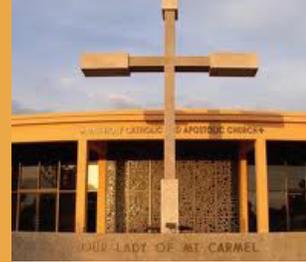




THE Vincentian

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Conference

March 2015



Tempe Police vs. Tempe Fire Fighters Annual Holiday Bowl Benefiting St. Vincent de Paul



On Saturday, January 24, the Annual Holiday Bowl football game took place between Tempe Police and the Tempe Fire Fighters. The proceeds of this fun event went towards a Public Safety Memorial to be erected at Tempe Beach Park in memory of fallen Fire Fighters, Police Officers, and K9s. All participants were encouraged to bring non-perishable food items benefiting our St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Thank you, Tempe Police and Tempe Fire Fighters, for collecting nine banana boxes of food that will help us replenish our pantry.

Community Engagement Internship Leads to Greater Empathy



During spring 2014, the Office of Knowledge Enterprise Development at Arizona State University provided a grant to the Department of English for a student intern to get involved with a social service group and to document the experience in writing. Under the supervision of Adelheid Thieme, Associate Director of Writing Programs at ASU, Emanuel Bécquer, a biomedical informatics major at ASU, chose to focus his attention on St. Vincent de Paul. Following is an excerpt from Emanuel's 16-page essay submitted in fulfillment of the internship.

As an aspiring medical doctor, I was previously volunteering as a medical interpreter at a community clinic for medically underserved patients. Although I was able to understand the concerns that clients expressed in a clinical setting, I was relatively unaware of the social situations that could influence the relation between patient and disease.

ASU Internship (cont. from p. 1)

Through my work with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, I was able to gain greater awareness of the social issues affecting people in need, which helped shape my understanding of their influence on the quality and the viability of patient care. Gaining this fundamental awareness required me to look beyond clinical symptoms and to comprehend how factors like poverty, lack of education, and substance abuse could affect people most vulnerable to health problems and their decision to seek medical care. I witnessed firsthand how families were often struggling to feed their children, to keep a roof over their heads, and to maintain electric power.

I am grateful that my work with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul provided me a chance to sit down with families and to listen to and respond to their needs. I learned to understand the importance of not passing judgment whenever help is solicited, and I learned to recognize the role of subtle gestures, like a smile or a handshake, in creating an atmosphere of trust.

Being part of a home visit team offered me a glimpse into their daily struggles and the problems that beset them in their lives. A fundamental part of this communication was grasping the significance of responding with empathy. I felt humbled by the gratitude that families expressed in their words, smiles, and tears.

Beyond these acquired communication skills, my internship experience uniquely offered me the opportunity to develop contacts that may be beneficial to my future career. During a tour of the downtown St. Vincent de Paul facility, the tour guide provided me the contact information to the director of the medical and the dental clinic. The director inquired about my previous volunteer med-

ical experience to see if there was any way I could contribute to their charitable work. I now volunteer at the Virginia G. Piper Medical and Dental Clinic as a medical interpreter to underserved, Spanish-speaking patients and as a medical scribe to visiting physicians several times a week. Keeping in mind the Society's mission to "feed, clothe, house and heal", I have used my internship experience to recommend resources and services to families that otherwise would not have heard of them.

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The Love of Grandmas

by Lisa Blevins



As I was preparing to go into the pantry a few days before Christmas, my thoughts were on my husband and his Grandma, who is in her last stages of her life. I never thought that the Lord would show me the love of so many Grandmas on this day, but He did.

While my partner, David, and I were preparing the food boxes we were about to deliver, we saw that the person requesting the boxes was taking care of 9 grandchildren, yes 9. David made sure each grandchild had a bag of candy. We were also able to provide them with a Christmas turkey, ham, hot dogs, and chicken. This food would be cooked with

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Meet Our Volunteers: Evan Sailer

by Adelheid Thieme



One of our youngest volunteers, who joined our conference in September 2014, is Evan Sailer. Wanting to become more involved with the community, he did a Google search for local food banks and sent an email to the contact person. To his surprise, he received an immediate response and was directed to our St. Vincent de Paul conference at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Initially he helped with the stocking of the shelves in the pantry, but then learned that there is a need for one of his special skills, programming. Evan is now working on re-designing our computerized database, a project that will increase our ability to maintain comprehensive records and increase our efficiency in serving our clients.

