

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



2024 | VIEW OF THE POSSIBLE





WE ARE THE SOCIETY OF

FRIDAY NIGHT PIZZA AND MONDAY MORNING MERCY, OF FRESH PERSPECTIVES AND A VIEW OF THE POSSIBLE, OF SMILES, HOT MEALS, HOUSES TURNED INTO HOMES AND SECOND HAND STUFF INTO SECOND CHANCES, OF CLOTHES TO INSPIRE OUR BODIES' WISH TO BE BEAUTIFUL AND SOULS SHOWERED WITH COMPLIMENTS AND PAIN ADDRESSED WITH ATTENTION, OF DIGNITY DELIVERED TO THE NEEDY DOOR AND SMILES VOLUNTEERED AND BOXES FILLED WITH FOOD AND A PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE, OF A ROOF WHERE YOU CAN HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS OF ANGELS AND A PILLOW THAT SAYS HAPPILY EVER AFTER, AND OF LOVE AND LAUGHTER, HUMILITY, CIVILITY, STABILITY, AND TRANQUILITY, OF SERVING, OF BEING A SERVER AND DESERVING THAT PRIVILEGE, AND HOLDING OUT HOPE AND HELPING WITH THE LIGHT BILL, EMPTY PANTRY AND THE PHONE, AND MAKING SURE NO ONE IS LEFT ALONE, WITHOUT A PRAYER OR A FRIEND, OF MAKING EACH OTHER FEEL RICH, AND LUCKY, AND ALIVE.



DEAR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FAMILY,

As the newly elected board president for the Phoenix Diocesan Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, I stand in awe of the things that we have accomplished and energized by the possibilities for change and assistance that lie before us.

Like Blessed Fredrick Ozanam, the young college student who served as the visionary and founder of the Society, I too wanted to become a better person and do a little good. For me, being a Vincentian was the perfect vehicle to accomplish that goal.

After nearly forty years in the Society, I continue to be amazed by the power of collective goodness and generosity. Although I have served as a Vincentian in five different states, being a servant leader here and now is certainly the high point of my volunteer experiences.

Our patron St. Vincent de Paul and our founder Frederick Ozanam believed that we are all called without hesitation to do whatever good that lies before us. Over this past year, that has been the battle cry for our Council, our staff, our members, our volunteers, our donors and our community. Our openness and responsiveness have led to new, creative, and innovative services and programs.

The Society believes that no act of charity is foreign and that is true here in Phoenix as over the past year we have adapted to meet the changing needs of our community. My prayer is that we will continue to seek and find those most often forgotten and respond to their needs regardless of the obstacles that we might encounter.

Experience tells me that the little good that I do when combined with the works of others creates a tidal wave of charity sweeping across Arizona making a real difference in the lives of others.

I thank you for supporting our efforts to feed, clothe, house and heal those in need. Your kindness and generosity turn simple meals into a feast, shelter space into a home and strangers into friends.

May God continue to bless you for your generosity and support.

Blessings,



Shirley Smalley

Board President for the Phoenix Diocesan Council
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Fairly often over the last year, we've been asked some version of: "Do you all really think we can get a handle on homelessness in our community?"

At St. Vincent de Paul, our answer is one of faith, one of hope, one of love. It is a resounding, "YES!"

"Yes, we can. Yes, we must. Yes, we're already doing it. Yes, let's do more of it—Together."

We are grateful to all of you for the support, strength, and great hope that you have shared with St. Vincent de Paul and the people we serve over the last year that has allowed us to:

- *prevent homelessness for thousands of families through rent and utility assistance, food boxes and other support,*
- *rehouse thousands through our Housing 2025 initiative,*
- *help uninsured patients return to good health in our medical and dental clinic, and*
- *engage and connect those who need assistance with those who can offer support through time, talent and treasure on the common ground of humanity, dignity, compassion and God's love.*
- *And so much more...*

The challenges we face in our community are not insurmountable. We know what to do. We need to do it at greater scale. And if we draft our friends, families and colleagues into loving service, we can build the community that we all want to be part of—where everyone can thrive, where love prevails.

As we give thanks for all the goodness that each of you made possible for the people we served last year, let's also renew our commitment to faith in one another, to hope in the potential of each of us, and to the love and great joy that binds us together.

Let's be the community that finally figures this out. Not because we have to. But because our love compels us to do more, to be more for one another.

