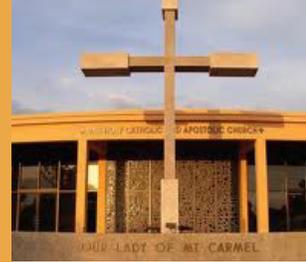




THE Vincentian

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference December 2014



Thanksgiving Food Drive Tremendous Success



Janet and John Kovach spent countless hours organizing the distribution of food boxes and turkeys to 230 families.



Treasurer Janet Richwine keeps count of turkeys picked up by Gary Monteilh and Bob Erickson.

VINCENTIANS & MT. CARMEL COMMUNITY ,



Lord Jesus, you who willed to become poor, give us the eyes and a heart directed toward the poor, help us recognize you in them - in their thirst, their hunger, their loneliness, and their misfortune.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul-OLMC would like to thank each and everyone who has dedicated their time and efforts in making our annual Thanksgiving Turkey Saturday such a tremendous success. We had countless individuals donating their time, monies and food to ensure that our families living within our boundaries could also give thanks for their blessings.

Through your generosity we were able to provide Thanksgiving dinners to **several hundred families** who otherwise would not have been able to celebrate this holiday. We are proud and thankful that we are blessed with such caring Parish community members. God bless each and everyone for all your help and generosity.

Every time when we visit the poor in their homes and pray with them, sort food , stock our pantry or pack a food box, provide financial assistance to keep a working family in their home, offer loving encouragement to boost someone’s dignity and self-worth, show love to our neighbor by word or action, God’s grace renews and strengthens us because we have said yes to his call.

Have a Blessed Merry Christmas, and may God bless you and yours this New Year.

Julian L. Natividad, President SVdP-OLMC

The Answer to My Prayer

(by Adelheid Thieme)



At the end of September, Ela and I visited Paula, who had been enjoying a comfortable life until it was drastically changed by an accident. After her marriage had broken up, she had invested time and energy into obtaining her Master's degree in Education. With the alimony that she received and her salary as a 6th grade teacher, she was able to support her four children.

However, all of this changed suddenly one day in June when she was driving her children to school. In the parking lot, she bent over to retrieve a backpack from inside her car, lost her balance, fell and injured her neck. Fortunately, her cervical fracture was diagnosed immediately, and she was undergoing treatment that would probably prevent her from complete paralysis. However, in the meantime, while the cervical vertebrae in her neck were healing, she was unable to work, and it was very unlikely that she would ever be able to return to her teaching position.

Due to the severity of her injury, Paula had been approved for SSI Social Security benefits. But it would take at least two more weeks before she would receive her first disability check. In the months since her fall, she had used her savings to cover expenses, but now her bank account showed a negative balance and she had maxed out her credit card.

With no family to rely on for financial help and the alimony payment only covering a portion of her rent, she was going to be evicted if she did not pay the full amount of her rent by the end of the month. The apartment manager was unwilling to work with Paula, arguing that the apartment complex would be legally obligated to show leniency to all tenants if an exception was made for Paula to stay in her apartment without a rent payment. Tempe Community Action Agency in Tempe had helped her once two months ago, and she would not qualify for assistance for another ten months.

Paula was desperate. How could she and her children tolerate the September heat without a roof over their heads? How would the children be able to attend school? Where would she find food? Would she be able to even survive with her cervical fracture? Paula was sick with worry, knowing that she had no place to go. She had two days left before she needed to make her full rent payment, and getting help from the St. Vincent de Paul Society was her last hope.

When we brought in two banana boxes full of food, Paula had tears of joy in her eyes. At least the most urgent need for food was taken care of. Thanks to our gracious donors, we could also afford to pay the remainder of her September rent. Paula broke into tears when she heard that her September rent would be fully covered. "Last night," she said, "I was unable to sleep. I cried and prayed that the Lord would help me and my children. And here you come and provide exactly what I need. You are the answer to my prayers. Praise the Lord."

A Baby Saved

(by Lisa Blevins,

Tempe Campaign Director, 40 Days for Life)

Praised be Jesus Christ now and forever! On November 4, 2014, a baby was saved at the Tempe Planned Parenthood because two and many more were gathered in His name.

A mother of two children who was 18 weeks pregnant had canceled two prior appointments with the Tempe Planned Parenthood and was scheduled to have her first abortion appointment. But, by the grace of God and the continued prayers and witness of those on the sidewalk, she did not even walk into Planned Parenthood. Instead she saw the prayer warriors' sign regarding help and walked over to them. They were able to guide her to the Aid to Women Center for true life affirming help. This mother said, "I see you guys here all the time and knew you would help."

Her story is one of courage and strength. She is being pressured by the baby's father and her family to abort because of lack of money. We have seen this so many times in Tempe. But, as we know, there are many people willing and able to help.

