

VINCENTIAN

CONNECTION

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THE
SOCIETY
OF
ST.
VINCENT
DE PAUL



FEED. CLOTHE.
HOUSE. HEAL.



TRANSFORMING UNINSURED CARE

A new clinic partnership is set to improve the system of care, access and education

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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to serving people in need and providing others with the opportunity to serve. SVdP has been assisting central and northern Arizona families since 1946 and has more than 80 parish satellite locations. It offers services for the homeless, medical and dental care for the uninsured, charity dining rooms, transitional housing and homelessness prevention assistance.

Vincentian Connection magazine shares the stories of compassion, hope, healing and impact SVdP has in building a better community. The magazine has a circulation of 86,000.



ON THE COVER

Dr. Anwar, SVdP's new medical director and assistant professor at Creighton University, listens to the heartbeat of an uninsured patient. Should the patient need it, he will have access to a cardiologist — specialty care that comes with more medical professionals coming through SVdP's clinic thanks to a new partnership with Creighton.

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- 20 Thousand thanks

VIRTUOUS WOMEN



Since the beginning of time, every nation and every culture has subjugated women to one degree or another. Our own Society did not admit women as full members for more than 100 years after its founding. Our Church, at times, also has failed to fully leverage the many gifts women have to offer.

Yet, it was women, not Jesus' disciples, who had the courage to stand at the cross on Calvary, and it was to a woman Jesus first revealed himself on Easter morning. Perhaps there's a lesson there. We all know women who have helped us grow in wisdom and who

have changed our lives for the better. Today, we showcase two extraordinary women who have changed countless lives for the better.

Virginia G. Piper was a woman of great vision. Though richly blessed, she had a heart full of compassion for those less fortunate. Through the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, she endowed numerous organizations that work to improve the lives of those living on the margins of our society. For many years the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been one of the primary beneficiaries of her generosity. Our nationally recognized Virginia G. Piper Medical & Dental Clinic was made possible by multiple grants from the Piper Trust. Virginia's benevolent legacy will be felt for generations to come.

Shannon Clancy is a visionary leader of great integrity. Blessed with many gifts, Shannon could easily have built a very lucrative career in Corporate America, yet she's dedicated her life to serving those in need. Shannon currently serves as our Associate CEO. Recognizing a growing need in our community, Shannon worked diligently with our medical clinic team and community partners to forge a partnership between the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Creighton University to expand the services provided by our medical clinic to the under-insured members of our community. Shannon's vision, passion, and commitment to Catholic social values shared by Creighton's dedicated faculty and staff, helped bring the partnership to fruition.

Earlier this month, these two women — one no longer with us and one very much alive — came together in an extraordinary way, when the Piper Trust announced a \$10M investment in the St. Vincent de Paul and Creighton partnership. This investment only happened because the Piper trustees recognized the potential benefits of the investment, and were very confident that those benefits will be fully realized. Countless lives will be changed for the better because of a relationship of trust forged between two remarkable women, both exemplary models of servant leadership.

Steve Attwood, *President, Phoenix Diocesan Council*



FEATURES

6 Once a fellow, soon a leader

Learn about the new Leadership in Action Fellowship at SVdP, helping college students discover passions in nonprofit work while growing future servant leaders to spearhead community solutions.

12 A trailblazing partnership

A collaboration between Creighton University and SVdP's Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic is set to bridge healthcare gaps while increasing medical professionals for Arizona thanks to a significant investment from Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.





Breaking bread

Debby Suarez, 15, passes bagels and loaves of bread to a family through their car window at St. Vincent de Paul's Family Dining Room drive-thru. When the Metro Tech High School sophomore first started volunteering two years ago, she served the same families inside the then restaurant-style-run dining room, taking menu orders and delivering

food to tables. Breaking bread together feels different these days with to-go containers and a few close loved ones. Debby misses the days of dining all together, but she comes back every week for the families to catch those few moments of sharing hellos, how are yous and offering her love, warmth and care over armfuls of food.

Phoenix Business Journal names SVdP's Shannon Clancy among 2021 Outstanding Women in Business

This year, Phoenix Business Journal received more than 250 nominations for its annual Outstanding Women in Business Award. Of those nominations, only 25 women, including St. Vincent de Paul's Associate CEO Shannon Clancy, rose to the top to be one of the 2021 honorees. She and the other honorees were presented their awards during a virtual event on April 8. Nominated by staff, Shannon was recognized for her grace, strength and compassion as a leader, especially during a pandemic. Congratulations, Shannon, on this well-deserved award!



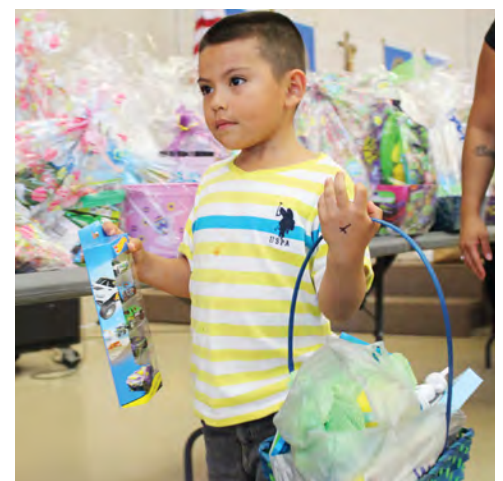
A special springtime farm visit and local front cover

Earlier this spring, Rob and Melani Walton visited the St. Vincent de Paul main campus urban farm they helped make possible and which bears their name. Their visit allowed them to take in the tremendous growth the farm has undergone since its opening in 2018, something not only worth celebrating in person but also on the cover of Green Living Magazine. Together, the Waltons had their cover shot taken for the April issue at SVdP's farm in an effort to spread the word about the important work the farm does, including sustainable farm practices and growing nutritious food for people in need who don't have access to fresh produce. Also there to celebrate were the Girl Scouts, who regularly volunteer on the farm, and the Phoenix Symphony, which sent a couple of musicians who performed a beautiful duet.

