



# LOVE IN ACTION

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

FALL 2025 | ISSUE 2



## Together, we feed our neighbors in need

**INSIDE:** St. Vincent de Paul's new statewide food drive, Feeding Our Neighbors Together, calls on each community member to be a neighbor to those going hungry in the face of food insecurity. Read how your support puts food on the table, keeps families together and connects neighbors to the resources and love of the SVdP community. Thanks to you, those in need are never alone.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Message from the CEO
- 3 Marion and Bob Auray Companion Animal Clinic opens at SVdP
- 4 No family goes hungry on our watch
- 6 Fresh start complete with a new smile
- 8 Their Joy Is Priceless; Your Donation Is Free



# 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 Feeding Our Neighbors Together, a statewide food drive that harnesses the power of community to feed more people facing food insecurity across Arizona. With rising poverty levels and a growing demand for food bank assistance, feeding our neighbors in need is more important than ever.

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've also continued addressing the homelessness crisis in Arizona. This year, our focus has been 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 united 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



# Marion and Bob Auray Companion Animal Clinic opens at SVdP

**The clinic saw its first patients, including Lady Duchess—the beloved dog of workforce housing resident Jordan Madison**

By Andrea Ariza

**A SWEETHEART OF A PIT BULL NAMED LADY DUCHESS** trots into a new exam room, tail wagging. Behind her is her owner, Jordan Madison, smiling with relief and happiness at knowing his best friend is receiving the routine veterinary checkup she needs.

That was the joyful scene on July 2, the opening day of the Marion and Bob Auray Companion Animal Clinic, located at St. Vincent de Paul's main campus in Phoenix.

The long-anticipated, 3,000-square-foot facility features three exam rooms, a grooming room, dog and cat wards, a pet pantry, and a treatment room. It provides routine wellness checkups — including vaccinations, microchipping, grooming, and other essential veterinary services—all at no cost to those it serves. A rotating team of dedicated volunteer veterinarians provide these services through appointments, which are required.

The new animal clinic builds upon the foundation of SVdP's Companion Animal Program (CAP), which launched in 2021 to ensure that pets of the homeless and low-income receive the care they need alongside their owners also seeking services at SVdP.

"There's a heartbreaking gap in access to pet care for people experiencing homelessness or housing instability," said Alberto Diaz, SVdP's Companion Animal Program Manager. "This clinic is about more than medical services—it's about dignity, love, and stability for both pet and person."

So far, CAP has served more than 2,600 companion animals, with 67% belonging to individuals experiencing homelessness and 33% to families facing economic hardship. Currently, about 1 in 5 residents in SVdP shelters has a pet.

**"I wasn't going into shelter if I couldn't be with Duchess—it was either both of us or nothing," Jordan said.**

The duo lives together in SVdP's workforce housing. Duchess was one of the very first animals to be seen at the new clinic. For Jordan, the care there provides reassurance that his journey toward stability includes Duchess every step of the way.



SCAN TO  
READ MORE





# No family goes hungry on our watch

**Meet one family on the edge of hunger** and learn how SVdP's new statewide food drive will tackle Arizona's rising food insecurity.

By Troy Hill and Andrea Ariza

Feeding America estimates that 1 million Arizonans face food insecurity, with roughly 1 in 7 adults and 1 in 5 children lacking access to the food they need.

Take Marc and Caprise, for example. The Glendale couple already lived on a tight budget when they reached out to St. Vincent de Paul for food assistance.

An unexpected pregnancy grew their family to six children. They were excited to prepare for the newest addition when pregnancy complications started to plague Caprise. Their baby boy, Pharaoh, was born healthy, but Caprise was left effectively disabled and faces long-term recovery. This reduced the family's income down to one, but even Marc had to reduce his hours as a landscaper to help around the home.

