



FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.



LOVE IN ACTION

A publication from
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Phoenix

SPRING 2023 | ISSUE 1

Housing 2025

OUR COMMUNITY is experiencing a homelessness crisis with thousands of Arizonans living without a place to call home. By the year 2025, St. Vincent de Paul will move 2,025 of those people into permanent housing.



LEARN MORE

13,500

the estimated
number of
Arizonans
without a place
to call home

WE EXECUTE our rehousing strategy every day in our transitional shelters, Resource Center, and dining rooms, and we do it well. We have the willpower, knowledge, and skill to address the crisis. With your support SVdP will house the unsheltered with stability and hope.



DONATE

STAY ON TOP of our progress and learn more about what it takes to rehouse those in need in our community. Sign up to receive our Housing 2025 monthly newsletter via email.



SIGN UP
FOR UPDATES



THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.

PO Box 13600
Phoenix, AZ 85002
602.266.4483

stvincentdepaul.net



Furnishing a fresh start

INSIDE: How SVdP's Bringing Hope Home program made Pamela's new apartment a home.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Message from the CEO
- 3 Meet a new Rising Leaders member
- 4 Furnishing a fresh start
- 6 Turning empty houses into homes
- 7 Breaking ground on more and better housing



Message from the CEO

Shannon M. Clancy

A HOME IS NOT JUST A ROOF AND FOUR WALLS. It's a sense of security and the ability to make a better tomorrow. It's essential to safeguarding the dignity and well-being of every human being.

Thousands of people in Phoenix have no place to call home. They experience the hardships of homelessness every day. And they're looking for hope, and a home of their own.

Thankfully, generous community members like you are making a difference in these neighbors' lives! I hope you'll take a few minutes to read the enclosed newsletter. You'll discover stories of how your generosity helped our neighbors find housing and get off the streets. You'll also read about some exciting ways that you can assist our neighbors in need this year.

As you know, our goal at St. Vincent de Paul is not simply to provide temporary shelter. Together with you, we're striving to help each person experiencing homelessness find a stable home. That's why we launched one of our newest initiatives: Housing 2025, to permanently rehouse 2,025 people experiencing homelessness by 2025.

As we're working towards this goal, we are also expanding our transitional housing programs, so that people have a roof over their heads while they work towards a permanent home.

I hope that reading these stories will inspire you to continue supporting these efforts to get our neighbors housed for good. It's a monumental undertaking. But if we work together, we can achieve it.

Thank you for the love, compassion, and care you show towards our neighbors in need. I look forward to sharing more stories about how your generosity is changing lives in the coming year.

May God bless you.

Shannon M. Clancy

23%

the increase
of people
experiencing
homeless
in Arizona
in 2022

RISING LEADERS STATISTICS

NUMBER BY INDUSTRY

- 2 Education
- 2 Consulting
- 2 Marketing
- 3 Law
- 4 Real Estate
- 4 Nonprofit
- 5 Construction
- 7 Finance/Banking
- 6 Other

Reflects 2023 cohort

ACROSS THE VALLEY

Current members
live and /or work in:

Avondale
Chandler
Glendale
Mesa
Phoenix
Scottsdale
Tempe



CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

23 women / 13 Men



Reflects 2023 cohort

Meet a new Rising Leaders member: Meghan

MEGHAN MURPHY, 28, has always wanted to use her time and talents to make the world a better place. It's what drove her to become one of the inaugural members of Rising Leaders, the new service and leadership group at St. Vincent de Paul for young professionals in their 20s and 30s.

With a degree in nonprofit leadership and management, she worked at various foundations before she helped start the Arcadia Foundation, where she serves as Executive Director.

Meghan immediately connected with Rising Leaders' purpose of offering young professionals a space to connect, grow, and become servant leaders.

"We're looking for that space and opportunity to create community, and to collaborate with each other," Meghan said. "Not only for this mission, but for each other, and for the greater good of the Valley."



The group has participated in professional development workshops and volunteering events, including serving in SVdP's Family Dining Room and adjoining Dream Center.

Beyond the connection and service opportunities, Meghan appreciates the larger vision, which strives to equip and educate the next generation of leaders so that coming alongside SVdP and other causes will be naturally embedded in who they are.

Furnishing a fresh start

Pamela stood in the doorway of her new apartment with two blue suitcases. At one point, not long ago, all she had fit into those two little cases on wheels.

