



Society of  
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**SACRAMENTO**  
DIOCESAN COUNCIL

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JAN 2026

*click  
here!*





**SAVE THE DATE**



Society of  
**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**SACRAMENTO**  
DIOCESAN COUNCIL

*20th Annual  
Benefit For The Poor*

# *Illuminating* **HOPE**

*Inspiring Compassion,  
Community & Change*

**Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 | 5:30pm**  
**Fr. Tom Esselman | Dinner | Auction**  
*Hyatt Regency Sacramento*

**For More Information:**

Patricia Bosworth: 707-999-1948

[Benefit@svdp-sacramento.org](mailto:Benefit@svdp-sacramento.org)





# A MOST BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

BY OUR SPIRITUAL ADVISOR FR. MICHAEL KIERNAN



Dearest St. Vincent de Paul family:

We hear in the readings for the first day of the new year the beautiful words from the Book of Numbers:

The Lord bless you and keep you!

The Lord, let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

In the Responsorial Psalm the words “May God bless you in his mercy,” are also a fitting prayer for the beginning of a new year. Blessing a person, in the Bible, means praying they receive all kinds of material and spiritual benefits and we must ask God to bless us – not only when there are troubles and difficulties but every day of our lives – because our material, mental, and spiritual health always depend on God’s grace and assistance.

Every morning when we wake up we realize that we have both weaknesses and good intentions and we also realize that only the compassionate power of God can help us overcome our shortcomings and reinforce our good intentions. Every day of the year we need by God’s grace to remove from our hearts personal inclinations to selfishness, laziness, and hypocrisy, so we can fill them with the love and wisdom that God gives us.

This will help us to love unconditionally our difficult relatives, our friends, and the people experiencing hardship or poverty. Every day we need to pray with devotion and listen to the voice of God that is contained in the Holy Scriptures in order to renew our hearts with God’s mercy, kindness, and wisdom.

In our Catholic faith we are taught that peace and justice always go together and that we cannot separate them. We must aspire not to respond to evil with evil but to overcome evil by doing good and loving everyone, even our enemies, as we are commanded in the gospel.

So as we begin this new year, let us pray for peace– for peace of the heart, for peace in the family, for peace among all peoples and all nations of the earth. Let us ask our Lord to bless us as in the responsorial, to help us achieve true peace in our homes, communities and schools and attain a more just and peaceful social order in which all the fundamental rights of all peoples are respected.

Indeed it is a new year, but let us be mindful that it is still the season of Christmas where we meditate on the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ our Savior and the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of our Savior, and our mother. May her intercession help us to achieve the transformation of our hearts, as we begin this new time of grace and service, achieving for us hearts that are full of peace, intelligence and compassion!

Your brother in Christ, Fr. Michael



# President's Corner

SONJA CRAIGHTON, PRESIDENT, SACRAMENTO COUNCIL



## HUMILITY IS NOT SILENCE: MULTIPLYING OUR ABILITY TO SERVE

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, let us resolve to turn our quiet reflections into shared wisdom, ensuring that the lessons of the past become pillars of support for our neighbors in the months ahead.

Vincentians, by nature, are humble about their contributions. In many ways, that humility is why the Society of St. Vincent de Paul remains one of the best-kept secrets in the Catholic Church. But humility does not mean silence.

If we are honest, one of our best kept secrets and the most valuable gift we have as the Council is you — our Vincentian members — and the depth of experience you collectively carry.

That experience takes many forms: For some, it lives in governance, leadership, and stewardship; For others, it flows from a deep understanding of the spirit of our Vincentian charism; For many, it shows up as the quiet empathy that discovers and delivers hope in the crushing reality faced by our neighbors in need.

All of these gifts are needed. All of them are wanted. As Jesus once said, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” That truth remains with us today. When we share what has worked — in your Conference, your Council, your lived experience —we multiply our ability to serve. A small insight in one place can become a lifeline in another. A lesson learned in response to a specific need can help a neighbor elsewhere find hope more quickly, more gently, and more effectively.

This newsletter is not just about recognition. It is about sharing wisdom so that no one serves alone. If something has worked in your area — a practice, an approach, a way of meeting a particular need — we invite you to share it. In doing so, you are not speaking about yourself, but for your neighbors, and alongside your fellow Vincentians.

Together, we have more to offer — to one another, and to those we serve.

Email your stories, pictures, successes and lessons learned to:  
[Media@svdp-sacramento.org](mailto:Media@svdp-sacramento.org)



# WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEPHEN KRANK



We are thrilled to announce that Stephen Krank has joined St. Vincent de Paul Sacramento as our new Executive Director, officially beginning his role in December 2025.

