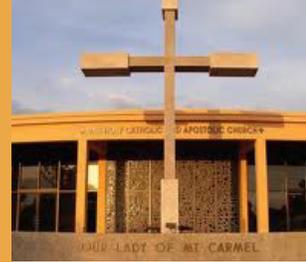




THE Vincentian

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference December 2016



visit us online at <http://olmcstvincentdepaul.weebly.com>



Adopt-A-Family 2016

GIVE WARMTH. GIVE LOVE. GIVE HOPE.

Add joy to your own holiday by giving Christmas to a needy family. Our Adopt-A-Family program provides a happy Christmas for families that have a hard time buying presents for their young children. If you are interested, please contact

AAF@svdp-olmc.phxcoxmail.com. More information is available on our website at <http://olmcstvincentdepaul.weebly.com/adopt-a-family.html>.



Arizona Charitable Tax Credit

GIVE TO ARIZONANS AND GET BACK FROM ARIZONA.

The state of Arizona provides an enormous incentive for taxpayers who donate to certain qualifying charities like St. Vincent de Paul. Thanks to the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit, you can donate up to \$800 (for couples filing jointly) or \$400 (for individuals) and get it right back on your Arizona tax return. This is not a tax deduction, but a tax credit, which means **you will get your donation back dollar for dollar** when you file your tax return.

For more information about this way of supporting our ministry, please see the tax credit examples at

<http://charitytaxcreditaz.stvincentdepaul.com>

Contact us

Address: St. Vincent de Paul Society, 2121 S. Rural Road, Tempe, AZ 85282

Tel.: 480-966-1974 (clients call for assistance Mon. - Sat. 9:00-11:00)

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Contents

- 1 Adopt-A-Family 2016
- 1 Arizona Charitable Tax Credit
- 2 A Roll-over Accident: A Story of God's Mercy and Grace
- 3 ASU Writing Programs' Back-to-School Initiative
- 4 Financial Report Fiscal Year 2015/16
- 4 OLMC School Supporting Thanksgiving Food Drive

A Rollover Accident: A Story of God's Mercy and Grace

A few months ago, my partner and I made a home visit to a family who had requested food, diapers, and rental assistance. We were greeted by a pregnant woman and her teenage daughter, who helped us carry our two large food boxes, frozen meat, and diapers into their small apartment. As we entered the apartment, we noticed a jumble of various items, unpacked boxes, children's toys, a baby's playpen, and a kitchen in disarray. The mother apologized for the clutter and explained that she had moved in a few days before.

We inquired about her request for rental assistance. What we heard was a story of God's Mercy and Grace.

Several months ago, the woman, her husband, her three children and a friend were driving to the Grand Canyon. When they reached Flagstaff, it started to rain. On the slick highway, they lost control of the vehicle; it skidded and rolled over.



Showing us photos of the accident, the woman said it was a true miracle that they had all survived the accident. The children were completely unharmed, her husband had some broken ribs, the friend required a neck brace, and she had a few large bruises, but had not lost the baby.

As a result of the accident, however, they had hospital bills to pay, and the husband, who worked at a facility serving autistic children,

was on light duty with reduced hours. Because of their lack of funds, they had already given up a spacious apartment and moved into the cramped space they were now occupying. Nevertheless, they were behind on their rent and facing eviction. Fortunately, we were able to help them with the rent and keep them in their apartment.

At the end of our visit, we asked if we could pray with them. As we joined hands in a prayer of thanksgiving, the woman acknowledged that it was only by God's mercy and grace that her family had been protected from harm in the rollover accident and that they would be able to get back on their feet now that their rent had been fully paid with the help from St. Vincent de Paul at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

(by Maxine Malini)

In Grateful Remembrance



On August 31, 2016, we lost one of our beloved members, **Judy Bawcom**. Judy was a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society for more than 25 years. Together with Shirley Ouellette, she delivered food boxes to needy families for 12 years. Every week, she would also drive to our Phoenix warehouse, help with the sorting of donated food items, and bring to our pantry some "freebies" to be included in our food boxes. She loved helping with the distribution of Thanksgiving food boxes and helped with the shopping and wrapping of gifts for families in the Adopt-A-Family Christmas program. She also enjoyed babysitting at My Sister's Place, a domestic violence shelter.

She will always be remembered for her warm-hearted smile and her joyful attitude of service. May the Lord reward Judy for her generosity and kindness.

ASU Writing Programs' Back-to-School Initiative

At the beginning of the Fall 2016 semester, the Writing Programs in the English Department at ASU started an initiative to support the St. Vincent de Paul Dream Center in Phoenix.

Over the course of several weeks, faculty and staff collected back-to-school items to benefit the children who attend the Dream Center located in the St. Vincent de Paul Family Dining Room in downtown Phoenix.



Every night, this public dining room offers nutritious meals to approximately 400 low-income families. After sharing dinner with their parents, children ages 4-14 engage in enriching activities like arts, crafts, reading, writing, and science experiments. The Dream Center features a tutoring station, a reading library, and computers with learning software. Volunteer tutors interact with the children in this year-round program that allows children of economically disadvantaged families to thrive academically.

On August 25, 2016, seven Writing Programs faculty and staff members drove to the St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room at 420 W.

Watkins in Phoenix to volunteer as tutors and deliver the collected back-to-school items: backpacks, pencils, crayons, scissors, composition books, folders, etc. Parents who do not have the funds to purchase these items for their children may request them from the St. Vincent de Paul Dream Center as needed.