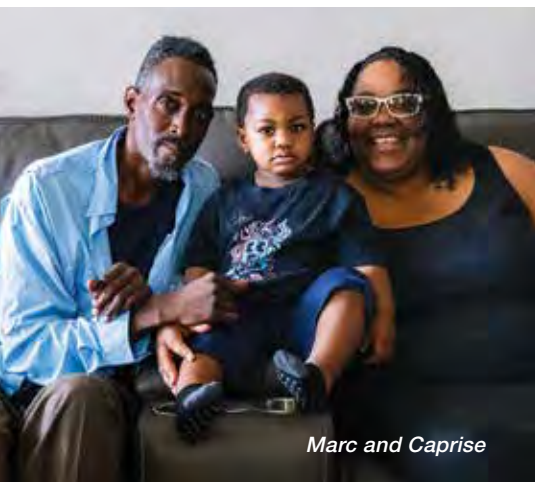
For a while they thought they were going to have to go without the normal dignities of life, like a fully furnished house or enough food for their whole family.

Agencies and organizations across the state, including SVdP, are seeing more families like theirs seeking support. Demand at Arizona's food banks has grown by 33% since 2020, rising from 450,000 people per month to more than 600,000. With food prices and the overall cost of living climbing, families living paycheck to paycheck are struggling more than ever just to keep food on the table.

That's why SVdP launched Feeding Our Neighbors Together, a statewide food drive aiming to raise an additional \$2.5 million and collect 500,000 more pounds of food to support SVdP's food mission.

"We cannot ignore the alarming reality the statistics reveal," said Cande de Leon, SVdP's Chief Mission Engagement Officer, who founded the drive. "No child,

SCAN TO LEARN  
MORE ABOUT  
FEEDING OUR  
NEIGHBORS  
TOGETHER.



Marc and Caprise





no parent, no senior should have to wonder where their next meal will come from.”

Last year, SVdP delivered 189,000 food boxes to households. If successful, Feeding Our Neighbors Together has the potential to deliver an additional 120,000 food boxes annually.

The drive officially launched Oct. 1 with a breakfast celebration in SVdP’s Phoenix Dining Room that fed 800 guests experiencing homelessness.

SVdP is positioned well to meet the state’s rising food insecurity, with partners across Arizona that can extend support statewide. It also comes with more than 80 community food pantries across northern and central Arizona and a ready-made network of Vincentian volunteers delivering food assistance directly to homes of families and individuals at risk of going hungry.

That’s how SVdP was able to be there for Marc and Caprise in their moment of need.

**“I contacted several organizations [for help], but St. Vincent was the only one that responded,” Caprise said. “It happened really fast. Most places you go to, it’s months before you get help.”**

Since then, the family has remained in close contact with the Vincentian volunteers. When a month gets really tight financially and the refrigerator starts to go bare, they call for help with a food box.

“I try to wait till we really need it,” Caprise said. “It’s such a relief ... We’re big, tall people. We have big, tall kids that are in sports. And they eat all day long. Just being able to have that extra help makes a difference.”

Thanks to the assistance from SVdP, Marc and Caprise have been able to get through their rough period and work toward getting back on their feet. Caprise has recovered enough that she’s looking for work she can do from home while watching their youngest, as well as looking at opportunities to further her education. That would also free Marc up to find full-time work again.

“We’re in a better place than we’ve been in before,” she said. “We’re only able to have that outlook because we got help when we needed it.”







**“The people here, they make you feel just like you’re human.”**

—ANTHONY CALDERON

# Fresh start complete with a new smile

Severely damaged teeth reminded Anthony Calderon of his past struggle with addiction, but **thanks to SVdP's Dental Clinic**, he has a new smile and regained confidence.

By TV Miskowski

**WHEN ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ACCEPTED ANTHONY CALDERON AS A DENTAL PATIENT**, he began to see the positive effects of his dedication to his sobriety and his faith.

Almost four years sober, Anthony dedicates his life to helping people still struggling with addiction. He works full-time at a treatment center helping people through their first 30-60 days after detox and attends multiple 12-step meetings a week, where he often sponsors newcomers.

