



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Helping People in Need for 53 Years

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

“Hidden Treasure Lost, then Found At St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store!”



Left: Gail Emery, Right: Judy Roberts

How would you feel if you lost a precious memento from an earlier time in your life? Only to be reunited with it years later just after you've probably given up your search?

St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores accept a variety of donations such as furniture, clothing, kitchenware, jewelry, and much more. You never know what you might find.

In order to place a better value on some of the donated jewelry we receive, one of our Vincentians and Board Members, Kathleen Dasso, connected us with Judy Roberts, a jewelry appraiser. Judy

volunteered her expertise by visiting the St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores on several occasions in order to evaluate the jewelry donated to the stores. On one particular day, she came across a Tiffany & Co. bracelet with the following engraving: “GE '97, International Women's Hall of Fame.”

Judy knew that the bracelet might have significant emotional value to someone, and put the time into researching and finding its original owner.

After some investigation, Judy discovered that the bracelet belonged to long time Synchronized

Swimming Champion and Aquanauts Coach, Gail Emery.

Gail began her competitive career in Synchronized Swimming at the age of 8. Her mother, Sue Alf, founded the Aquanauts, a synchronized swimming club and training program based in Walnut Creek. Gail has been serving as its head coach for over three decades.

This bracelet was awarded to her by the Women's Sports Foundation during the 1997 International Women's Sports Hall of Fame, which recognizes the athletic and coaching achievements of women. Selections are made worldwide

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Dear Friends,

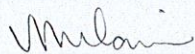
I am honored to have been chosen for a two-year fellowship with LeaderSpring, a signature leadership development program for executive directors and their organizations. LeaderSpring is an Oakland nonprofit. Its mission is to foster a powerful, equity-driven social sector by strengthening leaders and organizations. This fellowship program has equipped 240 social sector executives with knowledge, skills and networks needed to lead high-performing organizations and drive lasting change.

In this program, I hope to gain skills I can use to help SVdP become an even more effective organization, and further cultivate a professional network to build strategic collaborations among organizations that benefit the communities SVdP serves.

Partnerships between organizations in the cohort are forming. Community Energy Services Corporation, whose executive director Martin Bond is also in the East Bay 2018 Fellowship cohort, replaced 120 light fixtures in our Pittsburg and Pleasant Hill stores through their SmartLights program. The result is brighter lights inside and outside of SVdP facilities, making it safer for our visitors, volunteers and staff, annual savings of \$6,000 in energy expenses now used to serve the poor, and the reduction of SVdP's carbon footprint helping to preserve the Earth for future generations.

It is my hope that the LeaderSpring fellowship program will further strengthen the works of St. Vincent de Paul, bringing social and economic improvement to people in Contra Costa County living in poverty. Please keep me in your prayers as I go through this program.

God bless,



Melanie Anguay
Executive Director



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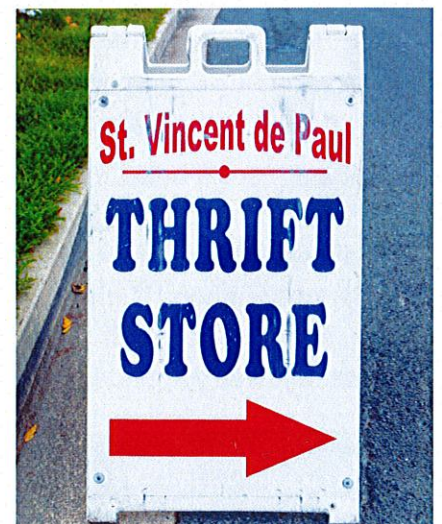
and are based on achievements, breakthroughs, innovative style and ongoing commitment to the development of women's sports. After reuniting her with her lost treasure, Gail was both extremely surprised and grateful that we had found it, as it was never meant to be donated at all. Gail believes the bracelet was erroneously identified for donation during a family move from one home to another.

"I'm more than happy to donate to this organization as I know it reaches out to so many people. I'm so grateful for Judy's and the SVdP Thrift Store's Staff's honesty and detective work! It's a good feeling doing good work for other people," proclaimed Gail.

The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift stores accept men's, women's, and children's clothing and accessories, housewares, furniture, hygiene products, and much more. You can drop off your donated goods during store hours (Pittsburg – 9am-5pm, Monday-Saturday OR Pleasant Hill – 9am-5pm, Monday-Sunday) or schedule a time for pick-up by calling (925)439-5060.

"Reuniting this bracelet with its owner has made us more attentive to the donated items we receive. If something looks like it could be of sentimental value to the donor, we'll make sure to do the research where we can so we can return lost treasures similar to this," says Anita Hernandez, Pleasant Hill's Thrift store manager.

