

St. Vincent de Paul Roseville Quarterly



Preventing Hunger and Homelessness Since 1983

SUMMER '22

Feature Article

President's Message

Words of Wisdom
and Encouragement

October Fundraiser

Grant Awards

McKenzie DiPietro

Ismaili Community
Open House

Blessing of the
Vineyards

More Stories

Click on an article to
jump there!

SUCCESS!

Christmas in June



During our 'Christmas in June' toy drive, our community members showed up! This Christmas, children will be blessed from the incredible donations from the community! While our toy drive may be over, the opportunity to give never is!
[Click here to see the next giving opportunity.](#)



Meet Rebecca Rush

Rebecca Rush has been the Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul, Roseville since 2018. I recently sat down with her to find out more about her background, focusing on the path that led her to St. Vincent's doors. Rebecca also shared some of her insights and experiences of the last four years.

For Rebecca, a life of service began early. Raised in a military family, her parents adopted several children in need of a family. During Rebecca's teen years, they fostered many children of diverse backgrounds. Helping people was a strong theme of her upbringing.

Rebecca wasn't the only one to hear the call to service. Two of her biological sisters chose similar careers; one became a nurse and the other a teacher. Rebecca, a self-described introvert, preferred to work behind the scenes. While the extroverts like to get out front giving speeches and shaking hands, Rebecca prefers sitting behind her desk, meeting with clients and writing grants.

Before she even had a chance to finish college, Rebecca was hired to work for the Sheriff's Youth Programs of Minnesota (SYPMN) as their Information/Technology Director, a job she held for four years. Then she was promoted to Vice President of Operations during which time she was tapped for Interim Chief Executive Officer. Rebecca was promoted to CEO with the promise that she would finish her college degree which she did - a bachelor's degree in Behavioral Health.

After 11 years with SYPMN, the agency was acquired by a larger non-profit organization. Rebecca takes pride in the outcome of the negotiations; 98% of the rank-and-file employees were able to stay on the job. Understandably (maybe), the entire upper-level staff was let go...including Rebecca.

With every disappointment comes a new opportunity. Rebecca took advantage of her new (jobless) status to move to California. Not only had she enjoyed living here as a child, but her oldest daughter, an Air Force veteran, was living in Folsom with her husband and 3 children. Win-win!

Rebecca's first job in California was as a compliance officer for an agency called LifeSteps U.S.A. In that position, she oversaw reporting for social services provided to residents living in low-income apartment complexes.

In 2013, Rebecca was recruited to the position of Executive Director of HeartLand Child & Family Services in Del Paso Heights. It is an outpatient program that provides mental health services to approximately 400 young MediCal recipients a month in North Sacramento. When she moved on, Rebecca was asked to become a member of HeartLand's Board of Directors. Rebecca moved to her current position as Executive Director of St Vincent de Paul, Roseville in 2018.

As the top administrator, Rebecca came with three main goals, advocating for employees, developing a positive culture, and effecting real change. She has certainly made a difference in all three areas.

Don Fraser, the president of St. Vincent's board, elaborated on Rebecca's many accomplishments. First, she has taken over grant research, writing, and compliance. Second, she single-handedly manages the Rental Assistance Program for St. Vincent. This involves reviewing applications, conducting intake interviews, and evaluating levels of need. Most importantly, Rebecca reconstructed operations during the pandemic to continue critical services while ensuring the safety of clients, employees, and volunteers. Don said, "We never had anyone contract Covid at St. Vincent".

When asked what she likes most about working at St. Vincent de Paul, Roseville, Rebecca answered, "There's so much. I love that everybody is just so giving of their time. This is an agency where everybody...genuinely wants to help people and care about the good of the community." She added one more bonus, "I get paid to do it!"

Rebecca said that at every board meeting the chairperson asks, "Who has a good work story to share?" Then everyone turns and looks at her. Rebecca's story is always the same. It starts like this, someone comes to Rebecca saying, "Oh shoot, we're almost out of baby formula" (or diapers or peanut butter or ???). Inevitably, in one or two days, a large shipment of that item appears at the warehouse. It's just hard to believe that God isn't involved.

Rebecca calls St. Vincent de Paul, Roseville her "forever home". She's just so comfortable here. How many people can say that their job strengthens their faith and brings them peace? Welcome home, Rebecca.



President's Message

Don Fraser

Summer is here and so is the hot weather. But our work at St. Vincent continues as we help those in our community to cope with the ever-rising cost of living. I know we are all feeling the squeeze from inflation, but it's especially hard on those with limited income.

The work we do would not be possible without our very dedicated staff. Over the next year, we will feature one of our staff members in the newsletter so you can get to know them a bit better. In this issue, we feature our Executive Director, Rebecca Rush. As Dr. Tom recently told me, "The Good Lord has blessed us with a special person to be our executive director." If you get a chance, stop by the office and say hello.

Also, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you that support the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Roseville through your donations of time and treasure. We could not fulfill our mission without you, to live the Gospel message. *"For whatever you did for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it for me."* May the Lord bless you for the good work you do.



July means our annual *Back to School* drive!

