



LOVE IN ACTION

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

SPRING 2025 | ISSUE 1



That was a lot of weight off our shoulders

INSIDE: One missed rent payment was spiraling to eviction — until SVdP stepped in. Your generosity helped Chavi get back on her feet and freed her from the fear of losing her home.

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Message from the CEO

Shannon M. Clancy

Dear Friends,

I am filled with gratitude seeing how our community has come together in shared commitment to serve and to care about one another.

I hope you're encouraged to see stories of your love in action in this newsletter. Your generosity fuels life-changing programs like Angels on Call, where donors have the opportunity to step up to provide emergency aid for an individual or family at risk of eviction. Angels play an important role in keeping families together and housed.

This past year St. Vincent de Paul has expanded the services of our Companion Animal Program with the opening of two additional interim housing communities on our main campus, De Paul Manor and Rosalie's Place. This has allowed us to welcome even more guests who were experiencing homelessness and their companion animals in for shelter and services.

We'll also continue addressing the homelessness crisis in Arizona. This year, our focus is on homelessness prevention—keeping people in their homes with one-time assistance for rent, mortgage, and utility bills. In 2025, for every one individual SVdP moves into permanent housing, we also want to prevent 12 individuals from falling into homelessness.

Thank you for being a part of this community joined by faithful action and pursuit of the common good. The work we do takes gifts and talents both big and small to accomplish. Your gifts—your time, talent, and treasure—mean so much to our brothers and sisters in need. Together, let's keep bringing joy and hope to our neighbors during their most difficult moments.

Sincerely,

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

Finding community serving community

Volunteer Anita Cabezas' unexpected path to dedicated service

ANITA CABEZAS first came to St. Vincent de Paul to complete her mandated community service. She never imagined her experience would inspire her to become a dedicated volunteer.

"I started off coming in to pay a ticket," Anita says. "I liked the environment here so much I just kept coming back."

For three years, Anita has faithfully returned to serve in SVdP's kitchen five days a week, Monday through Friday. She's one of the early birds.

"I get here between 6:30 and 7:00 in the morning," Anita says. "I usually leave between 10 and 11 a.m. But if I see that they need help and don't have enough volunteers I'll stay a little longer."

Each morning, she helps clean, chop and prepare ingredients for the chefs to cook. Most mornings the kitchen staff have music playing and volunteers get into a good rhythm of chopping



vegetables for the day. The best part is how the staff invite everyone into their kitchen family.

"The people here are so nice. It's a good place to come and volunteer," Anita says. "This is the only place I've been that I feel so comfortable."

"The feeling that I'm helping feed the homeless and people from all over is good. It's a good example for others."

She hopes more people, including her own family, will join her in this community work.

Anita leaves feeling warm and good about her contributions to her community and the direct impact she makes in getting hot and healthy meals to those who need them most. That's why she keeps coming back.

"I'm going to keep continuing until maybe I get too old to drive," Anita says with a chuckle.

Hopefully she doesn't get another ticket. But if she does, she knows the best pay to it off—or pay it forward.