SVdP serves 4,000 Easter meals to go for second year of modified holiday celebration

For St. Vincent de Paul, it was the second Easter of providing 4,000 meals in a grab-and-go style for the homeless and low-income individuals and families relying on its five charity dining rooms across the Valley. It was SVdP's way of continuing the holiday celebration while still abiding health safety guidelines for the vulnerable populations it serves. Guests took home glazed ham, pineapple raisin sauce, garden fresh veggies, mashed potatoes and rolls.

"Everyone deserves a hot meal for Easter," Director of Food Services Danielle McMahon said. "So many people and families continue to struggle this year, so we made sure that they had a special Easter meal to share and hopefully experienced a little bit of spring happiness when they visited our dining rooms."



DEVELOPING FUTURE SERVANT LEADERS WITH INSPIRED SOLUTIONS

Inside SVdP's new
Leadership in Action
Fellowship

By Kim Cecere

As businesses closed their doors last spring, St. Vincent de Paul was there not only to care for those suddenly jobless and in need of food and financial assistance, but also for college students left with dwindling professional growth opportunities and a loss of internships.

That's when a SVdP supporter with a corporate background — and a heart for young leaders — approached St. Vincent de Paul leaders, SVdP Chief Program Officer Jessica Berg and Community Engagement Officer Shawn Donnelly. Together, they created the Leadership in Action (LIA) Fellowship as more than just a “virtual internship” solution, but rather to evolve the way SVdP had previously engaged interns and volunteers.

Shawn is at the helm of the program that launched in May 2020. She explains that instead of a task-centric internship, the heart of the LIA Fellowship is an emphasis on fellows' personal growth as they're provided opportunities to develop leadership skills and gain an understanding of nonprofit operations.

“What makes the LIA Fellowship unique is we put a lot of energy into helping college students discover their passions,” Shawn said. “We help them to learn about all facets of a nonprofit, giving them a chance to lead and problem solve.”

Fellows also learn the importance of partnerships — a critical aspect of nonprofit success. Whether partnering with others to get a job done or at the community level, the fellowship is designed to engage members of the community.

“For example, a retired CEO will discuss conflict resolution and emotional intelligence, what it really means to walk the talk when we say, ‘We're all in this together,’” Shawn said.



Morgan Dircks,
*Virtual Volunteer program
LIA Fellow, ASU senior*

“What makes the LIA Fellowship unique is we put a lot of energy into **helping college students discover their passions.**

We help them learn about all facets of a nonprofit, giving them a chance to lead and problem solve.”

Community Engagement Officer,
Shawn Donnelly





“It prioritized my path and gave me confirmation of what I’ve always wanted to do, something more impactful. **To build community solutions, we need to create more relationships, get others engaged.**”

Michael Harris, *Resource Center LIA Fellow, ASU senior, father of two*

A collaborative framework

The semester-long program, which provides compensation up to \$2,500 through funding support from local donors, engages fellows in a collaborative framework that includes one-on-one mentoring, biweekly educational panels with staff from SVdP departments, and biweekly “Fellow Forum” gatherings, providing fellows an opportunity to run their own meetings, set agenda topics and share their experiences.

For Michael Harris, whose fellowship runs January through May 2021, the fellows-led meetings “build collaboration and are highly relevant” as they discuss their collective experiences across all areas of SVdP. “The program does a great job of allowing fellows to see and experience the collaboration between departments,” Michael said.

As an adult student who returned to college after 20 years of working for large corporations, Michael was seeking another path, “something to add more good in the world...to be a contributor, not a taker.”

Michael assists guests in the Resource Center who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, directing them toward essential services from showers and clothing to counseling and job

referrals. He also assists Jennifer Morgan, manager of Ministries to the Homeless, with operations of the center, including front desk staffing.

“The fellowship opened up my eyes to where I want to go now, leaving corporate and moving into the nonprofit sector,” Michael said. “It prioritized my path and gave me confirmation of what I’ve always wanted to do, something more impactful. To build community solutions, we need to create more relationships, get others engaged.”

Also important to Michael: To set an example for his two young daughters, showing them the value and meaning in serving others. He looks forward to graduating from Arizona State University in May with an Interdisciplinary Studies degree.

A culture like no other

According to Shawn, the LIA Fellowship is also designed to introduce participants to the unique SVdP culture: “How we take care of our family, the level of care that goes into our staff. It shows fellows what a work environment can be like, so they know what to expect and the questions to ask when they apply for a job in the future.”

In her third semester as a LIA Fellow, Morgan Dircks has experienced the SVdP culture firsthand. An ASU senior set to graduate with a Marketing degree in May, Morgan began her fellowship last summer, assisting with the launch of SVdP’s Virtual Volunteer program. “I’ve helped figure out how to get it to scale and keep it successful,” Morgan explained.

Morgan has worked closely with Shawn and others across SVdP, tasked with improving upon the virtual volunteer program’s “Help from Home Guides.” She created multiple instruction pages and came up with creative, volunteer-from-home ideas that tap into people’s passions and fulfill their sense of community.

“It’s been awesome,” said Morgan of her fellowship experience, which has “solidified for me 100 percent a career in the nonprofit sector, specifically human services.”