Steve brings over two decades of deep-rooted experience within the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP). Most recently, he served as the Vincentian Services Manager for SVdP of Contra Costa County, where he spent 18 years dedicated to supporting local conferences, recruiting and training volunteers, and ensuring the mission remained centered on compassion and dignity.

Prior to starting with St. Vincent de Paul, Steve ran a 170-bed social-model detox facility for street alcoholics in Texas and facilitated a in-prison therapeutic community. Throughout his career, Steve has been a tireless advocate for those in need. While at SVdP of Contra Costa County he played a pivotal role in establishing the RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic and the Dentists on Wheels free dental program at St Vincent de Paul.

Known for his "servant leadership" style, Steve believes that helping people with love and respect is a lifelong calling. Please join us in giving Steve a warm welcome as he brings his wealth of knowledge and heart for service.

As we look forward to this new chapter, we also pause to recognize a significant milestone in our history. Steve succeeds Denise O'Brien, who recently retired after serving as our organization's very first Executive Director. Denise was instrumental in helping the organization grow in countless ways through her dedicated leadership. While we are excited about what lies ahead under Steve's guidance, Denise will be deeply missed. We are incredibly grateful for the value she added to our mission and wish her nothing but the very best in her well-deserved retirement.

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## UPCOMING VINCENTIAN FEAST DAYS

Jan 1st - Mother of God

Jan 4th - St. Elizabeth Seton

Feb 7th - Blessed Rosalie Rendu





## DIVINE MERCY'S HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

SUBMITTED BY ST. MARY/SACRED HEART CONFERENCE



On Sunday, October 26, Divine Mercy was filled with warmth and fellowship as the community hosted a Hospitality Sunday.

This special morning marked a beautiful milestone for the parish's newly established SVdP Conference. It was a heartening opportunity to step out in service

to parishioners, introduce the mission of the new conference, and welcome fresh faces into the fold. Through the generosity of those who attended, essential funds were raised to begin this new chapter of care, strengthening the bonds of our community from the very start.

## THE POWER OF GIVING: BUNDLE SUNDAY SUCCESS

SUBMITTED BY ST. MARY/SACRED HEART CONFERENCE

In October, the St. Mary/Sacred Heart Conference hosted its recurring Bundle Sunday, a vital community donation drive that event provides a convenient way for parishioners to declutter while giving back. Both parishes responded generously and several local teenagers stepped forward to volunteer, spending their day packing the collection truck.



The impact of this drive is twofold:

- Direct Support: Donated clothing, household items, and books directly benefit local families.
- Sustainable Assistance: Contributions help stock thrift store operations, with proceeds returning to the community to fund essential assistance programs.



## THANKSGIVING OUTREACH: BASKETS OF HOPE

SUBMITTED BY ST. MARY/SACRED HEART CONFERENCE



The spirit of giving continued at St. Mary/Sacred heart, where on November 22 Thanksgiving baskets were delivered to 13 local families. These were not just meals, but symbols of community care, featuring an abundance of food to accompany the traditional turkeys—including festive favorites like pumpkin pie and whipped cream.

To begin the day, Fr. George of St. Mary Parish offered a blessing over the food and a collection of donated blankets. The items provided neighbors with both physical warmth and the emotional comfort of knowing the community stands behind them.



## HELP US HELP OTHERS!

Support our mission through service.

Current opportunities include:

- Parish Conference Membership: Engage directly with local communities through food pantries, home visitation programs, and seasonal outreach initiatives.
- Thrift Store Operations: Assist with essential retail tasks, including donation processing, inventory organization, and providing a welcoming environment for our customers.
- The Exodus Project: Serve as a mentor to formerly incarcerated individuals in Sacramento or Solano County, providing vital support as they successfully reintegrate into the community.

Contact [Media@svdp-sacramento.org](mailto:Media@svdp-sacramento.org) for more information



## A PRAYER ANSWERED IN THE RAIN

SUBMITTED BY OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CONFERENCE

The spirit of charity was tangibly present on the Saturday before Christmas as the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference hosted its annual holiday food distribution.

The impact of this day was made possible thanks to an act of kindness from an anonymous member who provided all thirty turkeys. Complementing this gift, each family received a \$25 Walmart gift card and a fresh pie, offering both a festive dessert and the dignity of choice for additional holiday needs.

As the rainy-day event drew to a close a final, providential moment served as a beautiful reminder of the grace guiding this mission.