Thank you for the blessing that you are to St. Vincent de Paul. May the blessings that you share with us be returned to you in abundance in the coming year.



Shannon Clancy

The Rob and Melani Walton Endowed CEO
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.



Shannon Clancy
The Rob and Melani Walton Endowed CEO
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

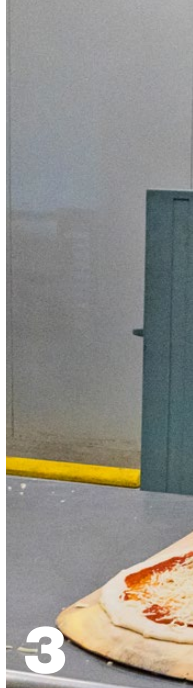
Shirley Smalley
Board President for the Phoenix Diocesan Council
Society of St. Vincent de Paul



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A LOOK BACK AT 2023



1 They spoke of hope and connection at our breakfast

Andrea Allison shared her story of perseverance and love at the Restoring Hope Community Breakfast. In 2019, the single mom needed help covering the fees to move herself and her daughter, Amiyah, into a safer living situation. She reached out to a SVdP food pantry in her neighborhood and found more than just the financial support she needed. She found advocates and lifelong friends in Vincentian volunteers Mary Ann and Pete Kneip.

2 Launching of X-WINGs at SVdP's Washington Street shelter

Shortly after celebrating the first year of operation of Washington Street shelter, SVdP also opened its first of two X-WING shipping container temporary housing structures on site. The X-WINGs give some more independent residents a next step and a little extra space of dignity and privacy while they work jobs or take those final steps toward more permanent housing.

3 Bishop Dolan volunteers on Pizza Friday

Pizza Friday is a time-honored volunteer tradition at SVdP. Bishop John Dolan got into the spirit of the tradition, donning a blue SVdP apron and a personalized chef hat as he helped prepare 150 pizzas for SVdP guests.

4 Blue Bell summer treats at the Phoenix Dining Room

During the record-breaking heat the Valley experienced in summer 2023, Blue Bell brought 2,000 servings of ice cream for guests of SVdP's Phoenix Dining Room on the downtown Human Services Campus. Guests lined up outside the refrigerated trailer and grabbed as many servings of chocolate and vanilla ice cream and banana popsicles as they were allowed. And thanks to the generosity of Blue Bell there was plenty of special treats to go around!

5 The Man in the Dog Park

Authors Ross Moore and Cathy A. Small paid SVdP a special visit to discuss their book "The Man in the Dog Park," which recounts Cathy's unexpected meeting of Ross when he was experiencing homelessness in the dog park she and her dog frequented. The encounter grew to forever change their lives and Cathy's perspective. SVdP's Community Engagement team brought the authors to campus to offer a rare window into homelessness life and challenge public perceptions of homelessness. It was an inspiring event for donors, volunteers and community members alike.

6 Record year for 2nd Chance Bike Drive

In 2023, SVdP received 1,700 bikes, a record number of community donations, for the 2nd Chance Bike Drive with ABC15 and Earnhardt Auto Centers! The donated bikes make a huge difference in the lives of people in need, giving them reliable transportation. Often, they go to a shelter guest who needs a way to get to work or a low-income family with a child who needs a bike to get to school, exercise and play with friends.

7 Fresh haircuts for shelter guests

Shelter residents at SVdP's Ozanam Manor, Washington Street shelter, and City Center were treated to haircuts thanks to a special volunteer group from Mima's Beauty College. This small luxury of a fresh haircut lifted the spirits of the residents, who often went without such basic services during their time experiencing homelessness.

8 A carnival in the Family Dining Room

In October, families walked into a transformed Family Dining Room at SVdP full of carnival happiness, fun and treats. Jodi and Tom Chermack and Chermack Consulting Group sponsored the carnival as a special way to carry on the family tradition of generosity and service established by Tom's late parents Tom and Ann Chermack. All the dining room kiddos left with warm hearts and full bellies, not to mention lots of exciting prizes!

9 Teaching the gift of giving

Nearly 1,100 Palomino Primary and Intermediate School students had the joy of a Christmas shopping bargain at SVdP's Hope Chest thrift store, which closed to the public a couple of December mornings to allow the students a chance to shop. All items were \$1 with a limit of four items per student. Students picked out household items for parents, like blenders and space heaters, and toys for siblings. Here one little girl picks out a toy for her brother. Santa stopped by for photos as well.