While the material support of the Dream Center is greatly appreciated, the personal interest of staff and volunteers in the children's education is another critical part of helping them realize their dreams. Ms. Cynthia, the Dream Center's main organizer, knows each of the 80-100 children who come to the Center every night by name. She greets them with a hug, helps them find the blue lanyard with their name tag, and partners them with as many volunteer tutors as are available that day. This evening, Cynthia introduced the ASU Writing Programs group to the children and paired each tutor with one or two children.

The tutors helped the children memorize their multiplication tables, write out spelling words, complete a book report, etc. It was rewarding to see how engaged the children were and how eager they were to produce high-quality work. Once the children had finished their work, they showed their completed assignments to Ms. Cynthia. Each child received stickers to be placed on a wall-mounted chart next to his or her name. The number of stickers earned reflected the quality and complexity of their work. Every month, the children can use their stickers as "currency" to purchase items in the adjacent St. Vincent de Paul thrift store. The stipulation, however, is that they buy these items for someone else (a sibling, a friend, or a parent). Watching her tutor adding stickers to her chart, one 7th grader said, "I want to do well in school and get good grades so I can go to college just like my sister."

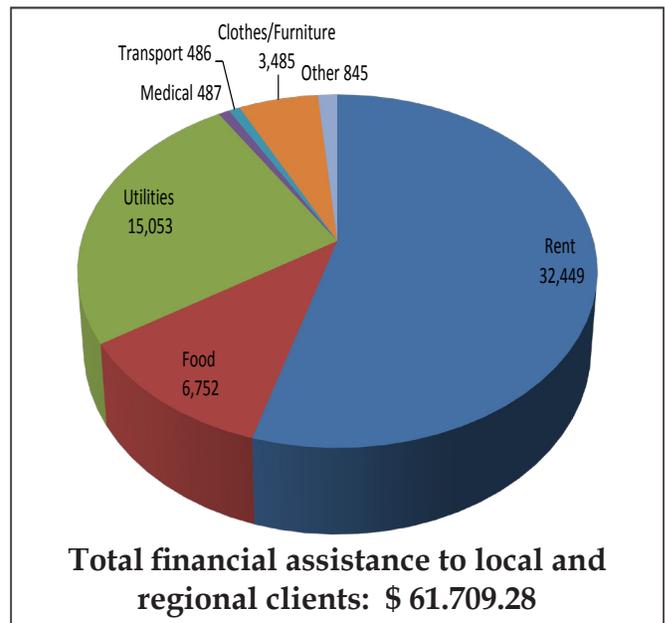
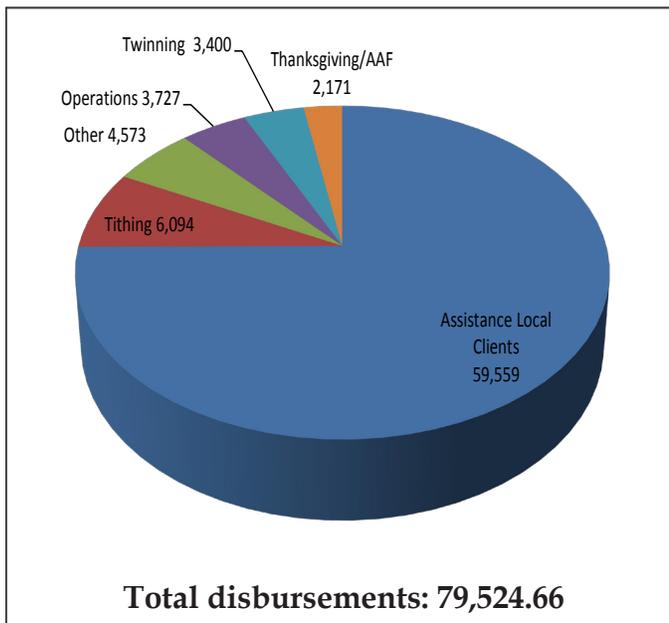
Support for the Dream Center gives children the opportunity to reach their educational goals, build confidence, connect with role models, and make new friends. The website at www.stvincentdepaul.net provides more information about St. Vincent de Paul including services, volunteering, and current events.

(by Adelheid Thieme)

Financial Report Fiscal Year 2015/16

We are grateful for the support of our donors in the fiscal year 2015/16. Due to the generosity of our parishioners and to funds generated by special groups, we were able to help many local families with rent, utilities, food, clothing, furniture, and transportation. We also twin with two poor conferences in our diocese and tithe to our central SVdP facility that provides a major portion of food items in our pantry (see charts below).

The need is great, and we appreciate any donation that you can afford to give. Please use the enclosed envelopes or the blue envelopes at the back of the church. We are now also able to accept online donations through the parish website at <http://olmctempe.com> and through the kiosk at the south-east entrance of the church. May God bless you for your generosity.



OLMC School Supporting SVdP Thanksgiving Food Drive

Many thanks to the OLMC students, faculty, and staff who, once again, generously supported our Thanksgiving food drive. The Student Council organized a food drive running from November 1st to 18th, collecting many of the items that make up a nutritious food box: turkey broth and turkey gravy, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes and yams, cake mix and cake frosting. OLMC student council members as well as OLMC Girl Scouts (see photo) and Cub Scouts #71 helped with the set-up and clean-up of the food drive.

With turkeys supplied by the OLMC St. Vincent de Paul conference, close to 200 families in our community received all the ingredients for a delicious festive meal.