She’s also coordinated virtual volunteers from Pathway to Work, planning fun engagement events via Zoom for the group that missed coming to SVdP’s main campus. “Coming here to volunteer was a big part of what they did together,” she said. “I’ve seen the power of community.”

“When people come together, there’s nothing we can’t do,” Morgan added. “I’ve realized through the fellowship how big that is and how it’s a passion of mine. I’ve also learned about empathy — it’s evolutionary. I’ve learned that it’s continuously growing in all of us.”

‘Unlike anything else out there’

Morgan refers to the LIA Fellowship as, “unlike anything else out there,” sharing her hands-on experience: “I’ve had the chance to see virtual volunteerism grow into a sustainable program. Involvement has increased significantly since last summer with individual volunteers and groups across Arizona and other states.”

According to Shawn, as of February 2021, there are more than a thousand virtual volunteers and about 20 percent of them are from out of state. SVdP has received completed projects from 34 states so far. On top of that, 90 percent of all virtual volunteers are new volunteers with SVdP.

It seems virtual volunteerism may have fueled interest among college students in the LIA Fellowship. Or vice versa, perhaps? While the fellowship is open to all Arizona universities, Shawn posts the opportunity nationally, noting that SVdP has engaged two students from the University of Notre Dame.

“We have been grateful for the support of donors in our community, including leaders from Sonic and the Garcia Family Foundation who have provided the opportunity for us to offer this

program for three semesters so far,” Shawn said. “These donors believe in the power of harnessing the ideas and energy of young adults to help transform our community while also transforming their own minds and hearts in the process.”

This summer with additional private funding support, plans call for the selection of 20 fellows, and 10 fellows each in fall ’21 and spring ’22.

Opening hearts, minds and eyes

Like Morgan, Alicia Hernandez has also completed three semesters in the fellowship program. Alicia, a sophomore at ASU majoring in Global Health with a minor in Family and Human Development, applied for the fellowship last summer when traditional internships were scarce.

“When I saw the fellow opportunity at St. Vincent de Paul, I quickly applied, having been volunteering in the Dream Center since middle school with my mom and my brother,” Alicia said.

Because of her love of nature, her fellowship has centered on the Urban Farm, weeding and harvesting as well as leading volunteer groups and handling social media efforts.

“This fellowship has really opened my eyes and helped me to realize a lot of things,” Alicia started. “To become kinder and to understand

other people’s situations. I see others in the community, and it hurts my heart as a first-generation college student.

“I’ve always loved St. Vincent de Paul because community solutions mean a lot to me,” said Alicia, who shared that her family “used services like St. Vincent de Paul when we were younger.”

She continued, “The fellowship has brought me to my ultimate goal to go to medical school and to open a nonprofit medical clinic for the underserved community with my sister, who is in nursing school.”

For Alicia and the other first participants in the fellowship, it’s about having a meaningful career and making a difference.

But it’s so much more than individual gain and insight. Investment in the fellows now will hopefully one day translate into a new generation of servant leaders ready and able to discover new and better community solutions.

Are you or someone you know interested in the LIA Fellowship?

Contact Shawn Donnelly at svdpfellows@svdpaz.org.

“This fellowship has really opened my eyes and helped me to realize a lot of things. To become kinder and to understand other people’s situations.”

Alicia Hernandez, Urban Farm LIA Fellow, ASU sophomore





“Some of us have hands to serve. Some of us have wisdom to lead. And some of us have enough means that we can share with others.”

– Susan Herrmann

WE EACH HAVE A ROLE IN HELPING.

Susan Herrmann knows her financial role in helping her community by giving to St. Vincent de Paul. As a retired financial advisor, she understands the power of her dollar and appreciates how far every cent goes to feed, clothe, house and heal those most in need. That’s why Susan has supported the mission for more than 20 years and pledges to give annually.

“I know my role and how I can have the most impact,” Susan says.

Read Susan’s story at:
stvincentdepaul.net/svdp-blog/susan-herrmann



Scan the QR code to read Susan’s story

What role will you fulfill?

Make a gift.
Volunteer.
Host a drive.

stvincentdepaul.net/give
stvincentdepaul.net/get-involved

Relief in a year when it counted most

2020 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

143,372

food boxes delivered to doorsteps through

80+ neighborhood food pantries



2.8 million

meals served through 5 charity dining rooms and across the community with 28 partner agencies



920,000

items of clothing, hygiene products, toys and food collected by 406 community drives



\$2.9 million

in rent and utility assistance helped families avoid eviction and homelessness



4,160

individuals experiencing homelessness offered clothing & hygiene services while social distancing



5,600

COVID-19 tests completed with testing clinic partner CVS Health

& 16,300

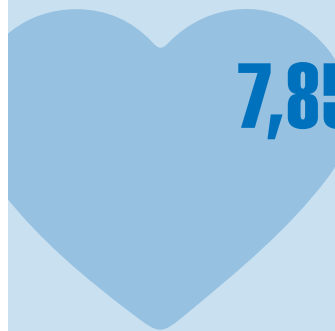
in-person, telemedicine and virtual wellness visits for uninsured patients, from 217 zip codes and ranging in age from 5 days to 92 years old.



7,850 remote volunteer hours served

& 500

remote projects completed



28,400

socially distanced sheltered nights provided to individuals



5.1 million

pounds of food received and distributed through our Central Food Bank





3 INSTITUTIONS, ONE REVOLUTIONARY CLINIC PARTNERSHIP

Dr. John Anwar, SVdP Medical Director and Creighton Assistant Professor, guides a Creighton second-year medical student in determining treatment next steps based on test results and what they've heard from the patient so far.



Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust invests \$10M in a clinic collaboration between St. Vincent de Paul and Creighton University to bring systemic change to health care, increase access and cultivate more medical professionals for Arizona

By Creighton, Piper Trust and SVdP staff

It's an early Saturday morning at St. Vincent de Paul's Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic, and Dr. John Anwar, the clinic's medical director and an assistant professor in Creighton University's School of Medicine in Phoenix, is retrieving a blood pressure monitor from a shelf inside the clinic's pharmacy. Holding the device, Dr. Anwar turns to a Creighton second-year medical student and offers guidance on how to introduce the monitor and point out key features to a patient who will take it home.

The medical student, there for Creighton's monthly rotation through SVdP's clinic, has likely read about blood pressure monitors. But it's unlikely he's yet had to explain this device to an uninsured patient, who perhaps hasn't ever encountered this basic but necessary care.

There in lies the beauty of a new partnership between SVdP and Creighton University, which aims to coordinate and increase access to quality health care for the uninsured while growing skilled medical professionals for Arizona.

It's a partnership of which the two institutions could only dream but this March became a reality thanks to a \$10 million investment in the collaboration by Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.

The three organizations have come together to respond to a great need to reduce health

disparities that disproportionately affect low-income populations and people of color. That's especially the case for the uninsured population, which is the focus of SVdP's clinic care.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the impact of failing to prepare for and respond to broad, unaddressed health inequities in our community," said Mary Jane Rynd, President & CEO of Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. "The need is urgent, and our response cannot wait. Now is the time for higher education, social services and philanthropy to join and use our collective capacity to create a healthier, more resilient future."

More medical professionals for our clinic and Arizona

The partnership more deeply integrates SVdP's Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic into Creighton Health Sciences — Phoenix Campus curriculum. For more than a decade, Creighton faculty and third- and fourth-year medical students have volunteered monthly at the clinic, which now serves as the primary teaching facility for first- and second-year medical students as well.

When the campus opens this August, medical, nursing, physician assistant, pharmacy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy faculty and students will work to serve patients in an interprofessional manner, using a team-based approach shown to improve patient outcomes and reduce healthcare costs.

“As Creighton health sciences students consistently rotate through the clinic, it is not only clinical education that is taking place, but an experience at the core of Jesuit education — *cura personalis*, or care for the whole person, physically, emotionally and spiritually,” said Dr. Randy Richardson, regional dean, Creighton University School of Medicine, Phoenix Campus.

Calvin Fairbourne, a third-year medical student, knows personally the important and unique opportunity it is to serve at SVdP’s Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic and gain field experience with an underserved population. On this particular Saturday, Calvin is serving as student lead to help mentor the first- and second-year students.

“This is an opportunity to get more practice, an opportunity to get hands-on experience with patients who really need it,” Calvin said. “You get to see the reality of medicine. You get to see how people really live and function with these problems, and unlike in the textbooks, where

the answer is often *prescribe this medication; take this patient for surgery; get an MRI, an X-ray or an ultrasound*, these patients don’t always have that opportunity. So being able to be here, offers a chance to explore how the real world operates and how doctors find ways to help their patients that you never learn in school.”

As students spend more time with physicians in the charity clinic, they learn the special obstacles and challenges faced by underserved patient populations.

“Our students will receive an education that is centered at the new frontier of care in medicine — at the place with the greatest need and the greatest opportunity for transformational change,” Dr. Anwar said.

“They will understand, from the very beginning of their education experience, the inequities in the healthcare system and their role as professionals to serve and care for the most vulnerable.”

Increased care for the uninsured

The clinic’s infusion of physician faculty and health sciences students expands access to preventative, acute and specialty care. Through this collaboration SVdP’s Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic aims to cover as much care as possible free of cost to patients so that they can receive most of their treatment, medication, standard vaccinations and minor procedures under one roof until they are stable enough to be transitioned to a Federally Qualified Health Center.

“Our patients cannot afford specialty care, so having all of the medical specialties in one place really helps us coordinate their care,” Dr. Anwar said. “Not only are we helping our patients, but we are also collaborating with other safety net clinics in the community, so that more patients can access the multiple specialties that we have here under one roof.”

SVdP’s Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic boasts more than 20 specialties including areas like

“As Creighton health sciences students consistently rotate through the clinic, it is not only clinical education that is taking place, but an experience at the core of Jesuit education — *cura personalis*, or care for the whole person, physically, emotionally and spiritually.”

Dr. Randy Richardson,
Regional dean, Creighton University School
of Medicine, Phoenix Campus



Top: Leaders from all three institutions took a moment to gather at SVdP’s clinic in the spring to mark the momentous partnership. Present (from left) were Dr. John Anwar, SVdP Medical Director and Creighton Assistant Professor; Dr. Randy Richardson, Creighton Regional Dean; Mary Jane Rynd, Piper Trust President & CEO; Shannon Clancy, SVdP Associate CEO; and Steve Zabalski, SVdP CEO.

Bottom left: A first-year Creighton student checks the patient history as she prepares to perform (for the first time) an EKG test on a patient reporting heart pains.

Bottom right: Third-year medical student Calvin Fairbourne (at left) helps lead the Creighton student volunteer clinics that happen once a month at SVdP with physician oversight. Here, he mentors a second-year medical student.

“We help patients access the care they need, preventing manageable health conditions from becoming emergencies. That’s only possible thanks to donors like Piper Trust and the physicians who volunteer their time here.”