Topping the year off topping off Ozanam Manor II

SVdP celebrates the construction milestone — a halfway point — as it anticipates opening its newest transitional shelter in 2024

By Marisol Saldivar

On a crisp winter morning, just as the sun peaked over Ozanam Manor II's newly erected walls, the construction team from Ryan Companies hoisted the last structural steel beam onto the new 50,000-square-foot building that will eventually house 100 seniors, veterans and adults with disabilities on St. Vincent de Paul's main campus in 2024.

"It was God's glimmer," said Shannon Clancy, SVdP's Rob and Melani Walton Endowed CEO, "as if to say—*'I, too, bless this place, all who will call it home and all who make it possible.'*"

On the steel beam were signatures of the donors, volunteers, residents and employees who gathered to watch the construction milestone and ceremonial "topping off," which marked the halfway point for the project. The final beam completed the archway over the entrance to what will be the newest of SVdP's transitional shelters.

SVdP broke ground on the building in summer 2023 and is expected to open Ozanam Manor II in the summer of 2024.

Currently, construction is on schedule and on budget, with big thanks to Ryan Companies, the general contractor.

"The project team is really the most important decision that we made," said SVdP's Senior Advisor Steve Gervais, who oversees the nonprofit's capital improvement projects. "Ryan Companies and its leaders truly have a community-based mindset. They did such a good job on the original Ozanam Manor that they were our first choice for Oz II given their professionalism and the knowledge they bring to the project."

"We're honored to continue our partnership with SVdP to provide housing for our fellow neighbors in need. At Ryan, we create places for people to thrive," said Chuck Carefoot, Southwest region president



Graduated Ozanam Manor resident and now volunteer Sylvan McKenzie signs the final steel beam. Scan the QR code to read his story.

at Ryan Companies. “Our team always considers the impact buildings have on people and communities, and we know that Ozanam Manor II will provide much-needed resources for its residents.”

One extra special signature adorned the final steel beam — that of Sylvan McKenzie, a former resident who graduated from SVdP’s current Ozanam Manor transitional housing program and now volunteers in the nonprofit’s central kitchen.

His signature represents the hope SVdP has as Ozanam Manor II continues the success of the interim housing community it will model itself after.

Nicknamed “Oz,” Ozanam Manor focuses on rehousing the same elderly population and currently has 60 beds in the Diane and Bruce Halle Center for Hope and Healing just west of the new building. Oz boasts a high success rate with 98% of graduated residents

remaining housed and not returning to homelessness services one year after moving out.

“These are our fathers, mothers, grandmothers and grandfathers,” SVdP Chief Operating Officer Pat Donaldson said. “Social Security isn’t keeping pace with rents. To be able to bring online Oz II and move hundreds of seniors a year through that program— with most of them getting apartments — is a huge accomplishment.

“It’s really the right thing at the right time,” continued Donaldson, noting the drastic increase in homelessness the Valley is currently experiencing. “Like everybody else, I wish we were opening five more, but this is wonderful.”

With both Ozanam Manors in operation and an average stay of about eight months, Donaldson estimates that SVdP will be able to house about 320 seniors a year.

Continued on next page...



OZANAM MANOR II WILL...

In addition to more than doubling transitional housing capacity on SVdP's main campus, Oz II will bring added services with a new companion animal clinic and dedicated space for workforce readiness programming.

In total, the \$20-million project is made possible by city, county and state funding as well as private donations. It is the second phase of capital improvements for SVdP, which continues to look for ways to rethink and expand services to meet the community's current need.

"This is our moment to do our part to help some of our most vulnerable neighbors during a critical time by expanding on a model of transitional housing with proven success," Clancy said. "Our unhoused seniors, veterans, and neighbors facing disabilities deserve greater access to a housing program as dignified and loving as Ozanam Manor — a place to help them find a home, and a support system with wraparound care that ensures their long-term housing success."