One dinner remained unaccounted for just as a woman emerged from the church who had just finished praying for her family's Christmas needs. Her overwhelming gratitude upon receiving that last meal was a profound witness to a prayer answered, ensuring she returned home not only with food for the table, but with the deep, lasting comfort of knowing she is seen and truly cared for by her community.

Through the quiet dedication of the Vincentian mission, thirty families in the community received complete turkey dinners; ensuring that thirty families experienced the tangible embrace of the community, turning a simple holiday dinner into a lasting legacy of care and compassion



# A SEASON OF COLLABORATION AND HERITAGE

SUBMITTED BY ST. VINCENT FERRER CONFERENCE



True community impact is rarely the result of a single hand; rather, it is the product of intentional collaboration, a truth beautifully illustrated during the St. Vincent Ferrer Conference's holiday outreach.

By partnering with the Knights of Columbus, SVF Elementary, and St. Patrick-St. Vincent High School, the conference provided 49 families with complete Thanksgiving meals. This support continued into December as those same families received gift cards and toys, fueled by the combined generosity of parishioners, school families, and Simbang Gabi Mass attendees.

This collaborative spirit also reached the Dream Center homeless shelter, where Vincentians served warm meals in November and December. During the November service, the SVF Elementary Student Council joined in, sharing the gift of presence with neighbors experiencing homelessness.

A highlight of the season was the celebration of Simbang Gabi, a cherished tradition that brings the vibrant richness of Filipino heritage to the very heart of parish life. On December 19, the conference co-sponsored a Simbang Gabi Mass, with members serving as hospitality ministers. This observance is more than a religious ritual; by centering these traditions, the parish honors the diverse identities that weave the fabric of the community.

Beyond holiday celebrations, the work of the DePaul Women's Center remains a steady beacon of hope. Every Tuesday, volunteers meet with neighbors to provide critical assistance, preventing water and electricity shut-offs.



# SACRAMENTO EAST

DISTRICT

Divine Savior - St. Mel - St. Lawrence  
Our Lady of the Assumption- St. Ignatius  
Presentation - St. John the Baptist  
Holy Trinity - St. John Vianney  
St. Katharine Drexel - St. John the Evangelist

## 90 TURKEY DINNERS AT ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

SUBMITTED BY ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CONFERENCE



Dozens of St. John the Evangelist SVDP Vincentians came together in a beautiful show of community spirit to gather food and prepare 90 boxes for this year's annual Turkey Dinner distribution.

These efforts ensured that local neighbors had everything needed to enjoy the warmth of a home-cooked feast, a gift that was met with deep and sincere gratitude.

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## YOUNG VINCENTIAN HAS A HEART FOR SERVICE

SUBMITTED BY ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CONFERENCE

In a display of compassion and resourcefulness, Sophie Holbus, a Junior SVdP President, brought the spirit of the season to life through her Thanksgiving food drive. The 8th grader turned her family's front yard into a hub of kindness, setting up a collection table from morning until evening on both Thanksgiving Day and the day after. Through her dedicated efforts, she gathered a bounty of donations to stock the SVdP food locker at St. John the Evangelist, ensuring our neighbors felt the care of their community.



# SACRAMENTO EAST

DISTRICT

Divine Savior - St. Mel - St. Lawrence  
Our Lady of the Assumption- St. Ignatius  
Presentation - St. John the Baptist  
Holy Trinity - St. John Vianney  
St. Katharine Drexel - St. John the Evangelist

## COMFORT AND CARE FOR STUDENTS IN TRANSITION

SUBMITTED BY ST MEL CONFERENCE



On December 3, 2025, a spirit of generosity filled the air as members of the St. Mel Conference gathered to prepare 136 backpacks for children in need. These bags were a true labor of love; the backpacks themselves, along with cozy hat and scarf sets, were hand-crafted by the talented SVdP Sewing, Knitting, and Crocheting Ministry. Each pack was carefully tucked with toiletries, socks, snacks, and school supplies before being delivered to five local schools. These gifts offer dignity and hope to students supported by the San Juan Unified School District McKinney-Vento Program, which serves children living in transition who lack a fixed or regular place to call home.

## A SIMPLE CALL REVEALS A HIDDEN STRUGGLE

SUBMITTED BY ST IGNATIUS LOYOLA CONFERENCE

True service begins with a listening heart and a willingness to simply "be there" for those in crisis. It is through this presence that the hidden struggles of our neighbors come to light. Recently, members of the St. Ignatius Conference answered a call for help that beautifully demonstrates the transformative power of simply showing up:

"Mr. W, who lives with blindness and multiple sclerosis, reached out after all his clothing was stolen. Our members responded immediately with clothes and toiletries, and soon discovered he was also struggling with food. Because his boarding house provides no meals, he had been living on Pop-Tarts and other microwaveable snacks. Volunteers returned with nutritious items he could manage on his own, restoring comfort, dignity, and a sense of connection.