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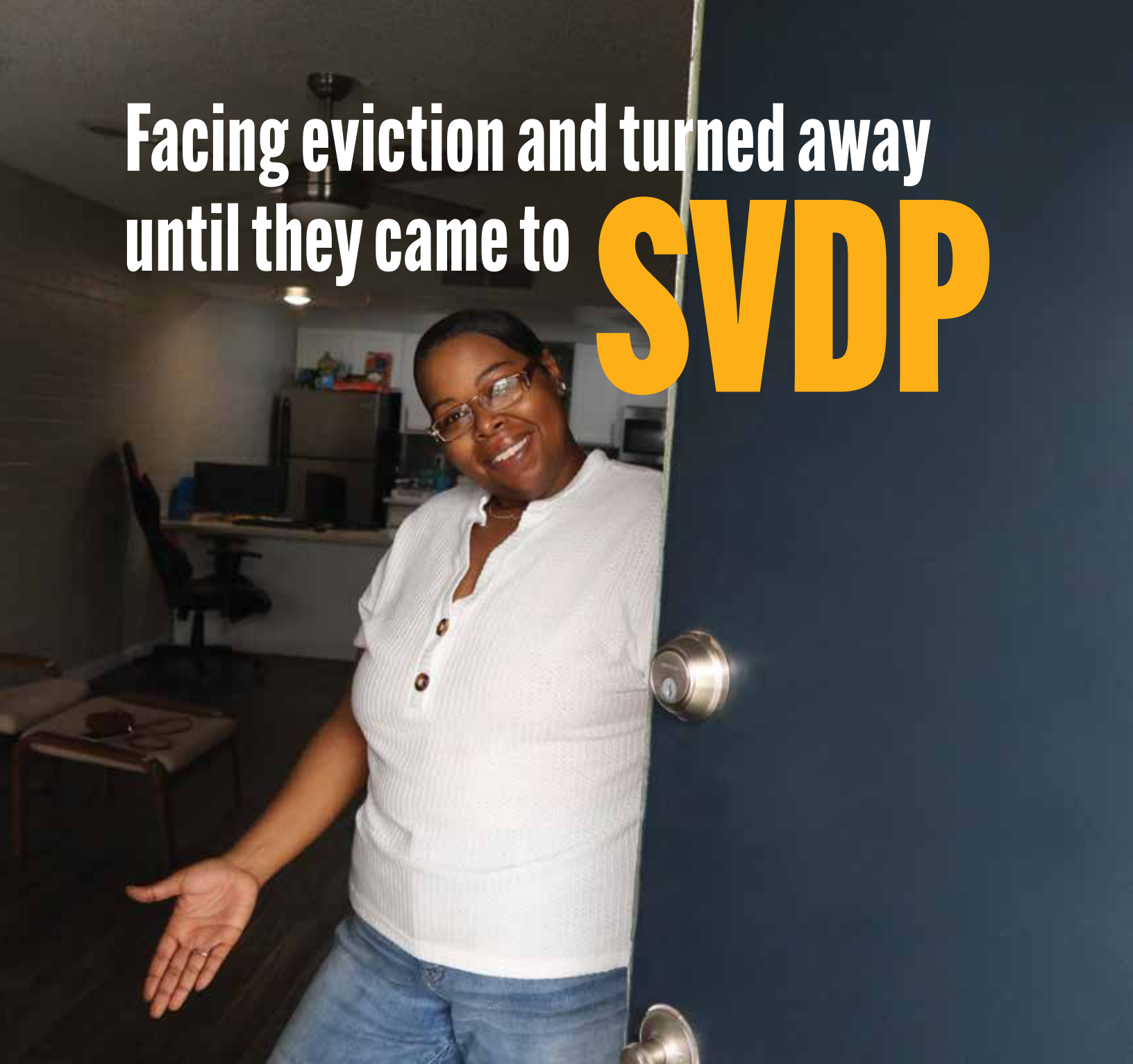
233,317

SERVICE HOURS COMPLETED BY

11,762

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS IN 2024.

Facing eviction and turned away until they came to **SVDP**



SVdP's Family Support Services team saved Chavi Padgett and her boyfriend from returning to the street thanks to homelessness prevention assistance

By Andrea Ariza

With only a last dash of gas left in their tank, Chavi Padgett and her boyfriend had one final shot to get the eviction prevention assistance they needed. Earlier that day, they awakened at 7 a.m. to stand outside assistance centers before they opened. Every door they knocked on led to disappointment. On the verge of losing hope, they couldn't afford another runaround.

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They drove to St. Vincent de Paul.

Someone had referred them to SVdP's Family Support Services team, where they met Laurie Sobel, SVdP's manager of homelessness prevention. Laurie learned about the couple's circumstances.

