



# GRACE AND GRIT

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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
SOCIETY OF MARIN



## TAKING ON EVERY DAY WITH GRACE AND GRIT



Dear Friends,

With 77 years of service to reflect upon, let us cherish our many blessings and accomplishments in this mission we share. As St. Vincent de Paul Society members, together we help people—“strangers”—every day, whether by securing a roof over a homeless Veteran’s head, or feeding a struggling family who is facing the pressures of unemployment. **The people who come to us for help are often scared, but they quickly learn that they are never alone.**

You see, our decades of service in Marin County have continually shown us that we are enveloped by your outpouring of generosity, compassion, and commitment to people who you may never meet but nevertheless know your heart and your benevolence. Loss of employment, loss of loved ones, loss of housing and loss of health are all crosses that so many of us might bear. Increases in mental health diagnoses, food insecurity, inflation, isolation, and drug and alcohol use are battles that no one asks for, but many of us encounter.

And this is where the “grit” comes in. For 43 years running, St. Vincent’s has opened our Free Dining Room doors seven days per week to people with complex and often unpredictable challenges. Our staff and volunteers dig in and do whatever it takes to find solutions to help remedy the suffering. **This year, we take pride in being part of a team that will end Veteran homelessness in Marin County in 2024.** Achieving this goal took plenty of grit; working with Veterans and their unique challenges is not easy. And yet, this work also gave us the opportunity to share your grace because your generosity saved the lives of men and women who served our country and yet were sleeping on our streets.

We are proud to share this report on the impact that you and the St. Vincent de Paul Society had on our community this past year. **It is an honor and privilege to partner with you in our journey to end hunger, poverty, and homelessness in Marin County.**

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 Grace to our Community for 77 Years



## **MARIN'S ONLY FREE DINING ROOM SERVED 180,000 MEALS IN 2023**

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 compassionate 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 support 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 726 chronically homeless people** since 2017, with a success rate of nearly 95% still permanently housed. In 2023, SVdP housed an additional **314 families, individuals, and Veterans through our Rapid Rehousing Program.** This achievement saves our community **millions annually.** Not only are we saving taxpayer money, but businesses, hospitals, and our clients thrive.

# Creating Second Chances

*You are helping us change lives every day.*

St. Vincent de Paul's Sober Living Environment (SLE) Program, also known as permanent supportive housing, **provides an opportunity for individuals who have experienced intense hardships related to drug misuse, mental health, and various health challenges to seek another chance.** This program serves clients on Medi-Cal, those experiencing homelessness, and people newly graduated from detox or treatment and 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.

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

*Please enjoy the following notes of gratitude from the people you've already helped.*

## **Ava's Story**

"I had been abandoned by my support network with nowhere to go, no one to turn to. All I had was what I had on my back. I met someone who had said that St. Vincent de Paul was helping people and that they could possibly help me, so I went to SVdP's Help Desk. They were able to help with the first month's rent for a SLE so that I could get back on my feet and have somewhere to stay and start the process of getting my life back together.

“If it weren't for St. Vincent de Paul, I don't know where I would be right now. I am forever grateful for their help.”

I have now been sober for six months. I will be starting a new job next week. If it weren't for St. Vincent de Paul, I don't know where I would be right now. I am forever grateful for their help.

My life is better because of this assistance. I am one step closer to getting to where I want to be in life so I can get back to my family and be proud of myself. If it weren't for St. Vincent de Paul helping me, I wouldn't be where I am today. They are amazing people and I hope they can continue to do the amazing things they do for so many more people.”

“I now feel physically healthier than I have in years, mentally defogged, and hungry for a life filled with love, recovery, and endless spiritual growth.”

## **Matthew's Story**

“Finally admitting that I was powerless over alcohol, I was still nervous about living in an SLE. Diving headfirst into recovery is what was necessary, and it has provided a strong foundation for me. St. Vincent's has done for me what I could not do for myself. Providing me with two months of SLE rent has allowed my body time to heal and my program to grow quickly. I now feel physically healthier than I have in years, mentally defogged, and hungry for a life filled with love, recovery, and endless spiritual growth. **St. Vincent's has gifted me something that will forever be remembered with a sense of extreme gratitude.**”



*Pictured: Greg Pecsar, SVdP Block Ambassador*

### ***New Beginnings at St. Vincent de Paul***

Greg was a high-functioning alcoholic for more than 40 years. This was his “normal” and went about life like many others—starting a family and thriving in the workforce.