His story is a reminder that many neighbors quietly face similar hardships. When we serve with compassion, Christ's love becomes visible. Our time, resources, and prayers ensure that no neighbor walks alone."



# SACRAMENTO EAST

DISTRICT

Divine Savior - St. Mel - St. Lawrence  
Our Lady of the Assumption- St. Ignatius  
Presentation - St. John the Baptist  
Holy Trinity - St. John Vianney  
St. Katharine Drexel - St. John the Evangelist

## GENEROSITY HELPS TURN MISSION INTO ACTION

SUBMITTED BY ST. KATHARINE DREXEL CONFERENCE



The autumn months brought a display of compassion for St. Katherine Drexel Conference in Amador County.

In October, the Walk for the Poor served as a moving testament to the power of community solidarity. Neighbors walked side-by-side, transforming a simple event into a vital fundraiser that directly addresses the needs of the most vulnerable in the local area.

This momentum continued through the county's Giving Tuesday initiative. The extraordinary generosity displayed by donors once again proved that the spirit of giving is alive and well. These contributions do more than just meet immediate needs; they provide a foundation of dignity and support for families navigating difficult seasons.

Currently, the focus has shifted to selling raffle tickets for the annual benefit grand prize trip to Hawaii Raffle. These three events represent the entirety of the conference's fundraising efforts for the year. The dedication shown during these campaigns is what allows the mission of the conference to be realized in the lives of those who need it most.

# PLACER/YUBA/ SUTTER/BUTTE

DISTRICT

St. Joseph Lincoln - Roseville - Sacred Heart  
St. Joseph Marysville - St. Teresa  
St. Isidore - Our Divine Savior

## EMPOWERING FAMILIES AT CHRISTMAS

SUBMITTED BY ST JOSEPH LINCOLN CONFERENCE

During the month of November, the Narthex was home to the Holiday Giving Tree, a symbol of the community's compassion. Financial donations were gathered from parishioners to provide gift cards for families seeking a little extra help with Christmas magic.

This gift card tradition evolved several years ago after families shared that they would like the opportunity to choose special gifts for their own children. In response, the program transitioned from physical gifts to gift cards, empowering parents to lead their own holiday shopping. Each child received a gift card, and a "Family" card was provided to help with groceries or other holiday needs.



To ensure a warm holiday meal, food bags were also prepared and distributed. By the final week of sign-ups, the program had grown to support 60 families, with more expected to join.

As December arrived, the need within the community remained significant, particularly for essentials like rent, utilities, and food. In just the first two days of the month, 12 calls for help were received—nine of which were for critical housing and utility support. Among those reaching out were four new families seeking a helping hand for the first time. Four of the 12 were new families.

## UPCOMING OZANAM ORIENTATIONS

Ozanam Orientations: SVdP Society rules require adequate training for our members. Every Vincentian needs to attend an Ozanam Orientation within the first year of joining & then after that every 3 years. Next Training: Feb. 7th at St. Ignatius, RSVP with Vivian Macaspac, [vmacaspac82@gmail.com](mailto:vmacaspac82@gmail.com) if interested



# PLACER/YUBA/ SUTTER/BUTTE

## DISTRICT

St. Joseph Lincoln - Roseville - Sacred Heart  
St. Joseph Marysville - St. Teresa  
St. Isidore - Our Divine Savior

## ROSEVILLE BRINGS HOLIDAY JOY TO HUNDREDS

SUBMITTED BY ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ROSEVILLE CONFERENCE

The spirit of community shined as St. Vincent de Paul Roseville joined forces with dedicated volunteers and local partners to bring warmth to hundreds of homes. Through the collective generosity of neighbors and sponsors, 310 families received turkeys and all the traditional trimmings, ensuring that the centerpiece of their holiday was a bountiful meal shared in dignity.

The success of this mission was made possible by an incredible network of supporters. Deep gratitude is extended to Thunder Valley, Baird Wealth Management, First American Title, NCL, Boys Team Charity, Lakeside Church and the Roseville 9th Ward Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints youth group.

The season's joy continued through the Christmas Program, which reached 145 children with toys and gifts. These offerings represented more than just packages under a tree; they were a message to local families that they are seen, valued, and supported by a community that cares deeply for its own.