SVdP Thrift Store sales are a key source of funds for the critical resources we provide—Medical Clinic, Dining Room, Workforce Development Program, and much more. The thrift stores also employ WFD trainees, strengthening their employment skills. We deeply appreciate all donors who contribute items that keep our stores thriving.

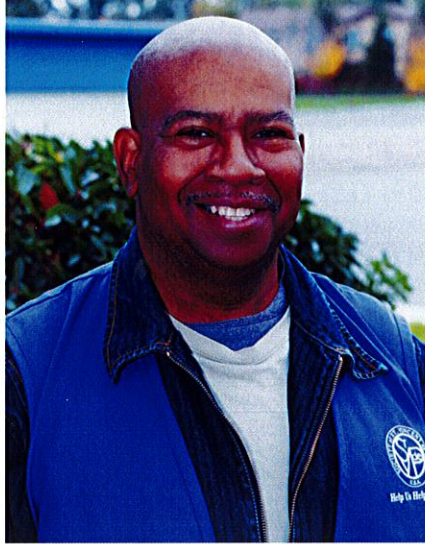


Client Testimonials—Workforce Development



“It has been very helpful. I came out of isolation, I wasn’t working, I wasn’t talking to people. Last time I looked for work before this program was 21 years ago. And now I got a new job! During my interview, I felt prepared and wasn’t that intimidated.”

- Elizabeth (Trainee, Cycle 9)



“After leaving work, I vegetated a bit. I had been looking for work before this program, but I hadn’t followed-up with them and was preoccupied with things at home. I tried going on the computer to apply, but I just didn’t have the resume skills, and that’s what this program has helped me with. I feel more prepared.”

- Lloyd (Trainee, Cycle 9)

Become a mentor!

If you are interested in donating your time and talents to St. Vincent de Paul, please consider becoming a Workforce Development (WFD) Program Mentor!

The WFD program pairs mentors with trainees to address topics like goal setting, stress management, budgeting, persistence, responsibility, employment opportunities and job search.

SVdP will offer the mentors training, ongoing group coaching and support. Training will include information about mentoring, specific communication tools, and time for Q&A.

Please contact info@svdp-cc.org for more details!

Welcome New Conference Presidents!

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County is fortunate to have 28 neighborhood-based branches (internally known as conferences) that provide various forms of assistance which may include food, clothing, furniture, gas, utility/rental assistance, and much more in addition to what is offered at the Pittsburg Family Resource Center.

Conference	Outgoing President	New President
Our Lady Queen of the World	Louise Salazar	Esther Tilton
Queen of All Saints	Linda Begley	Dawn Fiacco
St. Agnes	Kathie Hieb	Denise Dal Colletto
St. Callistus	Elba Donnelly	Rose Paz Wierenga

SVdP Presidents strive to be Servant Leaders who embrace their vocation to serve, identify and mentor other leaders, build a community of service, raise funds to support the mission, and stay grounded in their vocation. Thank you to our current conference presidents for the service that you’ve provided to St. Vincent de Paul over the years! You have truly changed the lives of many. We wish a warm welcome to our new leadership! We are looking forward to a bright future with you.

**Other elections may arise throughout the year.*

Thrift Stores' Sales Calendar & Upcoming Fundraisers

Don't miss out on great savings!

Pleasant Hill Store Hours

Mon-Sun 9am-5pm

Oct 30 & 31 Halloween Sale
50% OFF Halloween items

Nov 11 Veteran's Day Sale, **20% OFF Red Tags**

Nov 21 & 22 Thanksgiving Sale,
50% OFF Thanksgiving items

Nov 28-30 Bargain Days, **additional discounts on green tags**

Dec 19-23 Christmas Sale **50% OFF Christmas items**

Dec 28-30 Bargain Day, **additional discounts on yellow tags**

Pittsburg Store Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm

Oct 27, 28, 30, 31 Halloween Sale **50% OFF Halloween items**

Nov 10 & 11 Veteran's Day Sale, **25% OFF Red Tags with additional 20% OFF with proof of service**

Nov 17-22 Thanksgiving Sale, **50% OFF Thanksgiving items**

Nov 28 & 30 Yard Sale, **75% OFF**

Dec 18-23 Christmas Sale **50% OFF Christmas items**

Dec 29 & 30 End of Month Sale, **75% OFF all marked items**

Fundraisers

September 30—Friends of the Poor Walk @ St. Isidore Catholic Church, St. Agnes Catholic Church, and St. Paul Catholic Church

Register now: www.fopwalk.org

October 14—Bocce Ball Tournament @ Martinez Bocce Federation



November 27—Dinner Fundraiser for the Free Medical Clinic @ Gianni's Italian Bistro, San Ramon



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
of Contra Costa County

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