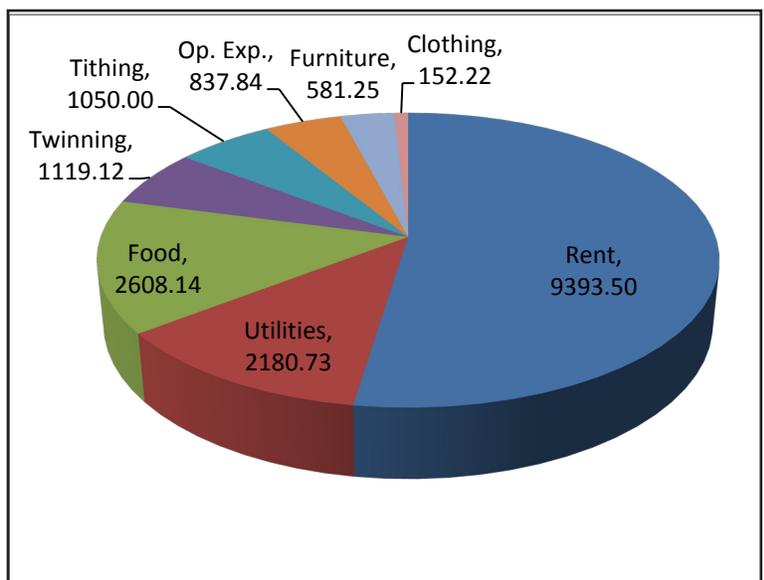
Evan earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Systems from Arizona State University in 2010. After his graduation, he worked as a programming engineer in Kansas City for Cerner, a company designing leading-edge health information technology. To be closer to his tight-knit family (he has 7 siblings), he chose to return to the Valley and is now working for 360 Cloud Solutions in North Scottsdale, an Enterprise Resource Planning company that designs business management software.

Evan has used his programming experience to set up his own internet-based business, **pixxip.com**, an image sharing website that allows both private and corporate customers to share pictures. Different from Facebook or other social media, where users have to be “friends” or “followers,” they can select whom they would like to share their images with by just providing a link.

In his spare time, Evan enjoys watching football. His favorite teams are the Green Bay Packers, the Cardinals, and the Kansas Chiefs (in that order). He also enjoys playing the guitar and playing the video game “League of Legends.”

We are fortunate to have Evan as a member of our conference. He is dedicated to using his time and talents to benefit those less fortunate. “I have reached a point in my life where I would like to give back to the community,” he says. “If we all play our part, we can make a tremendous difference for those who need our help.”

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The Love of Grandmas

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much love and thanksgiving. When we arrived, two of the older grandchildren were waiting at the door to help us. Their grandma came out just as we arrived. She told us many times how helpful the children were and that she was glad she could save her babies. I inquired if we could offer up any prayer intentions. She said yes and added that she wanted all the children to pray.

At that point we were invited into their home. The family room was filled from corner to corner with 9 children, 9 beautiful children. The youngest, full of smiles, was not more than a year old. What joy to form a circle and hold hands to offer up prayers and thanksgiving for this family and all those who helped to provide. We said "Merry Christmas" and thought we were done for the day.

However, upon returning to the pantry, we were asked by one of the phone persons if we could make one more delivery to a courageous young woman who had just left a domestic violence situation. All she had were the clothes on her back and her baby girl. She had found refuge with her mother, the grandma of now 3 small grandchildren. The grandma had taken in two other grandchildren because her other daughter was in jail. Once again, as David and I pulled up, they were waiting outside for us. We found out that the grandma had been trying to help her daughter get out of the domestic violence situation for 5 years. With tears in her eyes, she said that her daughter was now safe. We were able to provide two nice food boxes, soap, toothpaste, and two SVdP thrift store cards for clothing. How grateful they were for those items. The 5-year-old was so excited to have HOT DOGS!

Grandmas, what love they have. Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for those people in my path whom You choose. Help me to be a worthy witness of Your grace and kindness to all I meet. Thank you, Lord, for the blessings of a Grandma's love, which reaches to the Heavens. Please allow each Grandma the joy of seeing her grandchildren grow up and develop into the children God calls them to be.

ASU Internship

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I feel this experience has improved my judgment and maturity in setting goals and knowing progress in my daily life. Most of the people I have talked to about my internship have remarked positively about a change that they noticed in my character and self-esteem. I feel very grateful to have obtained these professional and social skills that will have an important impact in the quality of care that I hope to offer my patients as a medical doctor in the future.

It is my sincere hope that my experience volunteering with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will inspire others to consider investing a portion of their time in service to the community. I can assure them they will come away from this fundamental experience with a greater understanding of the adversities faced by people in poverty, an enhanced ability to be of service to them, and a heightened sense of self satisfaction, knowing they can make a difference in the lives of others.