- **Build** a 50,000 sq. ft. new facility, informed by the successes of the original Ozanam Manor housed within the Diane and Bruce Halle Center for Hope and Healing (completed in 2018)
- **Provide** 100 beds for unhoused elderly, veterans, and adults with disabilities
- **Expand** case management programming for successful transitions
- **Engage** men and women who have been reluctant to access services by removing barriers
- **Operate** a 3,000 sq. ft. veterinary clinic for SVdP's Companion Animal Program, run in partnership with Midwestern University's Animal Health Institute to attract men and women whose pets have made it difficult for them to access services
- **Grow** SVdP's Workforce Opportunities Program to engage men and women in developing work and life skills in positive steps toward sustainability

168,000 food box deliveries completed by local volunteers in communities across central and northern Arizona

Santé Céolin, who turned 100 this year, is a Vincentian volunteer serving in his local parish's food pantry for the last 40 years, originally in Payson and now in Prescott — with no signs of stopping anytime soon! Every Wednesday, he puts food boxes together for local families in need. Then either he or another Vincentian delivers all the food boxes to the families and spends time with them, praying and getting to know them, often learning how else they might be able to do good in their community.



3.37 million pounds of food received and distributed through our Central Food Bank

A team of hard-working leaders from Discount Tire's Bridges to Hope gave SVdP Food Reclamation Center a visit in November to build 350 holiday food boxes. The boxes included mashed potatoes, cake mix and frosting, stuffing, ingredients for green bean casserole, and a grocery gift card for a turkey. The team not only packed hundreds of boxes (and in record time!), they also provided the funding for all of the ingredients.



21,800 pounds of fresh produce harvested from our Urban Farms to compliment meals and food boxes.

Beyond its successful yearly harvest, the Rob and Melani Walton Urban Farm opened itself to the guests of SVdP's Family Dining Room, inviting them to grow their own produce in a small portion of the farmland. That's where this photo was taken — The SVdP Community Garden, located right next to the farm. Guests used a small area where they have grown their personal favorites, like carrots, watermelon (what Farm Manager Taylor Scarpelli is holding above) and beets and cilantro.





Ahead of a Bold Rehousing Goal in Tough Times

SVdP's Housing 2025 initiative rehoused 1,611 people, outperforming its initial benchmark in its first year while still eyeing the challenge ahead.



By Andrea Ariza, Troy Hill and Marisol Saldivar

Our community felt it almost everywhere—more people than ever living on the streets. What started as a few tents grew into much more across the city.

It's a crisis that accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic with evictions on the rise, families with months of past-due bills, and an unforgiving housing market with skyrocketing rent and mortgages.

And yet still, SVdP operated from a place of hope and confidence in its expertise in rehousing individuals coming from some of the most vulnerable places.

Discussions around a rehousing goal began in 2022, and SVdP Chief Operating Officer Pat Donaldson challenged the SVdP team, originally thinking of a goal of 600, but the group wanted to do more.

"I felt an obligation in this business, because people are on the street," Donaldson says. "There's a reason not to be risk-averse. You want to do as much as you can, because it's real death and tragedy on the line."

Thus was born the Housing 2025 goal to permanently rehouse 2,025 people experiencing homelessness by the year 2025. The initiative launched in October 2022 and quickly became one of the top focuses of SVdP in 2023.

Housing 2025 focuses on three things:

1. Moving people into permanent housing
2. Increasing SVdP's permanent rehousing rate by 20%
3. Offering the community, a shared goal to inspire support systems for neighbors experiencing homelessness

One year into the initiative, SVdP celebrated meeting 60% of its goal with 1,289 people moved into permanent housing. That was 277 individuals ahead of schedule at the time. As of December 2023, the team rehoused 1,611 people.

**1,611 individuals
rehoused by end
of 2023, including
620 single adults
and 991 parents
and children.**



"Our team does all they can every day to respond to this crisis with action and compassion," says Shannon Clancy, SVdP's Rob and Melani Walton Endowed CEO. "We've come this far, because we've worked together as a community. We all need to be relentless in working to help people get back to lives of fulfillment and productivity. Everyone deserves that opportunity."

One such person who received that opportunity is Ricky Arwood. He was one of the more than 1,000 people rehoused this past year. Before his housing crisis, Ricky had a nice home and a well-paying job as an apartment property manager. When he lost his job during the pandemic, he had to sell his home and very quickly found himself on the street.

"I was depressed most of the time. I hit rock bottom. I thought that would never be, but I was there," Ricky says. During all the turmoil,



**101,265 shelter nights
provided to 1,500
people working to
permanently end their
homelessness.**



he entered a downward spiral and started using drugs. “I just didn’t want to stop. I didn’t have anything at the time. I was just chasing that high,” he says. “Then I came to realize I’m not going to have my life or my health if I continue to do it.”

