

# St. Vincent de Paul Society

## VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

December 2014

### December Spotlight "Katie" Serving Line Volunteer



Katie Boothe, AKA the "Dessert Lady" has been a volunteer with our Tuesday serving line lunch crew for over 15 years. Last Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Katie retired from her position and is moving to central California to be closer to her family.

Katie will be dearly missed. After so many years with us, she truly knew the diners and loved to flirt with them as they came through the line. But, Katie also knew how to keep them in line when needed. "What I loved most was the huge smiles I received from our diners, and I always looked forward to being here. I volunteered with the "A Team", Nancy Freed, Joanne Hastings, and Steve Ward, and I couldn't have asked for a better team," Katie shared.

Katie will sincerely be missed by the entire dining room and we wish her much happiness in her new home.

### VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT St. Paul's Episcopal Church Kid's Program



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Kids Program has added a much needed warmth to the walls in our dining room. In October, their happy and smiling jack-o-lanterns decorated the side wall; some toothless, others with one eye, but all sending the message, "We care about you!" At our Thanksgiving feast, paper bag turkeys festively decorated the tables and after the meal they served as holiday hats for diners as they danced to the music of Kurt Huget. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, the Kids Program will visit our dining room, singing holiday songs with our diners. The program, with children ages 3 to teens, adds a special reminder to those in need each month – "You are part of our community, you are important, and we want to share a part of the holidays with you." Thank you, St. Paul's Kids program for sharing your joy with all of us.

## THE HOLIDAYS AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY



**HOLIDAY COOKIES AND BAKED GOODS:** What would the holidays be without homemade cookies and seasonal baked goods? If you love to bake at this time of year, homemade treats remind our diners how much we care, plus it's an opportunity to share a special piece of the holidays with them. Feel free to drop off a batch of cookies to our dining room any time during the holiday season. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator.



### Holiday Musicians and Singers

We invite you to share your musical talent in our dining room during the holidays and schedule a time to play music or carol with our guests. When music comes to the dining room the atmosphere changes - people applaud, sing along, call out requests and from time to time even get up and dance. With music, the dining room is more upbeat and happier than usual. School groups, families, musicians, etc. are welcome! Please call our Volunteer Coordinator to schedule a date.



**"End of Year" gifts to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin helps us continue to keep our doors open. Thank you for continuing to support us.**



### Our Christmas Season in the Dining Room

Please stop by our dining room and enjoy the festive decorations, lights and tree. Sit for a while, join us for breakfast and lunch, and share the gift of conversation and social connection with our guests. Many who live on the streets battle the feeling that they're inadequate or nonexistent to the rest of the world. Having a real conversation can reduce those sentiments and reaffirm their value.



**Holiday Gifts Cards** As we celebrate the "Season of Giving", we invite you to help St. Vincent de Paul Society bring a special gift to our dining room guests. On December 24<sup>th</sup> we hope to pass out \$5.00 and \$10.00 Starbucks, Safeway, or Subway gifts cards; these gift cards provide a warm moment and a treat to men, women, and children in need. Gift cards can be dropped off at our office or dining room at 820 B Street in San Rafael or mailed to P.O. Box 150527, San Rafael, CA 94915

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Contact our Volunteer Coordinator: Susan Bromann-Smith,  
[susan@smithcpas.com](mailto:susan@smithcpas.com) or (415) 454-3303 x 18.



**CUPCAKE BAKERS:** Our December birthday celebration will be Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to bake homemade cupcakes. Homemade cupcakes continue to be a special treat and our dining room guests look forward to them each month.



**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR ASST.:** Can you volunteer two hours/week to help answer emails and phone requests? Two volunteers are needed to assist our Volunteer Coordinator.



**FRIDAY LUNCH SERVERS NEEDED:** We have openings for servers on our Friday lunch line. It's a wonderful way to meet our dining room guests and add a much-needed smile to their lunchtime meal. Please sign up on-line for a Friday shift or call our Volunteer Coordinator if you would like to be a regular Friday server. (All Fridays open except the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month).



**FOOD PREP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Do you know we can cut and chop up to 300 lbs. of fruit and vegetables a day for our hot lunches? Volunteers are needed on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 6:30am – 8:30am or 8:30am – 10:30 am to assist Fanny in the kitchen. Come in and join the fun – it's a great way to meet new people, enjoy some good conversations, and sway a bit to the salsa tunes! Please sign-up on line.

**2015 HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT:** Every two years, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities throughout the county to conduct homeless "Point-in-Time" (PIT) counts to gather reliable statistics on homeless families and individuals. Volunteers are needed on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, from 5am-9am. For more information, please contact Andrew Hening at [Andrew@streetsteam.org](mailto:Andrew@streetsteam.org).