Dr. John Anwar,
SVdP medical director



cardiology, gastroenterology, podiatry, wound care and many more.

Dr. Richardson is an example himself of helping increase access to specialty care. As a radiologist, he brings his skill to and specialty in imaging to the uninsured patients.

During the Saturday clinic, Dr. Richardson performs an ultrasound on a woman’s neck to see if there are any abnormalities causing the pressure and pain she’s experiencing. The procedure could easily cost \$250 or more without insurance.

“That kind of cost could be the difference between a patient getting the medical attention they need or putting food on the table,” Dr. Anwar said. “By providing these services free of charge, we help patients access the care they need, preventing manageable health conditions from becoming emergencies. That’s only possible thanks to donors like Piper Trust and the physicians who volunteer their time here.”

Uninsured patients, rather than receiving specialty and preventative care, often turn to emergency rooms for complications arising from unmanaged chronic disease. This not only

results in poorer outcomes for patients long-term, it increases the cost of care that hospitals must absorb in treating conditions that might have been prevented. That’s where this partnership seeks to change the healthcare system.

Building healthcare bridges for systemic change

With greater resources in place, Creighton and SVdP leaders will work with health systems in the Greater Phoenix area to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of uninsured patient referrals between hospitals and the Arizona Safety Net System — a collaboration of more than 40 clinics providing services to those most in need.

SVdP and Creighton’s strengths are well-suited to improve the referral system and effect sustainable change. SVdP’s Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic is a leading provider in the Arizona Safety Net System. Creighton, meanwhile, has established strong clinical partnerships with Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center and Valleywise Health, among others.

To lead this effort, the Creighton School of Medicine will hire and employ the Virginia

WELCOME TO DR. JOHN ANWAR, SVdP’s new medical director

When Dr. John Anwar was 10 years old, his mother gave birth prematurely to triplets. Living in a rural area of southern Egypt with limited access to health care in the 1980s, the family faced two choices:

Travel 500 kilometers (about 310 miles) to Cairo to a clinic with neonatal intensive care the family couldn’t afford or care for the premature babies at home with the help of a family practitioner. Because of financial constraint, the family opted for home care. Tragically, two of the babies died of pneumonia because of their underdeveloped lungs.

“I remember standing at the end of the bed,” Dr. Anwar said. “My mother was so sad. I said at that time that one day I will become a doctor and provide services and care for people who need access but cannot afford it.”

That personal mission and the recent partnership with Creighton University has brought Dr. Anwar to St. Vincent de Paul as the new medical director of SVdP’s Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic for the uninsured. He works helping underserved patients get access to the care they need. From there, Dr. Anwar goes to practice Internal Medicine at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center.

Dr. Anwar graduated from Ross University School of Medicine and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at St. Joseph’s in Phoenix. He holds a bachelor’s degree in molecular biology and biochemistry from the University of California, Davis, where he originally earned a grant to study after immigrating from Egypt.



Scan the QR code to watch and read Dr. Anwar’s full story.



G. Piper Chair in Medicine and Chief Medical Officer embedded at SVdP's Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic. In addition to overseeing the clinic, the CMO will facilitate communication and collaboration between Arizona Safety Net clinics and hospital systems.

"The St. Vincent de Paul and Creighton partnership amplifies our ability to both provide critical health care to people who do not have access and to find solutions to greater health equity in our community," SVdP Associate CEO Shannon Clancy said. "People currently not receiving the services they desperately need will get the high-quality care they deserve, raising the bar for greater access to health care in Maricopa County."

As the organizations navigate a new care model, they will continue to evaluate their strategies, developing new practices focused on reducing inequities in the healthcare system. A new Creighton School of Medicine role, the

Virginia G. Piper Fellowship in Health Disparities, will conduct research and inform the partnership's efforts to drive systemic change and patient-focused improvements in care.

"This forward-thinking approach to caring for the underserved and formation of compassionate health professionals is a perfect illustration of Creighton's mission," said University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD.

"The stability, dignity and hope we can offer patients at SVdP's Virginia G. Piper Medical Clinic will touch countless lives, including physicians and health professions faculty and their students. The experience will affirm firsthand that medicine is a sacred calling, and they have been selected to help God's people in their moments of greatest need."

Down the hall, another second-year medical student emerges from a patient's exam room to consult Dr. Anwar. It's the patient's first

visit since being referred to the clinic. It's also the student's first time performing an electrocardiogram (or EKG) test.

For the student, the experience will be invaluable and one she carries forward with her into her profession. For the patient, while her personal health remains confidential, two things are certain — 1) No matter her condition, she will receive the care she needs without the burden of costly medical bills and 2) because of her access to care today, she is already on the path to preventing a future health crisis.

Outside the door, Dr. Anwar goes over the EKG process with the student. Once ready, together they enter the room to begin the patient's journey of care.



"The St. Vincent de Paul and Creighton partnership amplifies our ability to both provide critical health care to people who do not have access and to find solutions to greater health equity in our community"

Shannon Clancy,
SVdP Associate CEO

After Dr. Anwar explains treatment next steps, his patient looks up with hope to SVdP's Chronic Care and Quality Coordinator Gaby Barraza. The patient will finally be able to get the care he has gone without for many years.

FAMILY RELIEF ARRIVES AT A SINGLE MOTHER'S DOORSTEP

Vincentians Mary Ann and Pete Kneip make sure it gets there

By Alejandra Bucon

Mary Ann and Pete Kneip knock on Shashoni's apartment door. The Kneips, who are St. Vincent de Paul parish-based volunteers (known as Vincentians) have arrived to deliver relief from the SVdP neighborhood pantry at St. Gregory's Catholic Church, where they've volunteered for more than 10 years.