Ricky took his destiny into his own hands and started seeking help. He connected with one of SVdP’s partners, Community Bridges, Inc., to move through a screening process and secure a bed at SVdP’s Washington Street shelter, which operates by referral only and is focused on individuals looking to truly change their lives while seeking housing and employment. Shelter staff work quickly to make sure any available bed gets filled as there are only 260 at the shelter and 4,908 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Maricopa County according to their 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) homelessness count.

According to a report from Maricopa Association of Governments on homelessness trends, more people are entering homelessness than are exiting homelessness. Meaning that for every 10 people rehoused,

approximately 19 people enter homelessness. That is roughly a one to two ratio.

So while Housing 2025 has proven successful thus far, there is still an overall uphill battle with finding places in which to rehouse people.

When it comes to affordable housing inventory in Maricopa County, the National Low Income Housing Coalition shows in their report “The GAP,” that for every 100 people that need lower-price housing, Maricopa County has 26 available and affordable units for the lowest income. Currently in Phoenix, people must be making \$25 an hour to be able to afford housing in the region, according to NLIHC. “It’s not uncommon for there to be a one- to two-year waitlist for subsidized housing that our guests can afford,” says Associate Chief Program Officer Julia Matthies, who oversees SVdP’s Housing 2025 initiative.

“We work with many senior guests who have either Social Security retirement or disability where they’re getting less than \$1,000 per month,” Matthies continues. “Apartments at Phoenix market rate are



going to be higher than that which doesn't leave a lot of money for anything else aside from housing."

When people don't make enough income to stay afloat in the current housing market, they face the risk of eviction. According to Maricopa County, the two busiest months for eviction filings were in August 2005, with 7,902 filings, and in September 2023 with 7,669 evictions filed. The third-busiest month for eviction filings in Maricopa County was August 2023 with 7,600 evictions filed.

That's where SVdP's Housing 2025 goal aims to lift up those both recently unhoused and those who have lived on the street for years—attempting to solve homelessness both new and old. The initiative does so through varied and coordinated programming, reaching and rehousing people through SVdP's Resource Center, Social Work Services program, charity dining rooms, and transitional shelters. Notably, most of SVdP's rehousing moves people straight from the street into housing through its Social Work Services program, which is responsible for 1,057 of those rehoused this past year.

For those who need it though, Washington Street shelter exists and helped Ricky shape his next steps in his journey to permanent housing through the setting of goals and an environment of wraparound services needed to achieve housing success. He was also able to make meaningful connections, especially with his navigator, Troy.

"He was very proud of me, I was his first client that actually got the housing on my own," Ricky says.

Ricky quickly moved through the rehousing program and into his new place in July 2023. He was fortunate to have his first two months of rent covered by SVdP and found a place where he didn't have to pay more than 30% of his income toward his housing.

Now the focus is on the remaining 504 people to meet SVdP's Housing 2025 goal. It takes the nonprofit roughly \$3,200 to rehouse an individual after they've lost housing, which calculates out to \$1,612,800 needed to meet the goal by 2025.

As of December 2023, the goal was supported by \$675,888 in government funds, \$108,824 in foundation funds, \$60,487 in corporate funds and \$7,515 SVdP money raised specifically for Housing 2025.

"While we are proud to be ahead of our goal, there is still so much work to be done as a community," Clancy says. "As long as people are living on our streets, our collective work is unfinished. It is a privilege to be able to do this work, to help people return to stability and to make life transformations possible. We are simply the conduit—we can't achieve these goals without our partnerships and without the generosity of the community."

Interested in keeping up with SVdP's Housing 2025 progress? Scan the QR code to subscribe to our Housing 2025 digital newsletter.





Upping the cook up

In a matter of weeks, SVdP's daily meal production went from 4,500 to 7,000 to support the City of Phoenix's shelter expansion in response to the homelessness crisis

By Marisol Saldivar

Every morning at 3 a.m., one of the most impressive operations at St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix comes alive. While much of the city sleeps, SVdP's central kitchen starts chopping, stirring and cooking up the day's meals in industrial-size vats and massive frying pans and ovens.

As one of the largest kitchens in the Southwest, SVdP's central kitchen has always fed thousands of people in need daily. But this year the nonprofit saw that number rise from 4,500 to more than 7,000 meals every day in response to community need.