# SOUTH SACRAMENTO/ ELK GROVE

DISTRICT

St. Peter/All Hallows - St. Anthony  
Good Shepherd - Holy Spirit  
Immaculate Conception  
St. Charles - St. Joseph

## HOLY SPIRIT AWARDED RENTAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

SUBMITTED BY HOLY SPIRIT CONFERENCE

The Sacramento Realtors Association Charitable Foundation awarded the Holy Spirit Conference a \$5,000 grant to support the ongoing mission of providing vital rental assistance.

For many neighbors, the difference between having a home and facing the unknown is often just a single month's rent. This gift is more than

a financial contribution; it is a act of compassion that ensures families can stay safe, warm, and together under their own roofs.

The partnership highlights the incredible heart of Sacramento's real estate community and their dedication to local stability, while also recognizing the importance of the work that Holy Spirit contributes in its commitment to lifting up those in need.



## CONFERENCE AND SCHOOL SHARE HOLIDAY CHEER

SUBMITTED BY HOLY SPIRIT CONFERENCE



The holiday spirit was in full bloom as the Holy Spirit Conference organized its annual Christmas Sharing Adoption program in conjunction with Holy Spirit Parish School. Twenty local families were "adopted," receiving an outpouring of support that included:

- Personalized Gifts: Thoughtfully chosen presents for every child and parent to open on Christmas morning.
- Holiday Provisions: Generous bags of groceries to ensure a festive and hearty Christmas meal.



Through the effort, families experienced not just the joy of receiving, but the comfort of knowing they are cared for by a dedicated community of neighbors.



# SOUTH SACRAMENTO/ ELK GROVE

DISTRICT

St. Peter/All Hallows - St. Anthony  
Good Shepherd - Holy Spirit  
Immaculate Conception  
St. Charles - St. Joseph

## SINGING, GIFTING AND HOLIDAY SPIRIT ABOUND

SUBMITTED BY ST JOSEPH - ELK GROVE CONFERENCE

There is no sound quite as beautiful as children's voices raised in song for those who need it most. This holiday season, the students of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and the members of SVDP Elk Grove brought the gift of music to the residents of Bruceville Terrace Convalescent Home, turning a quiet afternoon into a celebration of connection.



The spirit of giving continued to shine through the incredible kindness of the parishioners at SVDP Mission Church in Rancho Murieta.



Thanks to their abundant contributions to the Giving Tree, gifts were distributed to neighbors in need radiating the kindness of the season throughout the community. The conference supported 275 families throughout the season.

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## NEIGHBORS NOURISHING NEIGHBORS

SUBMITTED BY IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CONFERENCE

The Immaculate Conception Conference ensured that the warmth of a holiday meal reached dozens of local homes.

This year's impact included: Thanksgiving blessings of 45 food boxes, complete with turkeys and all the trimmings, Christmas cheer with 45 festive food boxes featuring holiday hams.

These special holiday efforts were held in addition to the vital, ongoing Saturday food distributions that serve the community week in and week out.

A particularly heartening highlight of the season was the involvement of the youth from the Confirmation classes. When a community comes together—across all generations—to share its resources, the result is a powerful testament to the strength of faith in action.

## FELLOWSHIP, PURPOSE AND JOY AT ST. JOSEPH

SUBMITTED BY ST. JOSEPH CONFERENCE



The fall season brought a renewal of activity and purpose at St Joseph Conference.

The group enjoyed meaningful fellowship with other North State conferences during the Annual North State District Meeting at the Red Lion Hotel in Redding on October 18th.

The recent government shutdown triggered a significant surge in calls for help, leading to 53 home visits in October compared to 36 in September. These visits are the heart of their mission, and one encounter stood as a powerful testament to why this work matters.

During a visit to a grieving gentleman who had recently lost his wife, visitors were able to provide not just physical resources and connections to the Redding Rancheria, but spiritual solace. When asked to pray, the man dropped to his knees, finding the comfort he needed most. The home visitors came away from that visit, having experienced Gods Grace and felt blessed to have seen the face of Christ in that gentleman.

The final months of the year were marked by both remembrance and joy: In observance of All Souls Day in November, departed members were honored with a beautiful display of candles and photographs, recognizing their lasting legacy of service. The December 7th Christmas Bazaar at St. Joseph School was a resounding success. From homemade tamales to autographed books by local author Doug Hui, the generosity of donors, bakers, and crafters was overwhelming.

During the December Christmas party, Treasurer Peggy Niswsander was named Member of the Year. Peggy's tireless dedication as a mentor, caller, and friend embodies the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.





