



LOVE IN ACTION

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

SPRING 2024 | ISSUE 1



Everyone has a home at St. Vincent de Paul

INSIDE: How St. Vincent de Paul is growing and expanding to serve our community in the most impactful way possible.

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Message from the CEO

Shannon M. Clancy

I LOVE THIS TIME OF YEAR. SPRING IS A WONDERFUL SEASON OF RENEWAL AND HOPE. Here at St. Vincent de Paul, we're filled with hope because we have great things on the horizon.

As you'll see in this newsletter, we're launching new programs that will help us better address the growing needs in our community. These programs move us closer to the goal of housing 2,025 people by 2025.

First, we've renewed our focus on family support services, to connect families in our community who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness or just need help getting further along the path to stability with support. We're transitioning the space in our Resource Center to focus on workforce housing and helping people exit homelessness for good.

In addition, we will open a new building which houses De Paul Manor, the Bob and Marion Auray Companion Animal Clinic, and our Workforce Development program.

Finally, we worked with the City of Phoenix and Steel + Spark to pilot workforce housing in X-WINGS at our Washington Street shelter. These converted shipping containers not only provided shelter for our neighbors in need, but allowed us to pilot a workforce housing program that we plan to expand to our main campus.

I'm thrilled about these new initiatives, as they greatly increase our ability to help those in need.

Thank you so much for working with us and sacrificing your time, talent, and treasure to care for the most vulnerable in our community.

Sincerely,

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

Our goal
is to house

2,025

PEOPLE BY 2025.

Working his way from homelessness

DENNIS ROBINSON sat on the bed in his small room at St. Vincent de Paul’s Washington Street shelter pensively thinking about how far he had come – how much his life had been turned upside down – in just a few short months.

Dennis had been living in a Sober Living Community—one that was shut down in the week he was out of town attending his sister’s funeral.

“It felt like the rug was pulled out from under me,” he said.

After that, Dennis briefly experienced homelessness before he was put into contact with SVdP and moved into the Washington Street shelter. There, he was able to have a safe, stable place to sleep, get three hot meals a day, and through case management by social workers, he was able to get back into his own place.

While living at the shelter, Dennis learned about SVdP’s Workforce Development program, which focuses on preparing shelter residents for the workforce by helping them develop skills and



providing them with items like uniforms or tools so that they can attain a steady job.

Having that employment not only helps them get into housing faster, but also keeps their situation stable once they’re on their own.

Dennis became one of the first residents to join the shelter’s new X-WING pilot program, which allows residents to have their own room in the X-WINGS at the shelter.

“The idea is to give people a space to concentrate and work toward goals, and they have each other to support one another too,” said Erinn Demario, the workforce supervisor.

Shortly after moving in, Dennis heard about a job opening at a local business, applied, and was, “hired right off the bat.”

Since then, he’s been working six days a week and saving much of his money with plans to find his own apartment.

“He’s transformed and found a purpose again,” Erinn said of Dennis. “He’s turned into a person who has a plan, has confidence. He’s got this totally different trajectory after getting the support he needed.”

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A Year of **CHANGE**

for St. Vincent de Paul





St. Vincent de Paul has always pivoted towards the greatest needs in the community and where we know we can be successful in providing support. Right now, we're seeing an increased need for dignified shelter, wraparound support, and case management to help people not only end their homelessness, but to avoid eviction and becoming homeless.

“Our goal is to serve our community in the most impactful, loving, comprehensive way possible – feeding, clothing, housing, and healing all who need our support,” said Shannon Clancy, The Rob and Melani Walton Endowed CEO. “Whether it’s volunteers, guests, or staff, we’re committed to let none be lost in our work. Everyone has a home at St. Vincent de Paul.”

One New Building: Three Program Expansions

The building will open in summer 2024 housing 3 SVdP programs: De Paul Manor, the Bob and Marion Auray Companion Animal Clinic, and SVdP’s Workforce Development Program.

De Paul Manor will follow the successful model of Ozanam Manor, SVdP’s transitional housing for veterans, adults over 50, and adults living with disabilities. It will provide an additional 100 beds, bringing the total capacity to 160.