In December 2024, Chavi and her boyfriend moved into a one-bedroom apartment they loved. Shortly after moving in, Chavi contracted pneumonia and was unable to work for the rest of December. Her boyfriend's part-time job couldn't keep up with all the bills, and without Chavi's paycheck, they missed one full month of rent, placing them at risk of eviction.

It was a nightmare scenario. Chavi and her boyfriend had only just regained housing. They were evicted two years earlier and living out of their SUV after Chavi had been laid off from a job and couldn't afford rent. Around the same time, the couple experienced multiple family deaths.

The grief paired with Chavi's job loss, led both into a deep depression. They experienced homelessness together for two years until they found faith in God. With a new, determined mindset they gained employment, cleared the eviction from their record, and found a new apartment.

The thought of becoming homeless again haunted the couple as they desperately looked for resources.

"We were very stressed," says Chavi, who was determined to avoid another eviction after how hard they had worked to clear the first.

"When Chavi came in, she was visibly worried about losing her home. You could see the stress on her face," Laurie recalls. "But despite her concerns, she still carried a sense of hope and positivity. It was clear she believed in the possibility of finding a solution."

That same day, Laurie provided Chavi and her boyfriend with the necessary next steps, contacted their landlord, and initiated the process for SVdP to cover their overdue rent.



She knew Chavi would make the most of the help.

"Chavi stood out because of her resilience and gracious demeanor," Laurie says.

"She was incredibly polite and never demanding, even in the face of hardship. She shared her journey of overcoming homelessness, sleeping in her car, taking deliberate steps to secure housing, and working toward stability. She fought hard for the home she had, and she remained hopeful about keeping it."

Overwhelmed with relief, Chavi and her boyfriend broke down in the office, shocked that SVdP could prevent their eviction.

"That was a lot of weight and a lot of stress off our shoulders," Chavi remembers. "It felt great because I've never had resources that I could rely on, not even someone to vent to. With the help we received, we know with our work, we'll be able to continue paying our bills on time from here on out."

Chavi and her boyfriend are back on track with their rent. They are both employed in full time jobs and are gradually working towards fully furnishing their apartment.





Caring for man and his best friend

NOT LONG AGO, Vernon and his dog, Roscoe, lived comfortably in their apartment, afforded by Vernon's steady job as a department store security guard. He worked in the back, keeping his eyes on the surveillance cameras until he received an unfortunate diagnosis of macular degeneration. The condition affects the retina and effectively caused Vernon to go blind.

"I had to quit my job," he said. "That wound up sucking all my 401(k) money. I was trying to look for a job — but without my eyes, there's not a whole lot I can do."

Vernon and Roscoe ended up on the street after being evicted from their home of more than 10 years. After a year of homelessness, they connected with SVdP's Ozanam Manor transitional shelter.

At first, Vernon was skeptical because most shelters don't allow people's pets to accompany

1,975 : **665**
DOGS SERVED : **CATS SERVED**

them. However, SVdP is welcoming of residents' pets, thanks to the work of the Companion Animal Program, whose goal is to keep people and their animals safe, cared for and sheltered together.

SVdP is welcoming of residents' pets, thanks to the work of the Companion Animal Program.

"More often than not, guests aren't willing to let go of a companion animal. This is their last resort, their last love that remains with them, and they don't want to leave that animal — that dog, that cat — so they're willing to not go into a shelter," said CAP Manager Alberto Diaz. "It's been great and wonderful that we have been able to provide that shelter space."

115,032
POUNDS OF PET FOOD
DISTRIBUTED SINCE 2021

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CAP helps guests keep their animals healthy, provides food while in shelter, coordinates appointments with veterinarians, and hosts a quarterly animal health clinic with additional pet resources for anyone experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Thanks to CAP, Vernon was able to get Roscoe a kennel, bed, treats, and a leash. It also got him updated on vaccines, licensed, and certified as an emotional support animal.

Now that Vernon and Roscoe are in a stable environment, Vernon has recovered his health and is applying to apartments that he and Roscoe can make their permanent home. He has faith that they'll find a suitable place soon.

