



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
of Contra Costa County

50 YEARS HELPING THE POOR

SPRING 2015



“Serving as a volunteer mentor with St. Vincent de Paul has been unexpectedly rewarding—personally, spiritually, and professionally.”

- Eva McGee, Volunteer Mentor, Workforce Development Program

Left: Volunteers with the Volunteer Center of the East Bay fill bags of rice for our Emergency Food Program in Pittsburg.



New Clinic Staff to Improve Quality of Care for Patients in Need

We are excited to introduce our supporters to the two newest members of our dedicated staff at the RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul, Pamela Torres, RN, MSN, and Drea Riquelme. Torres, who served as a volunteer with the clinic for three years before joining staff, is serving as our first-ever clinic care coordinator. Riquelme joins us as site administrator through RotaCare Bay Area. She has also worked at the RotaCare free clinic in Richmond.

with Riquelme to improve protocols and procedures to improve the quality and consistency of care for clinic

staff,” Torres notes.

Torres, a diabetes education specialist, is dedicated to community health. “You get better outcomes in the long-term when you focus on community health and primary care,” she said. “This is what I have dedicated my life to.”

SVdP was able to develop the Clinic Care Coordinator position thanks to the generous support from the John Muir/Mt. Diablo Community Health Fund. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with Torres, an experienced medical professional with a passion for primary care and community health to the RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul.



Above: Pamela Torres (L) and Drea Riquelme (R)

patients. “Clear and consistent procedures are especially important when you work with an all-volunteer

Torres will work independently and

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Dear Friends,

One of the most rewarding parts of working for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is seeing the profound, long-term impact even the smallest bit of aid can provide.

For Pamela C., a month's worth of rental assistance enabled her to reduce her disability from a spiral of debts and depression to a minor setback in a life.

And volunteer leader Elba Donnelly might not be dedicating her life to the poor had she not first encountered St. Vincent de Paul in her youth when her family needed a little help to put food on the table.

Pamela and Elba are giving back to St. Vincent de Paul where and when they can because they experienced firsthand the life-changing power of help from people in your community who really care.

These kinds of stories are not uncommon at SVdP. Most of us have needed a little help to get back on track at some point. With your help, we can extend this positive impact exponentially. Will you join us in the effort?

Whether you donate your time, talent or funds, you can be assured your gift will alter someone's life—and perhaps more.

Yours in Christ,



Melanie Anguay
Executive Director

CLIENT PROFILE: Pamela C.



**File photo: client not pictured.*

Pamela C.* stopped by our office on a cold afternoon in January and asked who to speak to about making a donation.

As she wrote out a check, all smiles, she paused to tell us her story:

“I’m here today because about five years ago you guys helped me when I really needed it. I was out on disability following a surgery for a work-related injury. My disability checks were not covering my rent, and I couldn’t work. I came here to get some help to keep me afloat until everything cleared up and my employer paid the difference between my

expenses and my disability payments.

“Without that extra help, I would have been evicted. I had received several notices at that point. I was panicked and desperate.”

Pamela now has a stable, full-time job benefits with a major national employer. She didn’t have long to talk—fully healed from that original injury, she was excited to get to the gym.

“I feel healthy now. I really cannot

express to you how much your help changed my life for the better. I’d like to do anything I can to give back.”



Clinic Seeks Volunteer Physicians, Nurse Practitioners

As a volunteer physician, nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant for the RotaCare Pittsburg Free Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul, you can help provide free medical care to unemployed and uninsured members of our community. Your assistance has never been needed more!

Serve in a clean, professional, safe environment with other medical professionals. Clinic hours Weds 4-6 pm and Sat 9am-12. No administrative responsibilities. Contact Pam at (925) 439-2009 or pittsburg@rotacarebayarea.org.

New Pilot Dental Program to Assist the Uninsured

Although millions of Californians have enrolled in health insurance plans through the Affordable Care Act, many adults are left without access to dental care. While some children under 19 may qualify for subsidized dental coverage through health plans offered on Covered California, subsidized, income-based dental plans are not yet available for adults—and won't be until at least 2016, according to recent reports.

Even if individuals are eligible for one of these programs, though, they may still find themselves unable to pay copays or even subsidized premiums. Still more will not be eligible for these programs due to lack of immigration status.

Meanwhile, poor dental health leads to ongoing medical issues: those unable to chew because of pain are likely to suffer poor nutrition. Worse still: infections of the teeth and gums can spread to other areas of the body,

causing illness or even death.

Because of these very serious health concerns, St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County is launching a pilot dental program for uninsured clients in need of urgent treatment.



In the pilot program, SVdP will screen clients referred through our 27 branches (conferences) throughout Contra Costa County and refer patients to a local facility for treatment. SVdP will cover the outstanding cost of treating pre-screened patients who lack insurance.

We are excited to launch this pilot program in coming months. For more information or to make a donation, contact dental@svdp-cc.org or call (925) 439-5060. You can make a secure donation online at any time via www.svdp-cc.org. Be sure to indicate your donation is for the "Dental Fund."

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Elba Donnelly, St. Callistus Conference

Elba Donnelly has served as a Vincentian at St. Callistus in El Sobrante for more than four years, but her history with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul extends from childhood to the present. She made time to speak with us about her experience with the Society in a brief interview (excerpts below):

How did you first get involved with St. Vincent de Paul?

My family moved to the Mission District of San Francisco from Puerto Rico when I was 9 years old. Life was tough for us. My mother received assistance with groceries from St. Vincent de Paul at some point. But I really encountered the Society of St. Vincent de Paul later in life, when I was personally struggling.

Tell me about that.

At that time, I was very involved with my church and was working as an organizer and activist in the Mission. I managed to find a paid position as an activist. I felt lucky

because I never had access to higher education. I was able to buy a house on my salary. But while I was fighting the good fight in my community, my home life was suffering. My husband at the time was an alcoholic and would go missing for days on end, leaving bills unpaid and me struggling to make ends meet. Someone at my church reached out to St. Vincent de Paul on my behalf, and the Vincentians helped me with groceries—for the second time in my life.

Things got better for me, and when I moved to the East Bay and retired. Now happily re-married, I decided to get involved with St. Vincent de Paul because I knew how profoundly they had changed my life.

St. Vincent de Paul helped me when I didn't know where food was coming from. I want to be here to do that for others while I can.





(L-R): Lori Pearman, Lisa Kavanagh, and Sheryl DeSouza take a break at last year's tournament.

Upcoming Sales at Our Stores:

Customer Appreciation Day —25-50% Off—Pittsburg Store - May 2, 2015

Mothers' Day—30% Off—Pleasant Hill Store - May 10, 2015

Memorial Day—50% Off—Pleasant Hill Store & Pittsburg Store- May 25, 2015

Sign up for our email list at www.svdp-cc.org.

Upcoming Events

**Bocce Ball Tournament—9/12/15
Martinez**

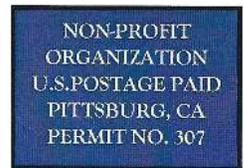
\$59 per person - Register at www.svdp-cc.org
Food, event, and court sponsors needed! For more information, email Barb Hunt at b.hunt@svdp-cc.org



Pictured: A thrift store volunteer sorts clothing for sale.



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"It truly takes many special and devoted people to do what you do. Thank you! It was a pleasure to volunteer for SVdP!" - Chevron Humankind volunteers