“Expanding transitional housing for homeless seniors and veterans is a crucial step towards restoring dignity,

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offering stability, and honoring their service,” Julia Matthies, SVdP’s Associate Chief Program Officer, said. “It’s an important step in their journey towards reclaiming independence and rebuilding their lives, with the support of a program and staff with the expertise to meet their specific needs in a safe and supportive community.”

With the cost of living continuing to rise, those living on a fixed income struggle to find affordable housing, making this project more impactful than ever.

In partnership with Midwestern University, **the Bob and Marion Auray Companion Animal Clinic** will provide access to much needed pet services for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. It will also create learning and volunteer opportunities for students, veterinarians, and vet techs in the community.

The Workforce Development Program will work with transitional housing residents to help them gain stable employment as they prepare to move into permanent housing.

Season of Transitions

It’s hard to focus on ending your homelessness when you’re worried about where you’re going to sleep each night. That’s why we’ve



transitioned services from the SVdP Resource Center and Sunnyslope Dining Room to focusing on getting people into beds and providing them with the dignified and comprehensive support to end their homelessness for good.

At the beginning of the year, we ended daily walk-up services at the Resource Center and closed our Sunnyslope Dining Room for daily meals. Staff transitioned to conduct intensive outreach to help those experiencing homelessness in the area get into shelter.

“We gave people a place to belong, a place where they could be loved at both locations, but it wasn’t enough,” Jessica Berg, SVdP’s Chief Program Officer, said. “We want to do even more for them, and that’s why we’ve increased our efforts to focus on shelter and transitional housing and outreach.”

Walk-Up Services to Workforce Housing

While the Resource Center will no longer offer walk-up services, renovations began this spring to transform the space into a dedicated shelter with 71 additional beds called Rosalie’s Place after the blessed Rosalie Rendu who helped Frédéric Ozanam and his friends do good works





and became known as the “good mother of all.” These beds will focus on housing for individuals who are currently working or are striving to become part of the workforce.

“What we found out was when we put people with similar goals in the same spot, they support each other. It’s almost like a fellowship type thing,” Erinn Demario, SVdP’s Workforce Development Program Supervisor said.

This program gives guests a private space, community with shared goals, and dedicated workforce case management to help them gain sustainable employment that sets them up for increased success when they’re on their own.

Renewed Focus on Family Support Services

Additionally, Family Support Services combines our Family Evening Meal, Dream Center, Homelessness Prevention team, and social work services efforts into one department.

“Our overall vision for this team is connecting families in our community who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness or just need help getting further along the path to stability with support,” Jessica said. “We’re looking at how



to serve our families more comprehensively in all those areas. For families who come to Family Evening Meal, for example, how can we support them in more ways that just providing food?”

Through all these changes, SVdP is more committed than ever to provide wraparound support and dignified service to those in need in our community. We are grateful for the community members, volunteers, and donors who continue to support us in this vital mission.

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You're going to pay, so why not have a say?

Arizona provides a truly unique way for you to support the nonprofit organizations you care about through the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit. We all pay state taxes, so why not have a say in how the money is invested back into the community?

You can help feed hungry families, provide transitional housing for veterans in need, give the uninsured and underinsured access to affordable medical care, and you get that money back when you file your state income taxes.

The 2023 tax season just passed, but you can already start making donations and taking advantage of the tax credit for 2024. And the amount you can claim as a credit is increasing once again!! In 2024, **you'll be able to claim up to \$470 for single filers and \$938 for joint filers!**

You can claim the credit in three simple steps:

1. Make a donation to St. Vincent de Paul.
2. Claim the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit by filing Arizona Form 321 when you file your taxes. Singles can claim up to \$470 and couples filing jointly can claim up to \$938.
3. Get your donation amount back as dollar-for-dollar credit on your state income taxes.



You can support those in need all year long by making your donation a monthly gift—**\$78 a month will get you to the tax credit amount of \$938 for the year.**

\$938 can feed over 200 people at the Family Evening Meal. It can cover the cost of two patient visits in our clinics. It can also care for 3 residents at Ozanam Manor for a week!

How will you use your tax credit to make the biggest impact in the community?

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

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