PAMELA MOVED TO PHOENIX FROM CHICAGO TO GET A FRESH START. After her first day at her new job, however, she suffered a stroke. The medical bills quickly started to pile up, and as Pamela couldn't work, she wasn't able to pay rent and quickly lost her apartment.

She lived out of her car before she was able to get into St. Vincent de Paul's Ozanam Manor, a transitional housing facility for people over 50, veterans, and adults with disabilities.

"[My case worker] set me up with a dental appointment and I got dentures for free. They fed us three meals a day," Pamela said. "Anything I needed, they was really willing to help me."

Pamela lived at Ozanam Manor for two years while regaining stability and eventually qualified for an apartment in a complex just outside of downtown Phoenix.

There was just one problem: She didn't have any furniture or household basics. Like so many people

freshly rehoused, Pamela would have faced an empty apartment and the burden of acquiring essentials if it weren't for SVdP's new program: Bringing Hope Home.

Bringing Hope Home comes in after SVdP case managers have helped secure housing for someone previously on the street or in a SVdP shelter. The program combines the resources and power of SVdP's thrift stores and transportation team to set up the newly housed individual or family with household essentials and furniture, which SVdP delivers on move-in day.

"Bringing Hope Home literally helps finalize the rehousing process by furnishing that home," said Mike McClanahan, the director of retail operations at SVdP.

Guests like Pamela can go to a SVdP thrift store and pick out furniture and household items for their new



\$3,200

the average amount it costs to move someone into a permanent home

home or apartment. Individuals are given up to \$1,000 to spend in store, while families receive up to \$2,000. That money goes far thanks to the affordable thrift store prices.

"We like to say that we turn houses into homes," says Irma Leyendecker, SVdP's director of mission advancement, who teams up with Mike to help manage the program.

On move-in day, the transportation team started hauling furniture inside her new apartment. Only a

few days earlier, she had shopped at SVdP's Hope Chest Thrift Store to pick out some of the things she would need to make a new home—a bed, a couch, a wardrobe, some nightstands, a table and chairs.

Pamela looked up from her two suitcases and saw her apartment filled. She had a solid table to eat on, a place for her clothes, a couch to kick up her feet, and a comfortable bed to rest and lay her head.

Pamela was home.

Turning empty houses into homes

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S BRINGING HOPE HOME PROGRAM was developed to reduce the number of individuals or families returning to homelessness simply because they couldn't overcome the large up-front costs that come with moving and acquiring furniture.

"If we didn't intervene, what would happen is that person would spend their first two or three paychecks just trying to get a bed or a couch for their family," said Mike McClanahan, director of retail operation at SVdP.

In the beginning, the team helped one individual or family each month. But the need for such a program and its success in easing the transition into housing became quickly apparent. Now it helps up to eight individuals or families per week.



SVdP case managers refer guests in their rehousing pipeline to Bringing Hope Home after they've established housing for them. Then the team coordinates a date with the guest to go to a SVdP thrift store and pick out new furniture and household essentials for their apartment. Individuals are given up to \$1,000 to spend in store, while families receive up to \$2,000.

"You got to give people a head start," Mike said. "You have to get them in a situation where at least they have a competitive edge to stay ahead of [falling back onto the street]. And so that to me is in essence what it does."

375,000

the number of Arizonans who can't afford to pay more than \$625 a month for rent and utilities



Breaking ground on more and better housing

ON MAY 2, St. Vincent de Paul will hold a groundbreaking ceremony for a new 50,000 square-foot building to provide 100 beds for unhoused seniors, veterans, and adults with disabilities, growing SVdP's rehousing efforts.

The new building expands on SVdP's existing transitional housing program, Ozanam Manor, which currently has 60 beds and boasts a high success rate with 95% of graduated residents remaining housed six months after moving out.

"For many years, we have seen the increase of seniors experiencing homelessness," SVdP Ozanam Manor Director Julia Matthies says. "They are disproportionately affected by the housing crisis



because they are more often on fixed incomes. They have fewer options and tend to have more medical and physical health needs, making them more vulnerable."

The new addition, Ozanam Manor II, or Oz II, is a \$20-million project made possible by both public and private funds. Oz II more than doubles transitional housing capacity while also bringing added services with a new companion animal clinic and dedicated space for workforce readiness programming.