



Friends of the Poor Walk Unites Volunteers to Help those in Need

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County is not just a nonprofit charity, it is a community of compassionate, generous families dedicating their time to helping their neighbors in need.

Every year, in order to celebrate this community while continuing their mission to help the most vulnerable in their community, St. Vincent de Paul hosts the "Friends of the Poor Walk," a yearly walk to benefit families in need while celebrating the community spirit that makes SVdP what it is.

This year, the "Friends of the Poor Walks," in Contra Costa County took place on Saturday, September 24th in Richmond, Danville, and Concord. It was a great day of charity and community. You can still support the Friends of the Poor Walk at fopwalk.org



Volunteers gather in Danville to help raise funds to help people in need on Saturday, September 24th.

Ways you can help...

You can help people in need right now through St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County. Your donation, either online or mailed, helps feed, clothe, shelter & heal families in need in Contra Costa County IMMEDIATELY!

Just visit www.svdP-cc.org to donate online today! And know that families struggling to feed, clothe, shelter and care for themselves and their children are eternally grateful for your kindness and generosity. If you're interested in volunteering, call us today at (925)439-5060! We'd love to hear from you.



The Big La Bocce Ball Tournament was a Huge Success!

This year was St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County and Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa's most successful Bocce Ball Tournament EVER!

We raised over \$40,000 to FEED, CLOTHE, SHELTER & HEAL families, thanks to YOU!

It was an amazing day of Bocce sponsored by Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services, and delicious food provided by New Mecca Cafe. We hope to see you next year!

SVdP Contra Costa County September 2022 Newsletter



Workforce Development Graduate Angela Hudson From Needing Help to Being a Helper

When Angela Hudson walked into the St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County thrift store in Pittsburg in the summer of 2020, she had no idea her life was about to change. Angela was experiencing homelessness. Temporarily living with family in Pittsburg, Angela knew she needed help. She bounced between the homes of friends and family, sleeping in her car, and shelters, but these resources were not permanent solutions.

Angela found herself homeless after a bad end to a relationship. Angela sent her son to live with his father, who she shares custody with, while she attempted to figure out her living situation. Angela said being homeless felt impossible to overcome without help.

"I had been homeless for 5 years when I came into the thrift store," Angela said. "I saw a flyer for a Workforce Development Program. It helped me so much it's hard to say how grateful I am. But they helped me change my life."

The Workforce Development Program at SVdP is aimed at helping people overcome the barriers preventing them from finding and keeping a good job. Community mentors provide paid classroom instruction and the program is paired with paid part-time job training at one of 3 SVdP thrift stores. Participants also receive much-needed compassion, dignity and a sense of community.

Upon graduating, Angela found a well-paying job.

"I'm blessed to have found work as a community ambassador for the City of San Francisco. I get to help other people who are in the same situation I was in find and access services that help them back on their feet. It's very rewarding," Angela said. "I owe so much to the people who helped me. My mentor in SVdP's program, Shawanna, was such a great role-model and taught me so much about organization."

Angela said the SVdP WFD program taught her skills she would not have developed otherwise and helped her become a team player.

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"I owe a lot of thanks to a lot of people," Angela said. "I lived in shelters, in cars, with friends, and I took classes at Los Medanos Community College. They let me sleep in the parking lot."

"I am so thankful for SVdP."

Angela Hudson, WFD
Recent Graduate

Unfortunately, Angela's circumstances are not that uncommon. According to the Contra Costa Point-in-Time Count, a survey of the demographics of homelessness in the Bay Area, 39% of those sleeping on the street on the night of the count were homeless due to some sort of relationship dissolution. 27% were homeless due to arguing with a roommate, and 12% were homeless due to separation. For many, a disaster like this can set them back for years.

"I am so thankful for SVdP. I'm not sure I would have gotten by without them," Angela said. "I received care at the free medical clinic, food when I was hungry, and I can't express how thankful I am for everything my mentor in SVdP's program, Shawna, taught me. I even donate to SVdP. I want to support the work they do to help people."



Impact100 East Bay Helps SVdP and Dentists on Wheels Provide Dental Care for the Uninsured

Every year, over 100 caring, compassionate East Bay women come together to fund charitable efforts which touch their hearts, and help their neighbors in need - this group is Impact100 East Bay.

This year, the generous members of Impact100 East Bay have chosen to fund the Dentists on Wheels Pittsburg Free Dental Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul! On Saturday, September 24th, Impact100 East Bay awarded the free dental clinic with \$35,000 in funding!

This donation will provide treatment to hundreds of uninsured adults experiencing pain and tooth decay.

The FREE Emergency Food Pantry at SVdP - A Blessing for Families in Need Thanks to You

Your generosity and compassion is making sure families in Contra Costa County don't go to bed with empty bellies. Because of you, SVdP is able to run 18 emergency food pantries throughout the county - where families in need can receive food & support during hard times.

Your support allows these free food pantries to be a godsend for people in need, especially with the rising costs of food. Families in need receive a large supply of pantry staples, as well as meat and dairy products when available. These pantries do not just help with food - your support means they can write vouchers for clothing and furniture at SVdP's 3 thrift stores in Contra Costa. The emergency food pantry at the SVdP Family Resource Center in Pittsburg is open Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm.

Your donations to SVdP support the person-to-person work of SVdP's 680 volunteers throughout the county delivering the help needed at the moment - whether it is food, utility assistance, or car registration fees.

"That can make all the difference," SVdP Executive Director Claudia Ramirez said. "Your support can help someone get to work and provide for their family."

Your support helps families put food on the table - and provide the nutrition needed so their little ones can grow, and it creates a strong, loving community.

If you know anyone who is suffering from hunger, please give us a call at (925)439-5060. Together we can help feed, clothe, shelter & heal people in need.



Families are able to enjoy the holidays thanks to your support of SVdP's food pantries.



Thanks to your generosity, children in Contra Costa County don't need to go to bed hungry.



Your support gives families the help they need to get back on their feet after a tragedy.