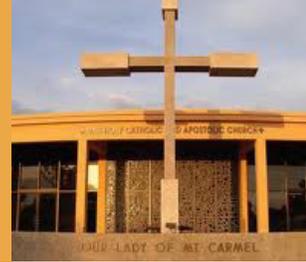




THE Vincentian

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference June 2016



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

St. Vincent de Paul Ice Cream Social Sunday, July 10 (after 7, 9, 11 am Masses in McCready Hall)



All are welcome to celebrate the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society
and learn more about our ministry.

*(All expenses are paid by active members of the Society.
No donations are used for this event.)*

Contents

- 1 A Tiny Voice
- 2 Financial Report 1. and 2. Quarter
- 3 Meet Our Volunteers: Teresa Kevane
- 4 Girl Scout Service Project

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)

Facebook:

Saint Vincent de Paul - Tempe

Email: Writer/Editor Adelheid Thieme:
editor@svdp-olmc.phxcoxmail.com

A Tiny Voice

by Adelheid Thieme

A few weeks ago, my partner, Maxine, and I did a home visit with a family that had called the St. Vincent de Paul office for rental assistance. Michael, a burly man in his early forties, welcomed us into his apartment. The apartment was scarcely furnished: a couch, two chairs, and a TV. Michael briefly introduced us to his 3-year-old daughter, who had just woken up from taking a nap on the couch. She looked at us with her big brown eyes, gave us a smile, waved her hand, and then shyly hid her face under her blanket.

Michael pointed to the two chairs and invited us to take a seat. He himself sat down cross-legged on the floor in front of us. "I don't need
(continued on p. 2)

A Tiny Voice (continued from p. 1)

a chair," he said. "I was a Marine, so I am used to sitting on the floor." A white miniature Chihuahua came running up to us, his bark sounding much like the squeal of a piglet. I had never seen such a small dog. As he came up to me, sniffing my pants and begging to be petted, I could easily lift him with one hand onto my lap. He settled down immediately, and we could direct our attention to Michael's request.

Michael proceeded to tell us about the reason for his call. Three weeks before, after coming home from work, he had all of a sudden collapsed unconscious. His wife had called an ambulance. In the emergency room, he was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation, a problem with the rhythm of his heartbeat. Electro-cardioversion to treat his irregular heartbeat had not achieved the desired results, so his cardiologist had scheduled a surgical procedure that would take place in three weeks. In the meantime, he was not allowed to work. "How am I going to pay the rent?" he said. "My wife is working full time, but she does not make enough money to cover the living expenses for us and our three children ages 3, 15, and 16. If we do not get help, we will be homeless before the end of this month. How can I get healthy if we have to live on the street?"

We told him that we could help him with a portion of his rent and promised to refer him

to another agency that might be able to help him come up with the full amount of his rent before the end of the month. In addition, we gave him a list of agencies that provide free or discounted food, and we told him about the two big food boxes in our car that we had brought for his family. Despite his health issues, Michael insisted that he would help us.

I put the dog down on the floor, and Michael asked his little daughter to hold the dog so that he would not run outside while we were

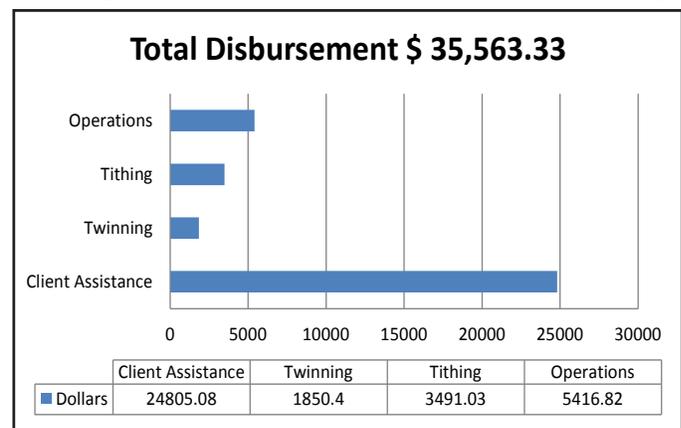
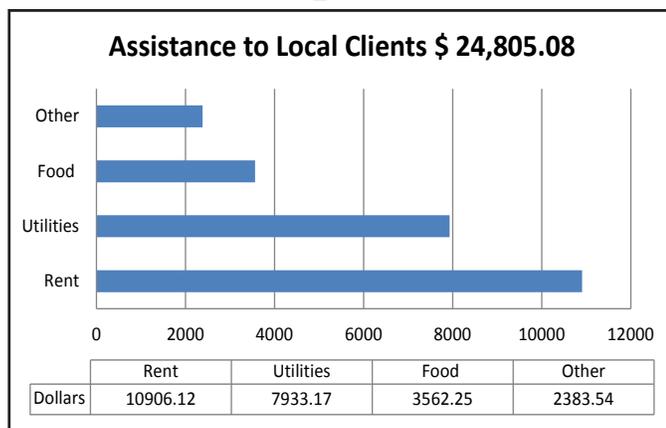


bringing in the food. The Chihuahua jumped onto the couch right next to her, found a comfortable spot in her armpit, and both dog and child closed their eyes to go back to sleep.

A few minutes later, after carrying up the food boxes and placing them on the kitchen table, we first had to catch our breath. We then we joined hands with Michael and asked the Lord to restore his health and provide for him and his family in their time of need.

We had totally forgotten about his 3-year-old daughter in the adjacent living-room. As we were leaving, a tiny voice came from the couch: "Thank you."