The increase is a direct result of providing food support to several community shelter projects, including SVdP's three transitional housing programs, as the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County respond to the homelessness crisis happening across the Valley but most acutely felt downtown and its surrounding neighborhoods.

At the beginning of the year, almost 1,000 people were counted living in the encampment surrounding the campus. A lawsuit (Brown vs. City of Phoenix) resulted in a court order demanding the City clear the encampment by Nov. 4, 2023.

A sudden intensifying of community collaboration between government agencies and local nonprofits to get people inside (especially before summertime) included calling not only on SVdP to up its shelter and housing efforts, but also enact its kitchen operations plan to scale by early June. The plan maximizes the industrial nature of the kitchen and provides a framework to produce up to 10,000 meals daily, if needed. In a matter of three weeks, the team reached 7,000 meals a day.

"Our kitchen is an immense asset. It's built out. We have the equipment, we have the staff, and we have the volunteers behind it," says Associate Chief Operations Officer Danielle McMahon, who has worked at SVdP for 11 years and overseen all of food services since 2017. "You don't see commissaries or kitchen setups like this at a restaurant. It's more like a production facility, so that's what we're able to be in theory — a production facility for mass meals for charity dining and shelters."

SVdP anticipates continuing to increase its daily meal count and food assistance up to the 10,000-mark as more community shelters continue to open. Already the nonprofit supports 30+ community service agencies with daily meals.



**3.17 million meals
served through 5
charity dining rooms
and provided to 36
community partner
agencies.**

“As the largest provider of hot meals in the Valley, our community needs St. Vincent de Paul to call on that strength,” McMahon says. “We have to remember all the services it takes to support people in shelter, food being one of the most basic needs. The risk of not producing those meals was greater than the risk of doing it. Our community would be quite challenged as to how to get these spaces up and running as quickly as they have been.”

The City of Phoenix has helped fund the meal increase. Additionally, SVdP has increased staffing and had the generous support of several sponsors in updating kitchen equipment, laying the foundation for an additional 30 years of producing meals en masse.

Even with as many meals as SVdP is serving, McMahon and the food services team still say the food is better than ever. In fact, Head Chef Chris Hoffman notes that the increase has challenged him and the team to come up with more meal variation, especially as certain shelters receive lunch and dinner from SVdP.

“We’ve done chilis, vegetable lentil dish stew, pork al pastor, arroz con pollo, Korean beef bulgogi, and things like dirty rice, which is like a Cajun rice with ground beef and vegetables,” Chef Hoffman says.

Continued on next page...



Head Chef Chris Hoffman



**Associate Chief Operations Officer
Danielle McMahon**





**231,300 service
hours completed by
16,600 committed
and compassionate
volunteers**

“Those one-pot meals work especially well as we ramp up production and try to keep things easier to plate and dish for transport. As long as we’re doing it right, even at this scale, we can put out good product.”

It’s taken restructuring and a tripling of almost all resources, including hiring three sous’ chefs, running three truck routes, building out three times the food storage and purchasing three times the utensils. But in all the push to do and make more, the team hasn’t lost sight of the end goal.

“Just knowing that we’re helping people that might be hungry, that are on the street, you know, it’s very important to us,” Chef Hoffman says. “As hard as it’s been, I’m very proud of the team. We’re awesome together.”

Together being the operative word. It’s taken a team, not just of staff but of volunteers too. That’s one of the most beautiful elements McMahon notes about having an organization like SVdP lead the effort.

“St. Vincent de Paul invites the community in to find joy in service, so people can really be a part of helping in the midst of this community crisis,” she says. “You can’t do that with a catering company. Our staff and volunteers have the knowledge and understanding of where the food is going and who’s eating it and the good it’s doing. They’re connected to the work, and it means something to them, which means every day we cook with our hearts and souls.”



Meet one of the volunteers helping SVdP get more meals to shelters across the Valley

Donna Williams is a U.S. Navy veteran and self-proclaimed “little girl from the Bronx”— the New York burrow and neighborhood that taught her about survival and the power of community.

Growing up in that environment forever shaped her to have a heart for giving back and supporting her neighbors, especially those in need. That’s why, when St. Vincent de Paul put the urgent call out for volunteers, Donna didn’t hesitate to come serve.