## A THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped make our Thanksgiving celebration a very special day. New volunteers, returning volunteers, and regular volunteers worked together to prepare food, set-up the dining room, serve food, bus tables, clean dishes, and bake pies and other baked goods. A special thanks to Kurt Huget for playing music for us during our holiday meal and sharing the stage with some of our dining room guests who joined in with the harmonica or a song. There was dancing, laughing and hugs, but what was shared most was the heartfelt "thank yous" from our guests for a very special Thanksgiving Day and making it possible for St. Vincent de Paul Society to keep its doors open every day.



## “BEEF, PORK AND POULTRY” DRIVE

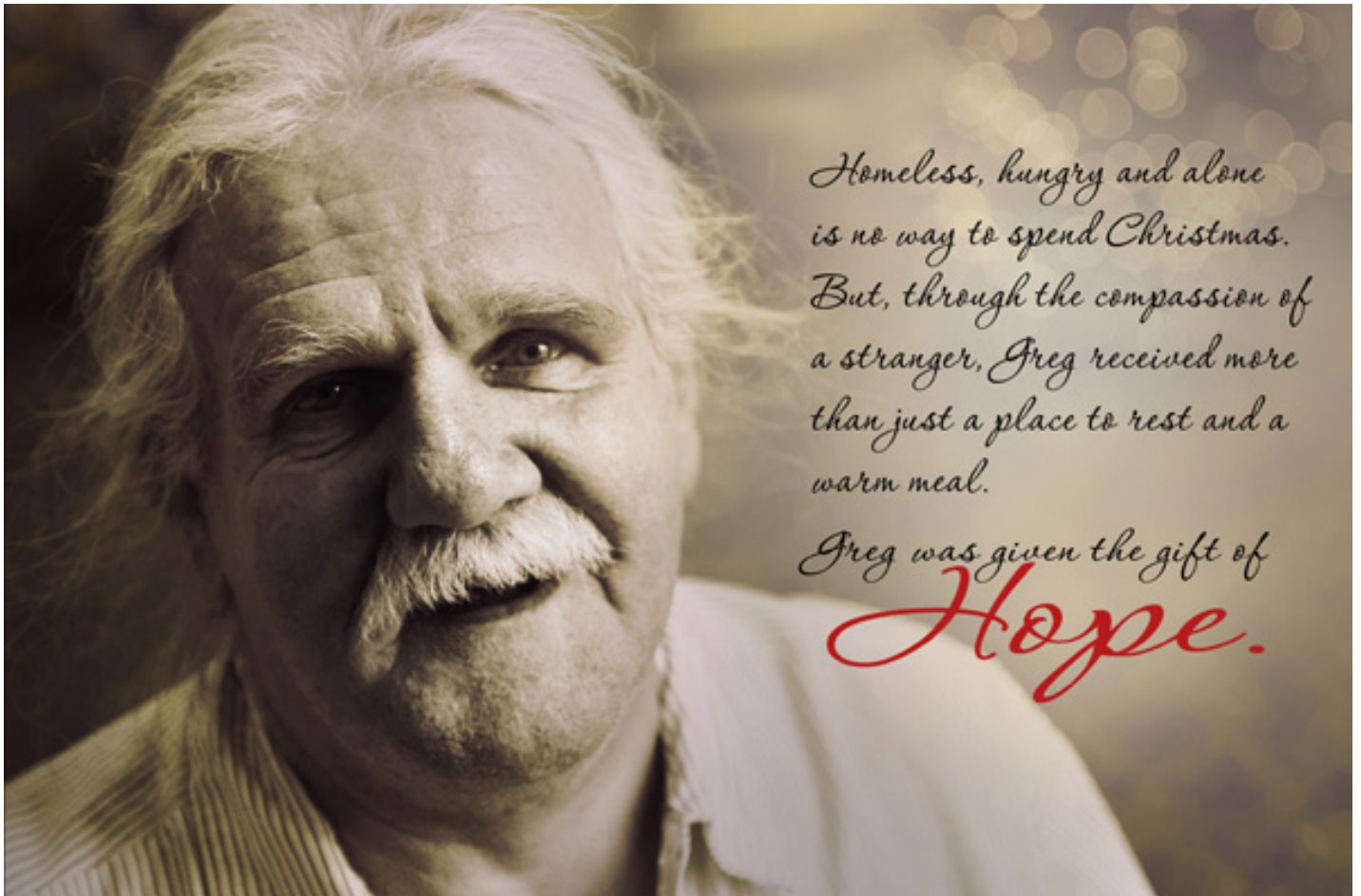
Thank you to everyone who supported St. Vincent de Paul Society at Thanksgiving and donated a turkey. Not only did the turkeys feed our diners on Thanksgiving, but those donated will help us feed our neighbors in need through the year.

Through December, we will continue to collect turkeys, but are also asking for donations of beef, pork, and other poultry (hamburger, ham, sausage, chicken, ect.). Red meat and pork is a rare treat for our guests.

What is collected this month helps us feed over 500 people a day throughout the year.

All donations can be dropped off at the dining room daily between 6:30am - 2:00pm.

**THANK YOU!**



*May Peace be your gift at Christmas  
and your blessing all year through!*

*Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year  
St. Vincent de Paul Society Marin County*