His only requirement? That there be a place to take Roscoe on walks and play fetch.



177
SPAYED AND
NEUTERED

1,254
PETS
VACCINATED

St. Vincent de Paul's Housing 2025 goal renews for 2025 with a focus on homelessness prevention.

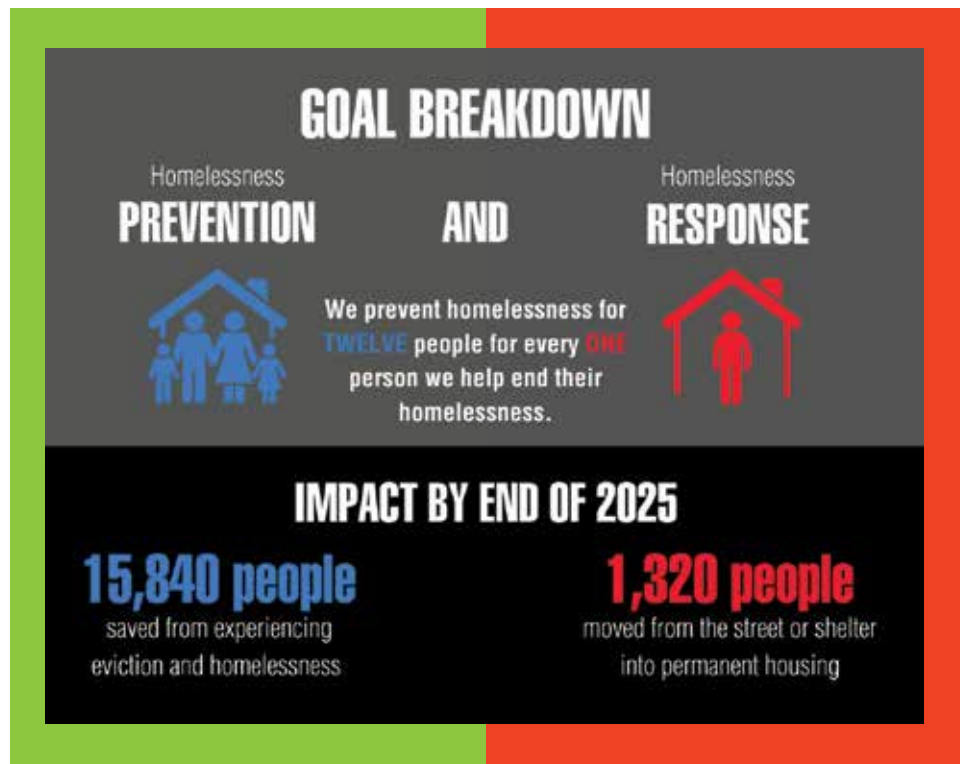
SVdP's updated goal is a response to a Maricopa County homelessness trend where more people are entering homelessness than are exiting.

According to a report from Maricopa Association of Governments, for every 10 people rehoused, approximately 19 people enter into homelessness.

"St. Vincent de Paul's 12:1 ratio, focused on homelessness prevention, challenges ourselves to do what we can to reverse the rising trend of homelessness that service agencies are seeing in the community. We realize that goal may be eyebrow-raising, but the need is eyebrow-raising. With our network throughout central and northern Arizona, we are ready for the challenge." SVdP's Chief Program Officer Jessica Berg says.

To achieve this goal SVdP seeks to prevent homelessness for 15,840 individuals by the end of 2025, while also rehousing 1,320 individuals experiencing homelessness in that same timeframe.

SVdP sees preventing homelessness as action-oriented, cost-effective, and a trauma alleviating solution for the most vulnerable in the community.



Arizona spends up to \$47,200 per homeless person annually on shelter, treatment, food, and other support services.

This is far more than the cost of preventing homelessness in the first place. SVdP's Homelessness Prevention team estimates that a low-income household living paycheck-to-paycheck needs \$2,000 to avoid homelessness during a crisis.

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