## EMBRACING THE GRACE OF GROWTH

SUBMITTED BY ST. JOSEPH CONFERENCE

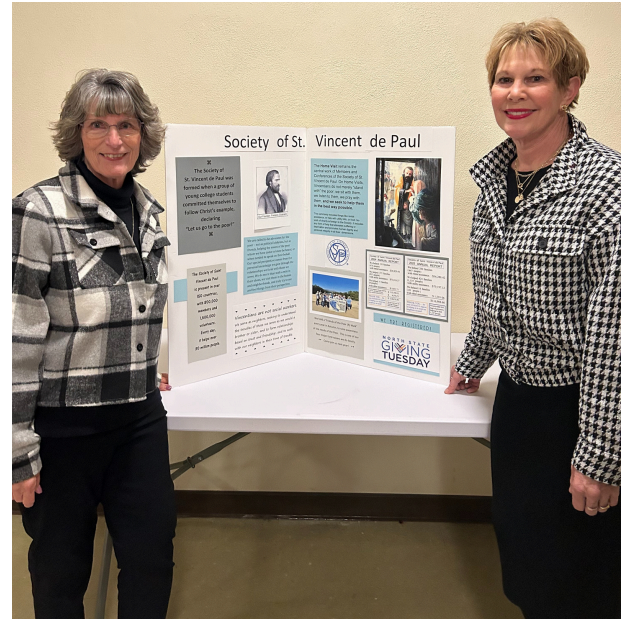
Expansion is on the horizon for the St. Joseph Conference, having received a \$13,000 grant to support women with children, meanwhile efforts are underway to bring support to the South County communities of Anderson and Cottonwood.

The Community Foundation of the North State awarded the conference \$13,000 from its Women's Fund. These funds are a lifeline, specifically designated to empower single mothers and caregivers who are balancing the demands of work or education with the rising costs of living. Many thanks to Grant writer, Lorna and all who contributed with ideas, facts and support.

Through collaborative meetings with Rev. Raj Derivera and committed parishioners, a foundation is being built to have fully trained teams on the ground in Anderson and Cottonwood by January 2026. This expansion ensures that no neighbor in our reach is left behind.

As the new year begins several cherished, long-time volunteers are transitioning into retirement at the same time the service area is widening. The need for new callers and home visitors has become a critical priority. Please keep this mission in your prayers. The community is invited to step into these new roles, turning these growing pains into a legacy of hope and compassion for years to come.

While these challenges are real, the impact of reaching more families in South County and supporting more mothers through the Women's Fund makes every hurdle worthwhile. The opportunity to touch more lives is a blessing that outweighs the struggle of transition.







# Rooted in Love Delivering Hope

**2026 West Region  
Meeting April 30-May 2  
Seattle ▶**



# VOICE FOR THE POOR

## COLLABORATIVE ADVOCACY: STRENGTHENING OUR SUPPORT NETWORK

SUBMITTED BY DOT O'CONNOR

The Homeless Collaborative at the Diocese of Sacramento recently hosted a pivotal meeting, marking a significant step forward in deepening community support for our unhoused neighbors and low-income families.

The gathering brought together key organizations—including representatives from Kaiser, Molina, HealthNet, Anthem Health, the City of Sacramento, and First Step Communities—to focus services available for these communities.

Organizations provided detailed presentations centered on managed care plans and delivery of community services.

This collaborative spirit reinforces the commitment to ensuring that no member of the community is left without a voice or a path to support.



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## OPPORTUNITY TO ADVOCATE

We invite Vincentians who are passionate about supporting those in need within their communities to consider becoming advocates. The Voice for the Poor initiative in the West Region is actively seeking at least one representative from each district or conference to join this important effort. By participating, you can help amplify the voices of those who are underserved and contribute to meaningful change in your area.

### **Upcoming Information Zoom Session for Vincentians:**

Everyone is welcome to join an introductory Voice for the Poor Information Session, which will be held via Zoom. The session provides an opportunity to connect with fellow Vincentians and learn more about how you can get involved in advocacy efforts.

- Date: February 11, 2026
- Time: 6:30 PM
- How to RSVP: Please send an email to [dotoconnor@gmail.com](mailto:dotoconnor@gmail.com) to confirm your attendance by Feb 7, 2026.

# TRANSITIONS TO PERMANENT HOUSING (TPHS)

## A STORY OF NEW BEGINNINGS

SUBMITTED BY BRIAN POWERS, TPHS CHAIR

A profound transformation happens when a family moves from crisis to stability.

Recently, the TPHS program had the privilege of supporting a single mother and her two children who were seeking a fresh start after escaping domestic violence.

Thanks to swift action and resources provided by the TPHS program, the family was able to get critical move-in costs covered.