For example, the Aid to Women Center spent unplanned time counseling and encouraging her. They provided her with needed maternity clothes. She received free ultrasounds that she shared with much excitement with one of the prayer warriors. She talked about how the baby was doing somersaults and sucking its thumb. She sent a text message saying, "My baby is beautiful and big, thank you for today. I can't believe what I was gonna do, bless you."

This mother has two younger children and felt called to ask for food assistance and

clothing for her children. Well, helping hands went to work again. **The Saint Vincent de Paul Society from OLMC provided two food boxes and two gift cards redeemable for clothes at the SVdP thrift store.** These helping hands fed and clothed the now growing family. And it all started with prayer witnesses on the sidewalk!

Maria's Letter to OLMC_ SVDP

My name is Maria. I have been blessed all because of your help and the food you bring me when I am in need. And I thank you very much for it. I am a very sick person, and I have a neighbor who is always there to help. She lives across the street of me and she tries to check on me when she can. Her husband got deported to Mexico many years ago, and he left her to care for her three sons. She is always struggling to make ends meet every month.

Please help her and her sons. She is a very honest and caring person and very nice, too. She and her sons go to church every Sunday and do a lot of praying. She does not speak English, but her sons do. She has no money to buy her sons gifts for Christmas. Maybe you can help her with rent or her electric bill so that she can buy gifts for Christmas.

God be with you. Thanks to all volunteers for their help.

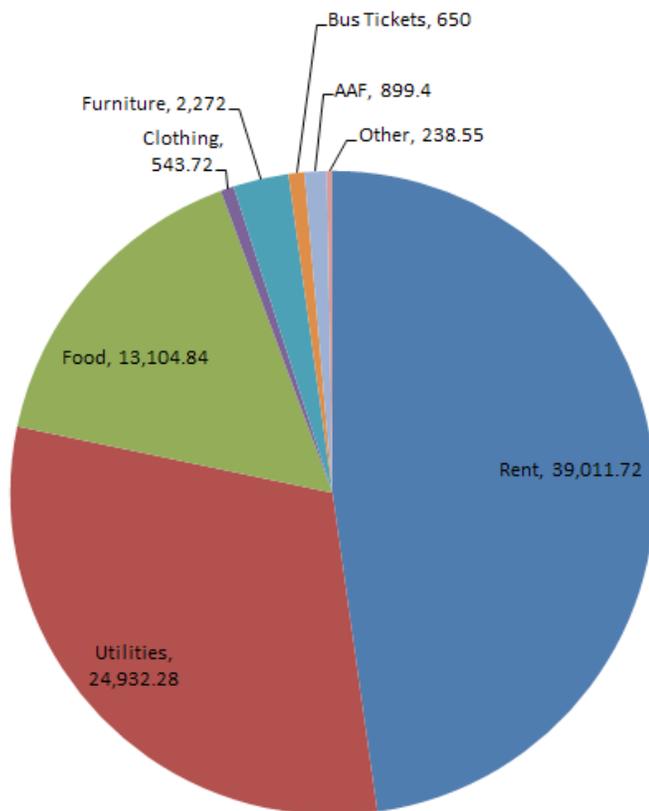
(We helped Maria's neighbor with her electric bill and brought her food. She and her sons will be adopted by a parish family for Christmas.)

Annual Report (October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2014)

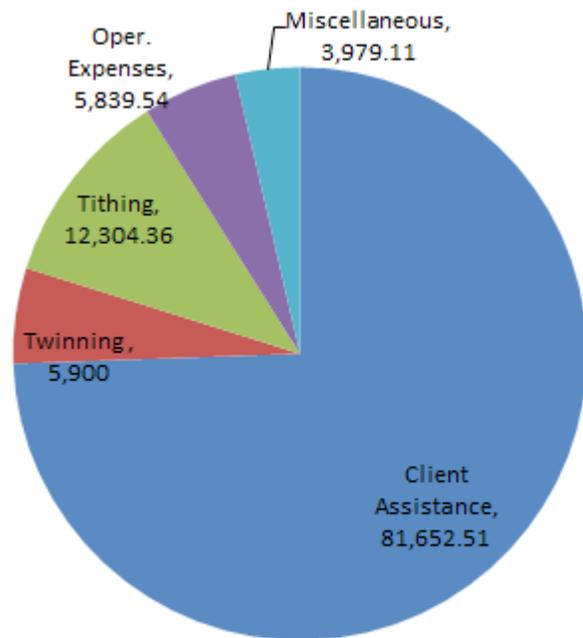
Thanks to the generosity of many compassionate and kind-hearted people within our community, we were again able to assist many of the families and individuals that rely on us for help in their time of need. We try to be good stewards of the monies entrusted to us, and we thank all those who support faithfully with their time, talents, and prayers.

At the end of the fiscal year, we would like to give you an overview of the assistance provided by our SVdP conference at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

2013-14	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
Deliveries	537	397	424	423	1781
Food Boxes	878	794	848	846	3366
Financial Assist. Cases	62	82	133	145	422



Total Financial Assistance to local clients: \$ 81,652.51



Total Disbursements: \$ 109,675.52