Shashoni is a 24-year-old single mother of two little girls. She shares an apartment with her younger sister in Central Phoenix and called the nearby pantry for help earlier in the week. Mary Ann is excited; it's the first time they meet face-to-face.

Shashoni opens the door, holding her youngest daughter on her hip. The only furniture visible from outside is a small dining room table and a little pink bed at the end of the living room. The rest of the space is empty.

"I called because I was so anxious. I didn't know if I would be able to pay my bills," Shashoni says. "I needed help. I'm just trying to make sure my babies are good."

Shashoni does nails, hair and babysitting — service jobs which allow her to work from home so that she can provide special care for her youngest daughter born with a disability. But the pandemic has taken its toll on her customer base.

"I'm not making the income I need to support my family, put food on the table, put diapers in my baby's bag."

Before the pandemic, Vincentians would visit families inside their homes, listen to their needs and worries, and at the end of their visit they would often pray together. Now this all

takes place outside on stoops or porches while everyone wears masks and skips holding hands.

"It's not the same to see families outside their homes," Mary Ann says.

In Pete's hands are bags full of essentials from the pantry, including cans of soup, vegetables, beans, rice, eggs, milk, toilet paper and more.

"We love to see if there are any special needs, like if they need diapers or something special that we don't give to everybody," Pete says.

"We had a couple of packages of diapers, which are expensive, so that saves her a little money there."

In Mary Ann's hand is a check to help with rent, which covers the portion — not quite half — that Shashoni couldn't cover.

"At least we can take care of that," Mary Ann says. "That takes her through the end of the month or close. And luckily, we had plenty of food."

The Kneips also provide Shashoni with a few gift cards to a local SVdP thrift store to help with apartment furnishings. Shashoni plans to buy a couch. She can't believe all the help that's arrived at her door.

"It gives me enough time to save and make sure my daughter gets what she needs because she's disabled. So, they've helped me a lot. I appreciate it, I really do," Shashoni says as she fights back tears.

"I'm grateful and blessed. I'm grateful that Mary Ann was able to come and see us. I have tears in my eyes because I'm happy."

"It gives me enough time to save and make sure my daughter gets what she needs because she's disabled. So, they've helped me a lot. **I appreciate it, I really do.**"

— Shashoni



Mary Ann and Pete Kneip serve as Vincentian volunteers for SVdP's pantry at St. Gregory's Catholic Church in Phoenix.



Scan the QR code to watch Shashoni's video



Farm volunteer Tom Jones, who has a visual impairment, finds fulfillment in helping with his hands and

SERVING TOWARD SOMETHING GREATER THAN HIMSELF



Scan the QR code to watch Tom's video

By Marisol Saldivar

Hundreds of young plants peek up from their seed-sprouting containers inside the hoop house of St. Vincent de Paul's Rob and Melani Walton Urban Farm. Point to any one of those sprouts, and you can probably bet that Tom Jones planted it.

The weekly volunteer seeds about 400 plants every time he visits, but a genetic visual impairment denies him the sight of all the plant life he's helped start at the farm. What can't be denied is what Tom feels both with his hands and his heart.

"I can feel the thickness and the texture of the stem. I can feel the soil, whether I'm harvesting or planting seeds," Tom says. "It makes me feel joy, a deep feeling of wellbeing."

Tom, who is 75, began slowly losing his vision in 2007. He retired shortly thereafter, having worked 17 years in the car wash business and 11 years in the food distribution and vending machine business. He and his wife currently live in north Phoenix, where Tom has a home garden. Advice on his struggling plants is why Tom first sought out the Urban Farms Program at SVdP.

That was around springtime 2020, shortly after the pandemic began. Ever since, Tom has volunteered on the farm with the help of his seeing-eye dog Rhoda. Together they contribute to the mission to help the farm grow nutritious food for people in need, who visit SVdP's dining rooms.

"Back in my home garden it's different," Tom says. "Here, it's much more. It's service to the community. I'm giving something to the community that is bigger than just me." When Tom works on the farm, he likes to visualize the entire farm to table process. And being a faithful man, he prays over each step.

"I pray over the seeds that are going into the garden," Tom says. "Or I pray over what I'm harvesting — that the people who are getting the food are blessed. Not only that, but the people who water the seed in the greenhouse are blessed."

"I hope people can look up and just have a real surge of thankfulness," Tom continues, "for being near the Earth and the dirt and the plants, but also the nutrition that comes from them."

Beyond connection to the community he helps feed, Tom has gained friendship with those who work and volunteer on the farm. He's harvested alongside people of all ages, religions and backgrounds.

"I love working with Tom because he really does bring a bright energy and spirit to the farm," Associate Farm Manager Taylor Scarpelli says. "He makes true, genuine connections with people, and he's always so grateful to be here."

Working on the farm means Tom's gotten a lot of exercise and sunshine, even during the pandemic. And these days, his home garden is doing a lot better. But that's not keeping him from continuing to volunteer.

"I think that I will probably be here for a long time," Tom says. "I'm looking forward to it."

Tom's personal recommendation for gardening: *Sprinkle a little Bible each day to fertilize ourselves. We will "be like trees planted along the riverbank bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do." Psalms 1:3 NLT*

FORMER SHELTER RESIDENT PAMELA HOLLAND IS LIVING THE RV LIFE WITH HER NEW LOVE

By Marisol Saldivar



On the small patio outside the travel trailer where Pamela Holland, 62, lives with her partner Jim, they've set up a little coffee station and a pair of glider chairs for relaxing.