At age 55, Greg finally decided things had to change. Initially reluctant at the idea of a sober living environment, thinking he could conquer his demons on his own, **Greg eventually found himself deeply rooted in the program and making a real change in his life.**

Greg spent a year in a local sober living environment where he conquered his addiction. Confident in his sobriety, Greg moved back into his regular living arrangement only to discover that he was still grappling with the vast challenges his mental health presented. He was struggling with regular panic attacks and took on an isolationist approach to the world, scared to venture outside his front door.

Working with his medical team, Greg found a treatment that worked for him and felt he

was finally in a place to find employment and start anew. Luckily for Greg, a friend from his sober living environment had the perfect role in mind—working for St. Vincent de Paul.

Armed with his resume, Greg came to our Free Dining Room and was welcomed with open arms as our new block ambassador **We believe in the dignity of all people at St. Vincent de Paul** and strongly believe that everyone deserves a second chance.

Once joining our team, Greg was also invited to partner with Matt, one of our compassionate case workers to help ensure his stability.

Matt was able to secure a permanent living situation for Greg, of which SVdP paid for the deposit and first month’s rent.

Greg remains successfully housed and continues to thrive in his role as SVdP’s very welcoming block ambassador. We are thrilled to have him on our team and are so proud of his success one day at a time.

# Always in Your Corner

An increasingly common profile in our community, Sheri is an **older adult living in Marin who is dependent on others for basic needs**. She was struggling heavily with a variety of mental and physical ailments that severely impacted her will to live.

In combination with financial troubles, Sheri decided she had nothing to live for and would consequently cease treatment, allowing her medical conditions to take her life. Her loved ones were able to intervene in the nick of time and got Sheri admitted to the hospital where she barely escaped with her life.

She was waiting to go back home when she came onto St. Vincent de Paul's radar. Noting that Sheri's house was in complete disarray due to her intense hoarding habits, **our case managers immediately organized for Sheri's**

**place to be scrubbed clean, any overdue bills to be paid, new furniture to replace the old, and a ramp to be installed outside.**

It was Sheri's birthday when she came home for the first time in months after her harrowing medical ordeal. She was so incredibly moved by the critical aid she had received from SVdP and could not have felt more blessed. **Her life was forever changed.**

As she adjusted to her new home, our case managers continued working with her to ensure she continued her medical treatments and didn't isolate from her circle of care.

St. Vincent de Paul will continue to stand by Sheri's side and those like her for however long they need us. **We will always be in your corner with grace and grit to carry you through.**



# The Unseen Work of our Conferences

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

St. Vincent de Paul's St. Anthony's Conference was **blessed to assist with the financial needs of a family in desperate need.** The compassionate members at St. Anthony's received a call from a woman whose 19-year-old nephew had just arrived in Novato after a harrowing journey on foot all the way from Venezuela. He arrived with nothing but the shirt on his back.

Along the way he had endured blistering heat and drenching rain and even escaped kidnappers to get to the U.S. Arriving at the border, an aid organization helped him make contact with his aunt in Novato who paid his way north.

The St. Anthony's Conference was able to provide him with clothing and a bicycle, so he could search for work. **He called their parishoners "angels" for helping him in his moment of need.**

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St. Vincent de Paul's St. Raphael's Conference **sprung into action when a struggling family came to them in need.** The family, including two young children and a newborn baby, found themselves in financial trouble when the father was forced to take off work to assist his wife in caring for their children while she recovered from a traumatic birth.

To ease their burden during this stressful time, **St. Raphael's partnered with our other conferences to maximise their gift to this young family.** Together, they were able to provide them with a rent check to cover one month, a bag of groceries, a grocery gift card, a baby quilt handmade by a thoughtful parishoner for their newborn, and a Target gift card.