Anthony built a whole new life for himself, but for a while he sported a smile from his past. Drug addiction left him with extensive tooth decay. Looking around for solutions, Anthony came across a community member who referred him to SVdP's Delta Dental of Arizona Oral Health Center, which provides charity dental care to uninsured patients.

"I made calls to SVdP, and I was blessed enough to be able to get in," he said.

All but six teeth had to be pulled, but Anthony was given dentures so convincing that no one would guess he had dental problems at all.

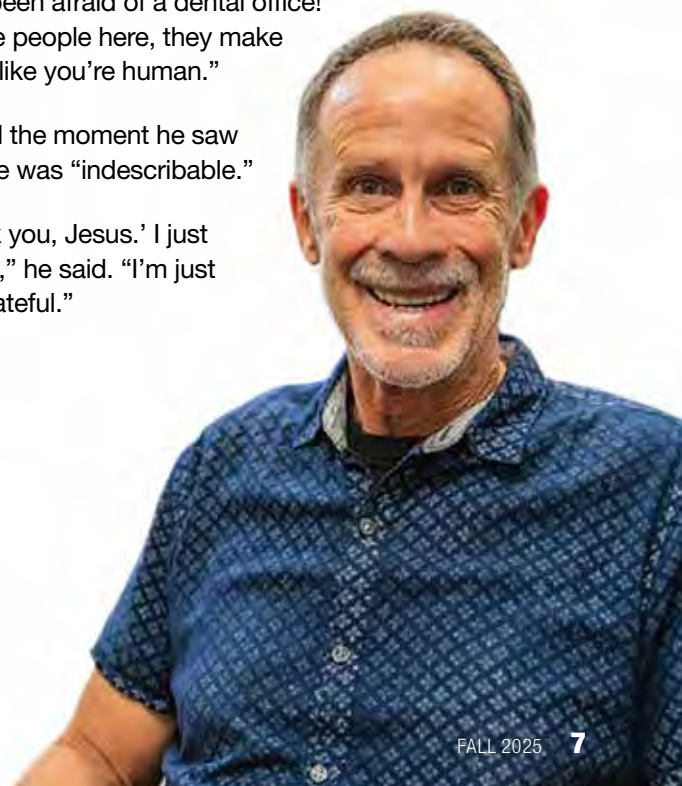
Anthony said he owes his new smile and confidence to Dr. Betzanahy Leyva, the assistant dental director at SVdP.

"Dr. Leyva has been with me every step of the way. She always made me feel so comfortable, and I've always been afraid of a dental office!" he said. "The people here, they make you feel just like you're human."

Anthony said the moment he saw his new smile was "indescribable."

"I said, 'thank you, Jesus.' I just felt gratitude," he said. "I'm just very, very grateful."

SCAN THE QR  
CODE TO READ  
ANTHONY'S  
FULL STORY







# Their Joy Is Priceless; Your Donation Is Free

## WE CAN GIVE YOU THE NUMBERS:

We serve **thousands of hot meals** a day.

We've **helped over 2,025 people** permanently end their homelessness.

And we **treated over 18,400 patients** in our medical, dental, and wellness clinics last year.

## But there are some things we can't quantify:

The joy that comes from a freshly cooked meal..

The comfort of clean clothes and a place to call home.

And the confidence that access to essential resources gives to take a step forward in life.

Your support of St. Vincent de Paul through the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit makes this and much more possible every day.

At no cost to you, you can make a greater impact than you could ever imagine.

For more information or to make your tax credit gift, please call **602.266. GIVE (4483)** or give online at [stvincentdepaul.net/give/arizona-charitable-tax-credit](https://stvincentdepaul.net/give/arizona-charitable-tax-credit)

SCAN TO  
LEARN MORE



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

**FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.**

SVdP Tax ID# 86-0096789 Arizona QCO Code 20540

PO Box 13600  
Phoenix, AZ 85002  
602.266.4483

[stvincentdepaul.net](https://stvincentdepaul.net)