The impact of this support was best captured in a heartfelt note received shortly after the family secured their keys:

"You all have no idea how much it means to me that not only have you helped me and my children secure housing, but you worked with me quickly despite the obstacles. I am beyond grateful for all of you... This is something I will never forget."

This success story is a testament to the importance of the TPHS program and the collective effort of our supporters. By removing financial hurdles and acting with urgency, we aren't just providing a roof—we are helping families reclaim their safety, dignity, and hope for the future.

The TPHS program is expanding to a diocesan-wide initiative to deepen its impact on housing stability and homelessness prevention. This program offers critical rental and move-in cost assistance, to transform the lives of neighbors in need.

Thank you to everyone who makes this life-changing work possible.







St. Vincent de Paul of Sacramento uses our Thrift Store to employ our community & help fund our charitable programs. Whether you're shopping, volunteering or donating you're helping.

## TRADITION CONTINUES WITH TOY GIVEAWAY



From December 12th–14th, the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store celebrated a jolly tradition with its 5th Annual Christmas Toy Giveaway. This cherished community event brought the joy of the season to the Thrift Store floor as Santa and his Elves made their special appearance, ensuring that every family got to experience the magic of the season.



This year, the store was honored to welcome families, sharing in the holiday spirit by distributing gifts to 232 local children.

The magic of the season was truly felt through cherished photos with Santa and a special raffle for 18 bikes, made possible by a remarkably kind donation from Sacramento Marketing Consultants AdMail West.

To join in next year, be sure to sign up for our emails by [clicking here](#) & follow St. Vincent de Paul Sacramento Thrift on social media. We appreciate the opportunity to offer this Christmas event every year & we extend our gratitude to all who participated!



## FUNDRAISER PROVES FAITH IN SECOND CHANCES

In October 2025, community came together for Exodus Project's annual fundraiser, marking an inspiring moment of collective support and shared purpose. Thanks to the generosity of donors, partners, and supporters, Exodus surpassed its \$50,000 goal to support transitional housing for individuals returning home from prison and jail. These funds directly strengthen efforts to provide safe, stable housing and critical support during one of the most vulnerable stages of reentry. The success of this fundraiser reflects not only financial generosity, but a deep belief in second chances, dignity, and the power of community to create lasting change

While the milestone of surpassing \$50 million reflects a profound commitment to restoration, the journey is far from complete. There remains an urgent need for additional funding to support the transitional house(s). This funding addresses a significant barrier to successful reentry: housing instability. By securing these resources, we ensure that those returning home have a stable environment to begin their next chapter.

Donations from the St. Vincent de Paul community are deeply appreciated as this vital work continues. To make a donation please visit: <https://www.svdp-sacramento.org/exodus>.







**EXODUS**  
**PROJECT**  
a pathway to re-entry

# OPEN HOUSE

## New Office

Join Catholic Charities and Exodus Project for an Open House at our new Fairfield offices.

Meet the Bishop, tour the new space, and connect with our teams as we continue to serve the community.

**01.23.2026**

**10AM- 12PM**

**823 JEFFERSON ST.  
FAIRFIELD, CA94533**

Register here:





## Butte & Tehama Counties

The Disaster Case Management Team provides case management for survivors of natural and manmade disasters. Walking alongside them as they work towards long-term disaster recovery, case managers help connect survivors to resources to meet their financial needs, while also offering emotional support and connection.

# Team Effort Accesses \$515,000 for Park Fire Survivors

## PARK FIRE DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY IMPACT



**158 Individuals Assessed For Needs**  
**109 Cases Assigned**

**\$373,466.23** Unmet Needs Funding Accessed

**\$108,748.21** Funded in Simple Unmet Needs

**\$18,098.97** SHOP Funding Distributed

**\$15,339** Tool Replacement Fund

**40** Water Tanks Distributed

The St. Vincent de Paul Disaster Case Management program successfully concluded operations for the 2024 Park Fire.

Working in close coordination with the Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation, Northern Valley Catholic Social Services, and the Boys and Girls Club of Northern California, the team empowered fire survivors helping them access over half a million dollars in direct funding for their long-term recovery.

In addition to direct case management, as Disaster Case Management Chairs for the Park Fire Long-Term Recovery Group, SVdP provided mission-driven mentorship and administrative support essential to a multi-organization team. By grounding logistics in a spirit of service, SVdP ensured that case managers had both the resources and the guidance needed to help survivors rebuild their lives with dignity.

The 2024 Park Fire was the fourth-largest wildfire in California history, burning 429,603 acres and impacting four counties—Butte, Tehama, Plumas, and Shasta—while destroying over 700 structures.