“I’ve been blessed not to have to work,” Donna says. “I’m financially good, so it was about finding something where I can fit in, and I can be of help to the community and to those who are disenfranchised.”

You can find Donna plating up shelter meals for two hours three days a week in SVdP’s kitchen.

“It’s busy and inspiring” she says. “There’s a lot of teamwork here. And the staff and volunteers all seem to be driven by the need. We’re working harder knowing that there is more need out there.”

Scan QR code to read Donna’s full story



18,700 medical, dental and wellness visits provided through our charity clinic and wellness center

Francisco Perez was starting to have trouble seeing and it was getting to the point where he was having difficulty working and driving. He received the bad news when even his optometrist told him that there wasn't any point to wearing glasses anymore: Both of his eyes had cataracts. His only option was to pay for surgery, but he couldn't afford it, and one clinic told him their discount program had a waitlist of at least a year. But then he came to SVdP's Virginia G. Piper Medical and Dental Clinic, he found the help he needed, especially thanks to the charity clinic's 30+ specialties, including ophthalmology. They operated on both of his eyes in June, and now he's able to work again and see the faces of his family.



640 community drives hosted to collect clothing, hygiene products, toys, water and food.

During Arizona's hottest recorded summer ever, SVdP received water from the sweetest donor! A young girl named London wanted to help her community during the triple-digit temps and decided to run her own water drive. She collected over 2,000 bottles of water for SVdP to distribute to neighbors in need on the street!

Keeping mother and daughter in the only home they've known together

SVDp's rent assistance prevented Jessie Sandau and her daughter from losing their home

By Troy Hill

Jessie Sandau wanted nothing more than to provide a stable life for her daughter, LaVera, but that stability came into jeopardy in 2023 when she lost her car and job.

All she needed was just a little bit of financial help to get through the month so she could keep her Scottsdale apartment while awaiting the start date of her new job. St. Vincent de Paul was there to fill in the financial gap and prevent her family's homelessness.

Jessie had a difficult childhood. Her mother lost custody of her when she was young, and she spent time in the foster care system. When she aged out and had a daughter of her own, she placed the utmost importance on providing for her daughter.

"I don't ever say that she's growing up in a better household than I did, but I always want her to know that I'm always going to be there," Jessie said.

Jessie and LaVera have lived in their apartment for three years. LaVera is almost four years old, which means it's the only home she's ever known. The walls are lined with her drawings and she runs around the rooms with the energy and charm that only three-year-olds have. It's a special place to this little family.



\$7.14 million in rent and utility assistance helped families avoid eviction and homelessness

Unfortunately, trouble came when Jessie was involved in an accident in early 2023, and her car was totaled. Not long after that, her car problems were compounded by childcare problems, straining her ability to work. Jessie ended up losing her job.

The month's bills loomed large in her mind: Rent was coming due, and how was she going to pay for food for LaVera? Wanting to provide for her daughter, Jessie immediately started searching for work. She found a new job — this one was even better, and she would be able to work from home to take care of LaVera. The only problem was that her start date wasn't for another few weeks.

She didn't have the money to cover the gap.

"I just felt hopeless," she said. "I didn't know what else to do." Jessie didn't know where to turn for help, but she had been attending Our Lady of Perpetual Hope in Scottsdale and talked to some people there about the difficulties she was having. They told her about SVdP and its network of 80 neighborhood food pantry and assistance

