ran straight to the barber's chair in order to get to the front of the line, as in the case of 6-year-old Elmer Munguia running to get his hair cut before his older brother Jesus.

These haircuts not only gave the children a fresh and neat appearance but resulted in happy and beautiful smiles while in the process of getting ready to start the new school year.

New SVDP Web-site Launched

The SVDP of Alameda County Website is up and running as of May 2003. Our URL is <http://www.svdp-alameda.org>. The many features include: latest news and events calendar for conferences and council, SVDP history, mission, and core values, SVDP programs and social services, contact us for volunteer opportunities, donate on-line, and donation wish-list. There is a special link on the website for Vincentians in Alameda County that is secured with a password and username. The information provided on this extranet has sensitive material that is for the exclusive use of Vincentians in Alameda County and therefore should not be shared with any non-Vincentians. The features include: 1) access of resources – such as Vincentian prayers, etc.; 2) download of meeting minutes and past Vincentian Quarterly newsletters; and 3) post messages or share information and best practices with other Vincentians on our Discussion Board (currently under construction). For access to this site, contact your president for the username and password. If you have any questions about navigating the web-site contact Melanie Anguay, IT Manager at (510) 636-4248.

"Young Adult Leadership Team Formed"
continued from front page...

St. Anne's; Michael Pereira, President of Assumption; and Melanie Anguay, Vice President of All Saints. The District Council has given them their blessings to develop fun-filled, faith, and service activities for young Vincentians. These activities include: social mixers, concerts, golf tournaments, spiritual discussion groups, volunteer work in the dining room, conferences and detention ministry.

A young Vincentian is defined as any member of the Society that is age 40 or below. In 2002, Alameda County had 25 young Vincentians. This is an astonishingly low number compared to the 670+ Vincentians that volunteer in Alameda County. As such, this enthusiastic group has set their goal for the year on increasing young adult membership – the National Council's number one challenge for the Society. For further information and events listing, please contact Melanie Anguay at (510) 636-4248 or manguay@svdp-alameda.org.



THE VINCENTIAN QUARTERLY

The Vincentian Quarterly is published four times a year by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Alameda County. We are a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to helping the hungry, the needy and others less fortunate than ourselves. We do this by helping them with food, temporary lodging, clothing, furniture and providing employment in our facilities, to make their lives a little easier. We carefully protect the dignity of every person we encounter through our work. Our funding comes from donations of used clothing, and household goods, furniture, food and financial contributions.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Philip Arca, Executive Director
District Council Office
Lu Cuevas, Director of Conferences & Vincentian Life
District Council Office
Kelli Zenn, Director of Administration
District Council Office

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