Financial Report 1. and 2. Quarter (October 2015-March 2016)



Meet our Volunteers: Teresa Kevane (by Adelheid Thieme)



Teresa Kevane joined our St. Vincent de Paul group seven years ago, when she was invited by Barbara Pawlak, who was at that time serving as President of our conference. All these years, Teresa

has been delivering food boxes on Sunday afternoons together with her partner, Pat Martin. Teresa enjoys taking food to needy families. "Showing them that people care about them and assuring them that they are loved and important is such a joyful experience," she says, "and it makes people smile. Some of them say, 'This is like Christmas.'"

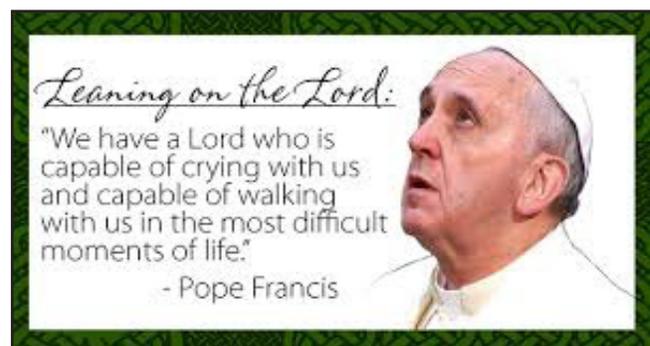
Since October 2016, Teresa has also been serving as Treasurer of our conference, a position that allows her to use her skills in accounting for the benefit of our community. After earning her Bachelor's degree in Accountancy from the University of Arizona in 1989, she worked as an accountant for a major company for three years. Then, however, she felt a different calling. When her sister-in-law died from a serious illness, leaving her brother behind with three children ages 4, 5, and 7, she strongly felt that God wanted her to put her professional career on hold and help her brother raise his young sons. As her nephews grew older, they enjoyed accompanying her to the St. Vincent de Paul pantry and helping her pack food boxes and stock shelves.

Now that the boys do not need her attention as much anymore, Teresa is again working full time as an accounting consultant. She has two clients, both in the medical services field. Her major duties include handling accounts receivables and payables, managing and

timing their cash flow, and preparing financial statements. In her free time, she tends to the financial matters of our conference. On the days when she empties the poor boxes at the back of OLMC church, she strongly feels the presence of her mother, Kathryn Kevane, who spent many hours in prayer in this church. Teresa fondly recalls that whenever her mother found a coin, she would double the amount, put the money into a tea cup on her kitchen counter, and add the money that had accumulated over time to her donations to our St. Vincent de Paul conference.

Teresa has two passions in life: backpacking and basketball. She has done hiking in Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Zion, and Sequoia National Parks, where she encountered wildlife such as bears, beavers, and moose. For several years, she also served as an official for girls' basketball teams at various high schools in the Valley. One of her favorite memories is officiating at a game where a parent was misbehaving and removing him from the stands one second before the end of a game.

Working full time, delivering food, and serving as Treasurer keeps Teresa busy, but she makes it a point to reserve time for the bi-monthly St. Vincent de Paul meetings, where she feels that she is part of a group of volunteers who are dedicated to serving the poor. "God has guided me throughout my entire life," she says, "I am now right where I am supposed to be."



Girl Scout Service Project (by Jacey Salisbury)



Some of our youngest volunteers are the girl scouts. Under the leadership of Cindra Ray Salisbury and Janet Kovach, two girl scouts, **Cienna Jaime** (left) and **Jacey Salisbury** (right), completed a service project at our St. Vincent de Paul conference, helping with the packing of food boxes, deliver-

ing them to needy families, and thus earning their Religious Emblems. **Below is Jacey Salisbury's reflection on this project:**

Cienna Jaime and I, Jacey Salisbury, have completed two Religious Emblems recognized by the Girl Scouts and the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, "I Live My Faith" (5th grade), and "Mary the First Disciple" (7th grade). The Mary program helped us to learn more about Mary and the tough decisions she made at our age now. It helped us to recognize our gifts, how we can help in our community, and how to be a disciple. This is what I experienced through my service project at Saint Vincent de Paul.

We packed food boxes and included Girl Scout cookies from donations that our Troop 1114 gave to SVdP, then delivered them to a home. Before we got there, I was very scared. I was wondering what their house would look like and if the people would be kind. Then we started to walk to the door. A guy about 16 years old answered the door, and he just stared at us for awhile and then said, "Let me get my mom." I didn't know what to do. Should I walk in or just stay there? But he came back and asked us to come in. I think he was uncomfortable because we were there. Then his mom came into the room and was overwhelmed that

we were there with food. We started emptying out the boxes of food. The mom kept saying, "Thank you so much, thank you so much," and that felt good.

The son was looking at the food. He took all the food he liked and put it away. We looked at their cabinets, and they had nothing in them. Then we sat down and started talking. We found out that the mom has cancer. We gave her a gift, a St. Anthony necklace. She was so happy, she loved it. We prayed with her, too. She really liked that because she hadn't been to church in awhile. We prayed to God to help her through this time with cancer and anything else that was difficult in her life.

We asked if we could come back to pray the rosary on Good Friday, a couple of weeks later. She was so appreciative. We went back, and it was very emotional for her. She was saying every word to the rosary, but her son was just watching. She was crying a little bit. I feel like I made a difference in her life. I enjoy making other people happy. I learned that the more I volunteer, the more I feel good about myself.

I want to thank Janet Kovach for helping us complete our service project. We started out to do one project, but became disciples and completed two.



In a Jubilarian Ceremony presided over by Fr. Sam, Michael and Mary Sauve were recently honored for their many years of faithfully delivering food boxes to needy families.