The delightful family was grateful beyond words for the graceful aid of our conference members.



# Celebrating our Annual Events

*Save The Date for Our Signature Gala*

*Pennies From Heaven*

**Saturday, October 12, 2024**



**Marin Independent Journal Honor Award**

Best Charity Gala

Best Assistance for Food Insecure

Best Homeless Services

**Thank you to our generous benefactors!**



# Making Graceful Strides in our Community



St. Vincent de Paul proudly participates in the **Encampment Resolution Program (ERP)**. This program works to resolve encampments in Marin County through intensive case management and help in obtaining permanent supportive housing.

This program has seen wonderful success during its tenure at SVdP including an impressive feat of **housing three people in one day** in apartments across Marin. This was done with only two SVdP case managers.

All former residents at the “Snake Path” encampment site in San Rafael have been blessed with a second chance **thanks to donors like BioMarin** who contributed heavily to housing clients residing in this area, along with **you**, our steadfast supporters.

These three immensely grateful clients included Jeffrey, a young man struggling with severe mental health issues and judicial barriers. He had

grown up in Marin but fell through the cracks of our community and had been living on the street since his adolescence.

Lydia, in her mid-30s and a former foster child from Marin, was also finally given a place to call home with the aid of SVdP. She had been homeless since the age of only 16.

Lastly was the incredibly appreciative Drake who was dealing with the consequences of a traumatic brain injury that left him jobless and with severe memory issues. In his early 40s, James has found his forever home with SVdP aiding him every step of the way.

These clients have had their lives changed. In true St. Vincent de Paul fashion, **they will receive permanent supportive case management services for as long as needed.**

This accomplishment is monumental in a world where homelessness grows by the day.

## 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!

### **\$1,000,000+**

County of Marin

### **\$100,000-999,999**

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Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” — Luke 6:38

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“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

—Galatians 6:9

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

grace

NOUN

1. a pleasing or attractive quality or endowment

2. favor or goodwill

Synonyms: benevolence, benignity, love, kindness, kindness

*Major donors gave the amounts specified to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, District Council of Marin County from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.*

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

### SAVING HOMES

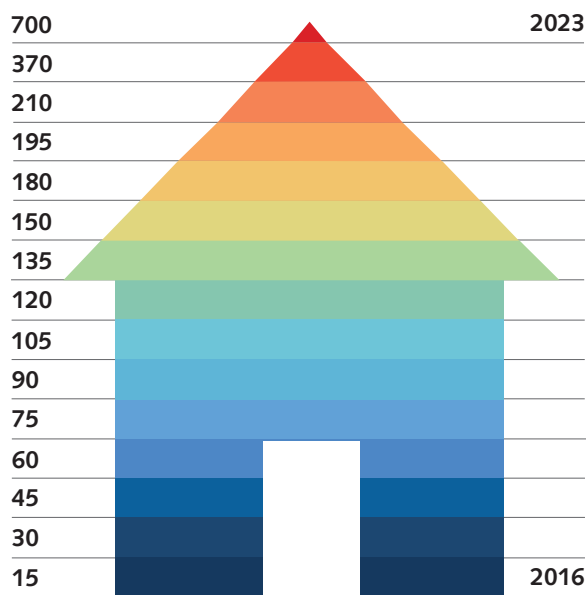
People experiencing homelessness most often need rental assistance (77%) or more affordable housing (61%) to get housed on their own.\*

### COMMUNITY ROOTS

Marin's homeless community is homegrown. 78% of the current unhoused population lived in Marin County before they became homeless and 53% have lived in Marin for at least 10 years. Please join us in looking out for our neighbors.

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

### Number of Veterans and chronically homeless people housed



\* Obtained from the County of Marin Point in Time Report <https://www.marincounty.org/main/county-press-releases/press-releases/2022/hhs-pit-count-analysis-110922>

\*\*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, gracefully, 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.

### Future Goals

In 2023, SVdP housed 54 households with Veteran status. **Marin County will end Veteran homelessness by the summer of 2024** and Marin's goal is to reduce chronic homelessness by half during the same time period. 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 grace and grit.

