

St. Vincent de Paul
Society at
Our Lady of Mt.
Carmel

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The Vincentian

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference

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OLMC Students Collecting Food and Diapers for St. Vincent de Paul

The students at OLMC School count among the most faithful and generous supporters of the poor in our community. On a regular basis, they collect non-perishable food items and diapers. Many thanks especially to the Student Council members who devote a great deal of time and energy to this worthy cause.



From left to right: Brenna Brockert, Alec Eddy, Niko Villegas, Timmy Holland, Katherine DelRosario.



From left to right: **Student Council** members Joe Russell, Austin Weigel, Everett Johnson. (Mary Anne Muglia not pictured.)

Living on a Fixed Income

(by Adelheid Thieme)

Can you imagine having to choose between keeping food on your table and maintaining your health? Paul and Lorene, a frail couple in their late seventies, often need to make this difficult choice.

As we knock on the door to deliver the requested food boxes, Lorene welcomes us with a friendly smile. She is eager to help us carry the groceries inside. As she follows us to the car, we notice that she has trouble walking, taking tiny steps in order to maintain her balance. When she sees the two banana boxes full of food, she exclaims, "What a blessing! That is enough food for two weeks."

(Continued on p. 2)

Living on a Fixed Income (Continued from p. 1)

She leads us into the living-room that doubles as a kitchen. It is a small room with two recliners, a coffee table and two wooden chairs. Her husband, a haggard man with a pleasant smile, tries to rise from his seat to greet us, but lapses back into his chair. He has just returned from dialysis, a procedure that he needs to undergo three times a week. "Our medical bills are high," Lorene states. "We are on a fixed income, and we pay about 700 dollars per month for drugs that my husband needs to survive. We often have to choose between food and medication."

We urge Lorene and Paul to call us once a month for food, and we give them a list of agencies that also provide free groceries. Together, we bow our heads and ask for the Lord's blessings.

Meet our Volunteers



Bob McKay has been a member of our St. Vincent de Paul Conference since 2004, when he and his wife, **Lorene McKay**, moved to Tempe from Layton, Utah. Bob has been a trucker all his life, driving 18-wheelers and serving cities such as Rapid City, Denver, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles. Therefore, when our conference was looking for a volunteer to pick up the bread that a local bakery provides to our pantry, he knew that he was the right person for the job. "I like to help," Bob states in his matter-of-fact way, "and I haul everything that needs to be hauled." Every week, he picks up

between 100 and 400 loaves of bread, stocks our refrigerators, and takes the remainder to the St. Vincent de Paul dining room in Mesa.

Bob and Lorene have eight children, fourteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, most of whom live out of state. At the 8 o'clock weekday mass at OLMC, they both serve as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. Bob and Lorene are also members of the Knights of Columbus Rosary Group and the Lady of Lourdes Rosary Group at OLMC. Lorene is also a member of the Sodality. She contributes to bake sales and enjoys quilting, knitting, crocheting, and dressing dolls. Around Christmas, a manger scene with the dolls she created adorns their living room.

Bob is skilled when it comes to everything pertaining to cabinetry, plumbing, and electrical. "You build it, I fix it," he says. During the Memorial and Labor Day weekends, he also performs maintenance work at St. Joe's Youth Camp, a camp sponsored by the Knights of Columbus near Mormon Lake in the Flagstaff area. He also enjoys camping and hunting deer and elk.

Bob and Lorene have been happily married for 56 years. They are an inspiration to us all by their spirit of service and the love they have for each other.



Monday Lenten Soup Dinners

(by Albert and Susana Marquez)



Monica Donnellan with Caleb and Mariana

For the past few years, OLMC has held Monday Lenten Soup Dinners on the six Mondays of Lent at McCready Hall. Some people bring their crock pots full of soup; some others provide bread while others just come. Many young families with children of all ages enjoy the soups and each other's company. Children meet their friends and run outside to play. There is anticipation and excitement to see and taste all the different soups. Part of the fun is to see what new soups are brought each Monday. Each week there are at least a dozen or so soups, all homemade and delicious, accompanied by a variety of tasty breads.

These lively gatherings have another purpose besides the soup sampling and socializing. Each year, an OLMC organization is selected to host the dinners and receive whatever donations are collected during these six weeks.

This year SVdP was selected to be the host and beneficiary of the collected funds. Each week there were several members of the Conference to welcome and distribute information on St. Vincent de Paul. The approximately 1,100 dollars donated will help SVdP assist the needy in our parish.

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference at OLMC thanks Fr. John for his support.



Vincetian hosts Beverly Dodd, Adelheid Thieme, Mary Vrizuella, and Don Ong.

Food Collection Boxes in OLMC Church

(by Mary Rasmussen)



Three years ago, as his Eagle Scout project, **Kevin Nance** built the SVdP food collection boxes, which are located inside the two back church entrances. Every Monday, and Fridays if needed, volunteers empty the boxes, take the donations to the pantry, and place them on the shelves. The amount of food varies from week to week and averages 22 banana boxes of non-perishable food items per month.

These inviting boxes provide a great place for you to contribute a few items or a big bag of food at your convenience any day of the week. The poor of our parish appreciate whatever you can give.

Tempe Community Action Agency

(by Albert and Susana Marquez)



On March 10, 2010, **Mary Hutchinson**, Director of Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA), made a presentation to our conference. TCAA is one of our major partners in serving the needy of

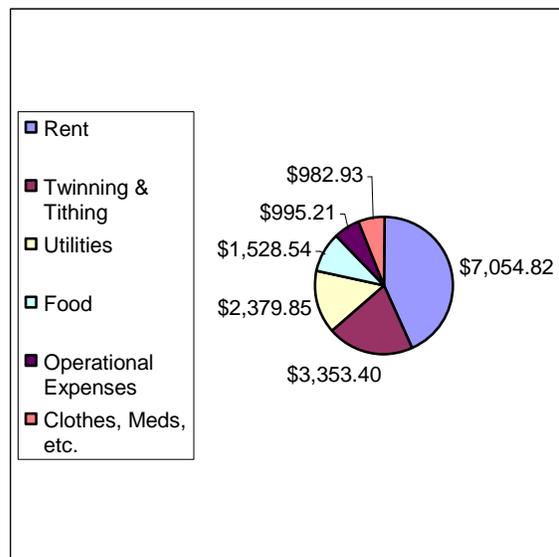
Tempe. Mary described many of the programs available at her agency and what people can do to access them. Some of their programs are rent and utility assistance, food pantry, vouchers for medical appointments and prescriptions, and weatherization. TCAA also provides basic needs like food, diapers, and emergency shelter coordination. In addition, they have a variety of educational programs including budgeting, life skills, and prenatal needs.

Very frequently, if not daily, we refer callers to TCAA when they need financial and other assistance. TCAA, in turn, partners with Federal and County as well as private agencies to help needy families stay in their apartments or assist them in moving into apartments. Because of the sources of their funding, TCAA is often able to help people with larger amounts than we can. Callers needing utility help can call on Thursday mornings; those who need rental help can call on Friday mornings.

St. Vincent de Paul partners with TCAA and Tempe Salvation Army on our respective Christmas programs to ensure that all families identified are included in the program. We are fortunate to have such a good rapport with these agencies whose goal we share: helping the needy in our community.

Financial Report January to March 2010

From January to March 2010, we provided assistance in the amount of **\$16,628.85**, as shown in the pie chart below:



To keep our printing costs as low as possible, we print our **SVdP newsletter** in black and white.

If you would like to receive it as an **electronic** document **in color (it looks much more attractive)** please send an e-mail to

adelthieme@aol.com