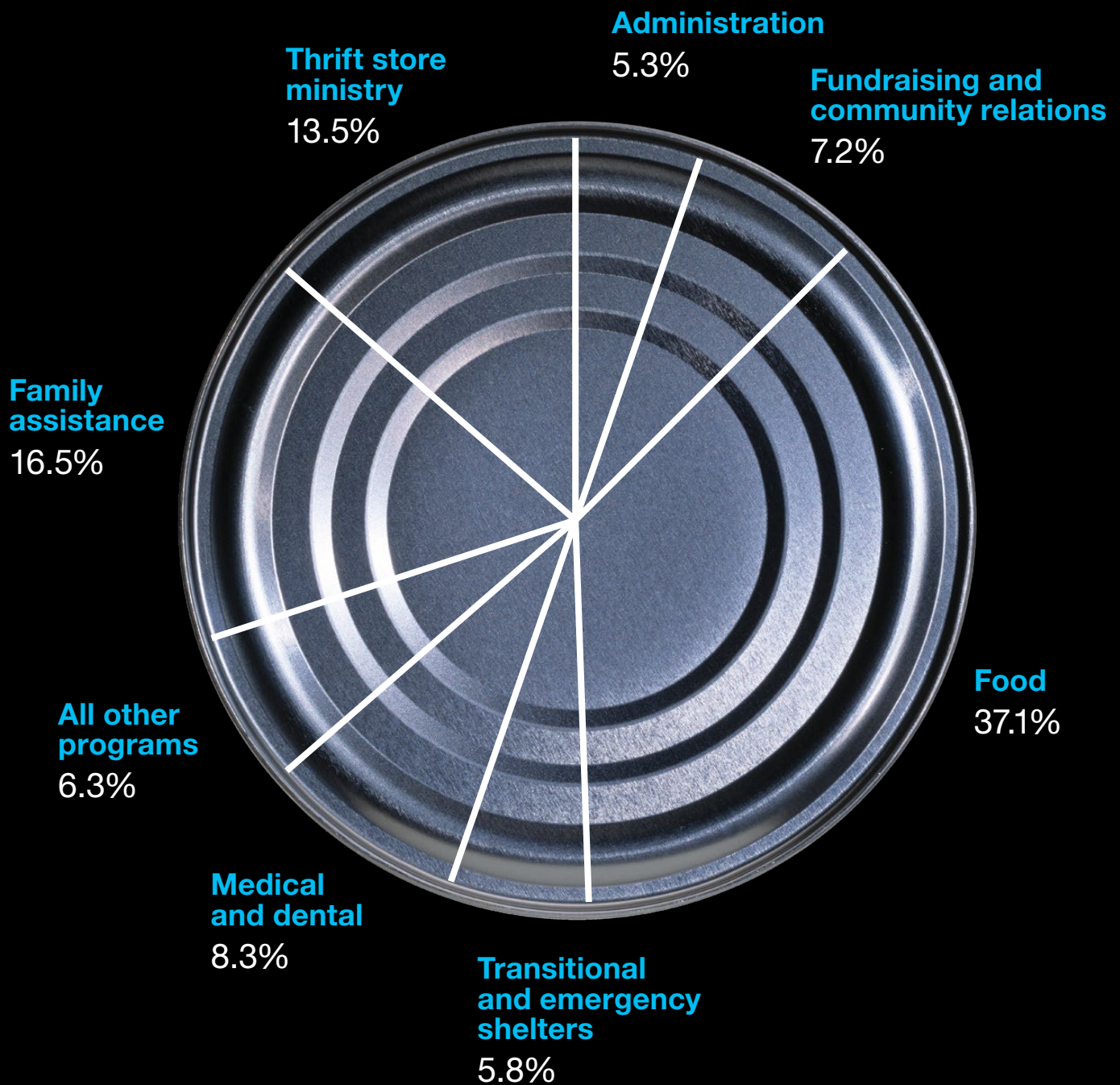
centers run by Vincentian volunteers. Beyond food assistance, they also provide help with rent and utility bills. "It was pretty much instant," Jessie said. "Like the next day they called me back and wanted to meet with us."

When one of the Vincentian volunteers at Our Lady of Perpetual Hope told her they'd be able to help, Jessie said relief washed over her. "I really almost thought we were going to lose our place."

SVdP was able to help Jessie with \$1,350 in rental assistance. On top of that, the Vincentian volunteers also paid her a visit to give her a food box and to pray with her.

Looking back, Jessie is happy she and LaVera were able to remain in the only home they've known as a family. This is the longest Jessie has ever leased an apartment. It not only feels like an accomplishment for her, but also the home she's always wanted for herself and her daughter.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES





2023 Sources of Funds

Community Donations	\$31,588,000
Grants	14,781,000
Estates and Trusts	1,747,000
Thrift Store Ministry	5,122,000
In-Kind Goods and Services	27,358,000
All Other Sources	2,651,000
TOTAL SOURCES	\$83,247,000

2023 Uses of Funds

Program Services	73,476,000
Management and Administration	3,924,000
Fundraising	5,847,000
TOTAL USES	\$83,247,000

End-of-year Net Assets: \$87,069,000 (Note that net assets include: fixed assets, temporary and permanent donor restricted funds including endowments and beneficial interests in trusts and unrealized investment gains, which may not be available for expenditure.)

*Data represents unaudited results of the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023 and an estimate of Conference and District results.

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