Birds sing in the trees, a FedEx truck makes a delivery to a neighbor, children play in the grass and a rhythm of airplanes pass overhead. Occasionally, a coyote cuts through the RV park tucked away at the foot of Adobe Mountain in Deer Valley, Arizona.

"I love it," Pamela says. "It's well kept. People are very friendly, very nice, talkative and social."

Life wasn't always this laidback. Pamela used to live on the street before she rebuilt her life and graduated from St. Vincent de Paul's transitional shelter, Ozanam Manor.

Originally from Iowa, Pamela left the state in 2007 and headed west. She'd been working in a factory, but her job didn't outweigh her need to escape a toxic relationship.

"I just needed to start my life over," she says, "and Iowa wasn't big enough for the both of us."

Pamela eventually ended up in Phoenix. She cared for a family whose father was ill. In return, the family provided her room and board in their home. Things were fine until the father needed care beyond what Pamela could provide. A live-in nurse was called, the family splintered, and Pamela suddenly found herself out on the street.

"It was a nightmare losing my life and my home," Pamela says.

She discovered Ozanam Manor during a visit to SVdP's Resource Center for people experiencing homelessness, and in January 2019, she moved in. Immediately, Pamela plugged into the community.

"We're one family," she says. "We're here to love each other, support each other."

Pamela tapped into every SVdP service she could. She went to classes offered to the residents to coach them on things from managing finances to practicing healthy eating. Even the SVdP Dental Clinic team fit her for new dentures.

"People there are so open armed, open heart, open mind," she continues. "They give you the time to get your physical together, your spiritual, and your financial."

For a year and half, Pamela focused on growth and resolving her health issues, finances and housing. During that time, she met Jim, a navy veteran who also was going through the transitional shelter program.

"We just found we enjoyed each other's company," she says. "He was there to get on his feet and get on with his life like I was."

Working with SVdP case managers, they re-established their social security checks, and Jim got connected to his VA benefits. Together, they started making plans to move out and become roommates. After Jim bought the trailer, and they secured the RV lot, feelings caught up to them.



Pamela and Jim share a tender moment inside their RV home. It was a long road for them to get to this moment of stable housing.

"When we finally got here, we were in each other's arms for a good couple of weeks," says Pamela, who moved out in June 2020.

They've since made the place cozy. And when they want, they drive off for a romantic camping trip or sometimes to visit their SVdP family.

"Without that place, we wouldn't have anything," Pamela says. "I'm eternally grateful."



SCAN ME

Eternally grateful. I wouldn't have made it through without them. They saved my life."

Scan the QR code to watch Pamela's video

THE SOCIETY OF A THOUSAND THANKS



BHHS Legacy Foundation gives the gift of countless smiles

Two years of uninsured dental patient care costs and the dental operatory space where the care will be delivered is all thanks to the generosity of BHHS Legacy Foundation's gift of \$150,000. The BHHS Legacy Foundation Operatory space will provide oral health care to adults in need and add to the 20 years of community impact the Foundation continues to make in Arizona.

"We are so grateful for the long-time partnership of the BHHS Legacy Foundation and Jerry Wissink," said Dr. Ken Snyder, the dental clinic executive director. "They will continue to help change the lives and smiles of so many patients counting on SVdP."

BHHS Legacy Foundation CEO Jerry Wissink and SVdP Executive Dental Director Ken Snyder hold the \$150K check helping to fund an operatory in the clinic.

Americares Eli Lilly Diabetes Navigator Grant expands diabetes care coordination

Thanks to \$50,000 from a Americares Eli Lilly Diabetes Navigator Grant, the SVdP Ben and Catherine Ivy Center for Family Wellness can expand its team to offer increased diabetes care for SVdP Medical Clinic patients. The new wellness staff position will be charged with connecting clinic patients to wellness programming, helping them to control their diabetes with the help of nutrition and physical activity in addition to taking any medications prescribed. It's a multi-pronged approach to improving overall health for uninsured patients.

One of the greatest privileges of serving in Arizona is being able to work with a generous community of people who care about the well-being of our state. During this unusual time of pandemic response, volunteering remained limited, but our friends continued to host food drives and donate generously to support our work.

APS helps keep families housed and fed

Thank you to Arizona Public Service for supporting SVdP's homelessness prevention work. The company generously gave \$250,000 to cover rent and utility bills for hundreds of households, keeping families off the street and current on bills. In 2020, APS gave an earlier \$50,000 to help SVdP continue feeding families struggling between putting food on the table or paying bills. Together the two efforts helped SVdP offer multiple avenues of relief to families in need. Thank you, APS!

During a Saturday morning home visit, SVdP delivered food and rent checks to families living in Central City Phoenix, including this single mother who was still waiting on her first paycheck to arrive from her new job at Motel 6. She had been struggling to find work after being laid off during the shutdown. Groceries and rent relief saw her through the transition.



Driven to Care offers broad support across SVdP mission

The Arizona Region of Driven to Care — spouses of Discount Tire senior managers — dedicated their entire \$35,500 grant from Discount Tire Foundation to help SVdP feed, clothe, house and heal. Their generosity brought food and wrap-around support services to families in need. It also financed bill assistance to prevent homelessness during the pandemic as well as support services for those already experiencing homelessness. Thank you, Arizona Region of Driven to Care, for your years of volunteering and for remembering SVdP during a tough year of much-need relief.