### Please give!

Please help us strengthen this proven collaborative approach that works so well. Your gift right now will contribute to housing more than 100 homeless people in 2024.

**YOUR GRACIOUS SUPPORT HEALS OUR COMMUNITY!**

# Your Gifts Make a Difference

***Please enjoy this note of gratitude from a client who has been successfully housed and reunited with his family.***



## **WHAT DOES YOUR GIFT DO?**

**\$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.

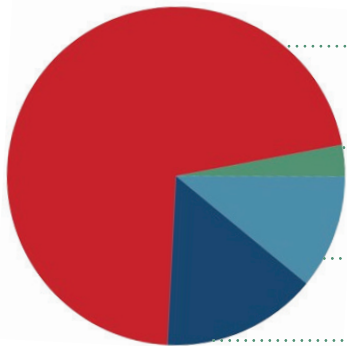
**\$500** will pay for a precariously housed family's utility bill for three months to help them stay housed during a crisis.

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

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

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF MARIN  
2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

**TOTAL INCOME \$7,446,663**



**Community Contributions**

\$2,979,786 Private Donations	40.02%
\$2,324,780 Grants & Contracts	31.22%

<b>\$5,304,566</b>	<b>71.23%</b>
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**Bequests**

\$224,517	3.02%
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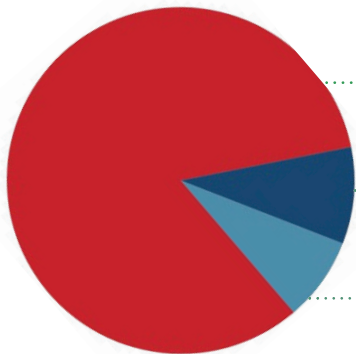
**Earned Income**

\$812,268	10.91%
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**In-Kind Donations**

\$1,105,312	14.84%
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**TOTAL EXPENSES \$7,711,394**



**Client Assistance**

\$2,889,373 Housing & Aid	37.47%
\$1,713,184 Homelessness Prevention	22.22%
\$1,806,724 Dining Room	23.43%

<b>\$6,409,281</b>	<b>83.12%</b>
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**Administrative**

\$696,664	9.03%
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**Development**

\$605,449	7.85%
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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.

## BOARD OFFICERS

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**Suzanne Swift**  
*President*  
Retired President & Owner,  
Buffet Concept



We are so blessed to have such a dedicated base of support. The volunteers, donors, and staff are the heart and soul of our organization. I am incredibly honored to be a part of St. Vincent de Paul's mission.”

— *Board President Suzanne Swift*



**Randy Chapman**  
*Vice President*  
President, Meridian  
Management Group



**Duane Geck**  
*Treasurer*  
Attorney, Severson & Werson



**Dr. Judith Walsh-Cassidy**  
*Secretary*  
Professor, Departments of  
Medicine & Epidemiology/  
Biostatistics, UCSF

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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**John Clark**  
Retired,  
Human Resources Executive



**Miriam Connaughton**  
Connaughton Consulting LLC



**Peter Hsu**  
SVP/Regional Manager,  
Bank of Marin



**Vicki Masseria**  
Retired,  
Media & Non-profit Executive



**Danny Rabb**  
Co-founder & Partner,  
Capital Bridge Partners



**Steve Rayburn**  
Retired,  
Corporate Labor Negotiator



**Windi Snearly**  
Recruiting Manager,  
Wells Fargo Bank

## BOARD MEMBERS

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Hank Ryan  
Susan Sauer  
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Saskia Russell  
Janice Schneider  
Wendy Tonkin  
Kimmie Tynning  
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Isobel Wiener

Platinum  
Transparency  
2024

Candid.

SVdP has earned a 2024 Platinum Seal of Transparency with Candid, a philanthropic research database connecting donors and grantmakers with nonprofit organizations.

## CONTACT

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**St. Vincent de Paul Society  
of Marin County**  
820 B Street  
San Rafael, CA 94901

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 150527  
San Rafael, CA 94915  
www.vinnies.org  
415-454-3303



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

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin County  
is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tax ID #94-1207701