## Butte & Tehama Counties

The Disaster Case Management Team provides case management for survivors of natural and manmade disasters. Walking alongside them as they work towards long-term disaster recovery, case managers help connect survivors to resources to meet their financial needs, while also offering emotional support and connection.

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# PARK FIRE SURVIVOR RECEIVES TRUCK TO REBUILD LIFE

When Esther left her home at the base of the Sierra Nevada foothills on July 24, 2024, for a routine trip to Chico, she had no idea it would be the last time she saw her home standing.

A native of Jamaica who had lived in major U.S. cities, Esther had moved to the region years ago in search of her own "slice of paradise." Esther takes pride in living simply and off the land, she talks of growing morel mushrooms and gathering native plants.

She had been living with her daughter in a small home on the property, and on July 24<sup>th</sup> she got a ride into town like she had many times before to take her teenage daughter to school 45 minutes away. When the Park Fire swept through the foothills, they were unable to return to the property to save any belongings. They lost everything, including the pickup truck she relied on to haul and sell firewood for her livelihood.

The transition to city life in the aftermath of the fire was difficult for Esther, who deeply missed the solitude of her mountain home. Without a vehicle, she was left without an income and without a way to visit her land. Recognizing these barriers, her St. Vincent de Paul case manager helped her navigate the recovery process and access critical funding to purchase a replacement pickup truck.

This vehicle is more than just transportation; it allows Esther to begin earning an income again and facilitates the long, slow journey of rebuilding on her property. Focused on the future and remaining steadfastly positive, EP looks forward to the day she can harvest morel mushrooms on the land she loves.





Sacramento, Amador, Placer and El Dorado Counties

LISTOS is an initiative by the California Office of Emergency Services that aims to bring disaster preparedness information to vulnerable populations, such as low-income families, seniors, individuals with disabilities, unhoused individuals, geographically isolated households and non-English speakers by partnering with community-based organizations.

## LISTOS PARTNERSHIP

### SVDP LISTOS PARTNERSHIP MAKING STRIDES

The St. Vincent de Paul Listos program continues to make significant strides in its mission to provide life-saving disaster preparedness resources across Sacramento, Amador, and El Dorado Counties. Between October and December 2025, the team engaged with 2,594 individuals through dedicated event outreach and preparedness trainings.

A highlight of the period was the program's first-ever document scanning event held in October at The Four Seasons at El Dorado Hills, a 55+ community in El Dorado County. This proactive initiative allowed residents to have essential documents—critical for recovery after an evacuation—scanned onto secure USB drives for their "go bags," ensuring they are prepared for the unexpected.

The programs impact has been strengthened by recent regional partnerships. By working closely with the Offices of Emergency Services and Public Health in El Dorado and Amador Counties, the team is ensuring community members have direct access to expert guidance and local recovery resources.

Inclusion remains at the heart of the Listos mission. During this quarter, the SVdP Listos team conducted targeted outreach and specialized trainings for Hmong and Spanish-speaking communities in Sacramento while also participating in outreach events for veterans, the unhoused, and formerly incarcerated individuals.





# SACRAMENTO DIOCESAN COUNCIL

## TOP HAT AWARDS

Vincentians gathered Dec. 6th for the annual “Top Hat” luncheon, reflecting and celebrating all that they accomplished in 2025. Among those honored was Pat Bosworth, who was awarded the Top Hat Award for her years of dedication. To view more photos and the program, which includes a complete list of honorees, [Click Here](#).



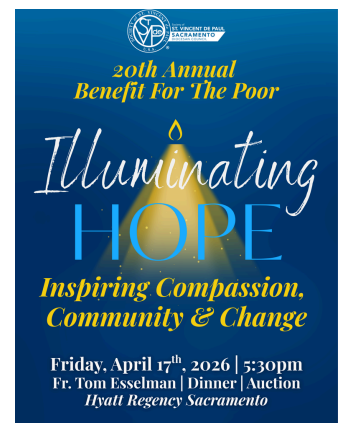
## BENEFIT FOR THE POOR - APRIL 17TH, 2026

### SPONSOR, ADVERTISE OR REGISTER ONLINE NOW

There are many ways to support our annual fundraiser!

1. Sponsor a table.
2. Attend the event as a guest.
3. Advertise in our Program & Benefit Website.
4. Contribute to our Silent Auction by donating an item or service.
5. Place a bid in our Silent Auction. (Opens April 11th)
6. Share with your friends!

For more information contact Patricia Bosworth at 707-999-1948 or email [benefit@svdp-sacramento.org](mailto:benefit@svdp-sacramento.org)



Whether through prayer, service, advocacy, or sharing your story — there is a place for you in this mission.