Board of Visitors enhance vision screenings with new technology for SVdP clinic

The uninsured patients of SVdP's Medical Clinic benefit from a brand-new visual field analyzer made possible by a \$25,000 gift from the Board of Visitors. The machine that measures a patient's field of sight helps identify potential diminished or blind spots in the patient's vision. Thank you, Board of Visitors, for helping enhance the ophthalmology technology available at the clinic, which enables SVdP to offer quality specialty care to patients in need.

THE SOCIETY OF A THOUSAND THANKS

Thunderbirds provide much-needed equipment for SVdP frontline food facilities

When SVdP's kitchen and central food bank equipment — well past its prime years — was on its last legs, the Thunderbirds Charities stepped up with \$205,000 to provide new industrial equipment. That help will purchase a replacement drive-in freezer for the food bank and a dishwasher for the Mesa Dining Room. Thank you, Thunderbirds! Without you, our frontline workers wouldn't have wonderful new machinery to keep up with the increased need in the community during these times.

Head Chef Chris Hoffman dishes up to-go meals for dinner service. He and the kitchen staff prepare 4,000 meals every day using large, industrial size equipment to get the big job done. Then they wake up and do it again the next day.



Opus Foundation funds paths to employment for homeless

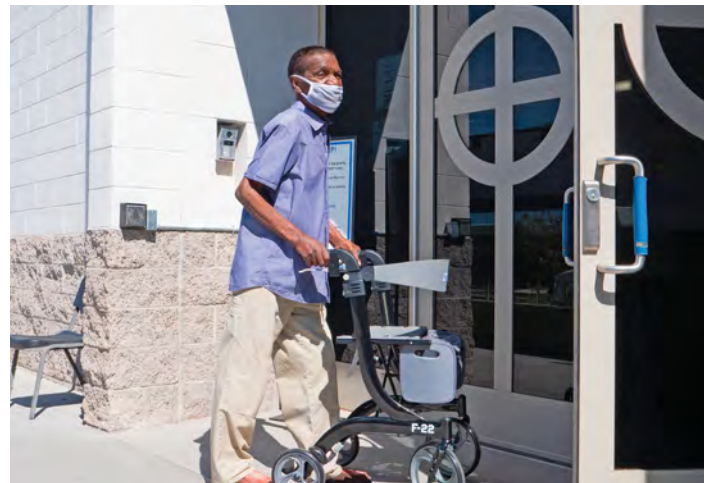
Homeless guests who rely on SVdP's Phoenix and Sunnyslope dining rooms now have an opportunity to gain employable skills while being paid thanks to a \$30,000 gift from Opus Foundation. The money supports a new workforce development program that gives SVdP guests experiencing homelessness a chance to learn different useful skillsets while helping with meal services and on the urban farm collocated with the Phoenix Dining Room. Thank you, Opus Foundation, for giving SVdP the chance to pilot this new program and offer another pathway to stability for some of its most vulnerable guests.

Arizona Republic Season for Sharing grant helps feed families beyond holiday season

Thank you to The Arizona Republic and its readers who donated to the newspaper's Season for Sharing campaign that ran through the end of January. The \$30,000 grant helped SVdP fill up food boxes to deliver to families' homes. It also supported to-go meals at SVdP's five Valley dining rooms. The effort stretched the season of sharing well past the holidays. Thanks for the continued generosity and for making spring a season of caring for the community.

Sagicor Life Insurance Company helps SVdP continue critical services

Over the course of 2020 and into the new year, Sagicor Life Insurance Company gave \$70,000 to support SVdP's efforts to feed, clothe, house and heal. Their generosity helped boost COVID relief, but it also saw beyond the pandemic, providing holiday meals and offering SVdP flexibility in responding to urgent need by contributing to the nonprofit's general fund. Thank you, Sagicor Life Insurance Company, for your kindness and contribution during these tough times.



Pulte Family Charitable Foundation makes family drive-thru meals and activities possible

SVdP’s Family Dining Room drive-thru, which hosts special drive-thru activities as part of its educational Dream Center outreach, continues to nourish families’ minds and bodies thanks in part to \$25,000 from Pulte Family Charitable Foundation. The foundation’s generous gift makes possible meals and educational fun for the families visiting the drive-thru during the pandemic. Thank you, Pulte Family Charitable Foundation, for helping SVdP provide dignified care to parents in need and their children.

DAV Charitable Trust supports beds for veterans at Ozanam Manor

Thank you to DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Charitable Trust for giving \$12,500 to Ozanam Manor. The transitional shelter for seniors, veterans and adults with disabilities has 60 beds with 23 set aside for veterans experiencing homelessness. The gift helps support the upkeep of shelter service offered to veterans, including lifestyle classes, case management, clothing, meals and more. With basic needs covered, veterans can regain their footing, finances and hopefully move into a home of their own.

TWO WAYS TO HELP SVDP SUSTAIN LIVES THIS SUMMER



1

Eliminate Hunger with AZ Family 3TV/CBS5, Safeway and Albertsons *May (all month)*

With kids out of school and more expensive utility bills, you can help St. Vincent de Paul keep families’ pantries stocked by giving to the drive to eliminate hunger with AZ Family 3TV/CBS 5, Safeway and Albertsons.

Donate at the register of any Safeway or Albertsons or give online at stvincentdepaul.net/eliminate-hunger.



2

ABC15 Water Drive with Bashas’ and Food City *June 1-14*

Your donation of water or money to the ABC15 Water Drive will help St. Vincent de Paul hand out 3,000 bottles of water every day to keep its most vulnerable guests hydrated and alive this summer.

Donate at any Bashas’ or Food City when you check out or give online at stvincentdepaul.net/water.



VINCENTIAN CONNECTION

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SummerRelief.org



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