Drop off your new, unused school supplies Monday-Friday from 11-3 at:

503 Giuseppe Ct.
Unit 8
Roseville, CA 95678



WORDS OF WISDOM AND *Encouragement*

Deacon Mike

The most powerful person to ever walk this earth never used his power, his dominion for himself. He cured the sick, gave sight to the blind, fed thousands and raised people from the dead. Even while facing death on the cross, he gave completely of himself. Quite simply, it's called servant leadership. During the Last Supper, he endured Judas' betrayal; foretold Peter's denial; heard an argument over who was greatest and instructed his disciples how to lead. He modeled servant leadership; and gave his disciples a commandment, "love one another as I have loved you". Jesus exemplified servant leadership in the washing of feet, telling his disciples, "I did this ... so you will do it too," Instead of seeking power, Jesus sought to empower others to experience the freedom and joy of servant leadership and sacrificial love. The reign of God he preached was about creating a community of mercy, a community of charity, a community of love.

Chances are, you are already a servant leader and don't realize it. Setting our own needs and wants aside, spouses care for one another, parents care for their children, children care for their senior parents; even young children do this in the day-to-day chores and tasks they accomplish. We do it when we help and watch over extended family and our friends. We even do it with small acts of kindness and good will we show to strangers as we go about our day. Any act, no matter how small proclaims the Gospel message "to love one another as I have loved you" and quietly proclaims servant leadership.

We have all been given special gifts; not to be kept to ourselves but given to us to be used to help others. Jesus made it very simple; if someone is hungry, feed them. If someone is naked, clothe them. If someone is in prison (be it spiritual, mental, or physical), visit them. Walk into any church and ask, how can I help? Come to St. Vincent De Paul and ask, do you need volunteers? Walk into any charitable organization with an open heart and see the response you get, trust me, it will be life changing.

Pope Francis shared this message at World Youth Day in Brazil: "The life of Jesus is a life for others. It is a life of service."

Now, it's true, God loves us right where we are; but He also loves us too much for us to stay there. His greatest desire is for us to have life, to have joy, to have love and to have it all in abundance! Please believe me when I say, we find this in imitation of the Servant King, we find it in service to others.

What might He be calling YOU to do?



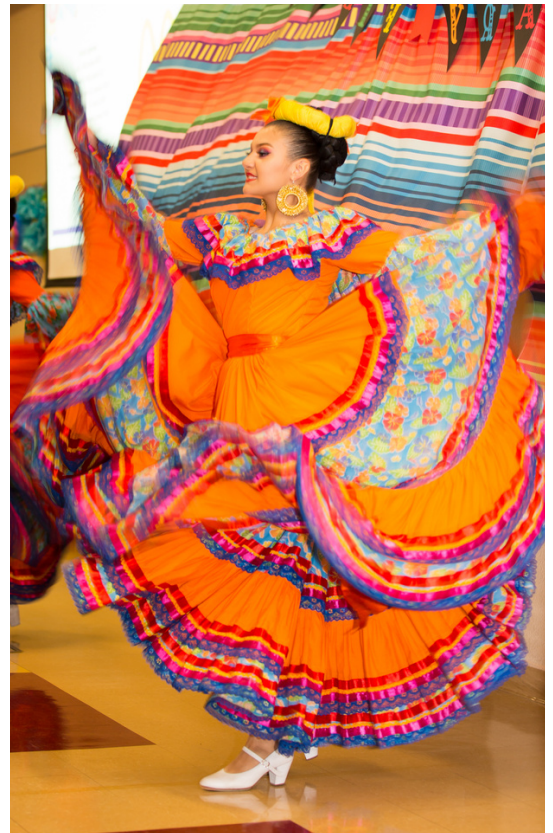
Save the Date **OCTOBER 1ST**

Saint Vincent de Paul, Roseville, is planning to celebrate its 39th anniversary of serving the south Placer community on Saturday, October 1st. Currently we are planning both a virtual, live streamed event and an in-person event. If the COVID-19 pandemic risk becomes unacceptable, we will cancel the in-person portion of our celebration.

Former local news anchor and media relations personality, Kellie DeMarco, and fundraiser auctioneer, Freddie Silveria, will host our event. The in-person event will be held at the Chalet Event Center in Rocklin from 6 to 10 pm.

The theme of our event is the **2022 Beverly Hillbillies Ball** inspired by the 1960's television sitcom, "Beverly Hillbillies". The evening will include a delicious, family style supper, locally crafted beer and wine, a live band or two, multiple games of skill and chance, and line and square dancing. Guests will be able to watch a heartwarming testimonial and a newly recorded video describing Saint Vincent's programs. Freddie Silveria will lead a live auction.

If you would like to volunteer to help in planning this event, please contact Tom Stanko at: stankotom@comcast.net



Pictures from our previous fundraisers!

GRANT AWARDS

With the new fiscal year comes opportunity for new program funding for the services provided by St Vincent de Paul Roseville. We have various grant proposals pending approval later this month and will update on those in our Fall Newsletter.

Grant awards in place to begin supporting funding July 1:

Citizens Benefit Fund - City of Roseville - \$13,972 Food Locker Operations

ASK Collaborative - City of Roseville - \$50,000 Rental / Utility Assistance

CDBG - City of Roseville - \$15,000 BAGS Home Delivery

Bank of America - \$10,000 Food Locker Operations



St Vincent de Paul Roseville is fortunate to have the confidence of the presenters of these grants, and in the services we provide to the community.

MCKENZIE DIPIETRO

Hi, my name is McKenzie. I am 8 years old, and for my First Communion service project I decided I wanted to do a food drive for the hungry. It so happened that my church was already doing one so I helped them with collecting more food. I made 8 signs, and went around to 10 different houses around my neighborhood. A couple neighbors gave me food right on the spot while others delivered it to me a couple days later. One neighbor gave me \$20, so I got to go shopping for what I thought others would like. I picked out fun cereal. It was great seeing how much I collected. It filled up my mom's entire trunk. I hope that all the food we collected will go to others in need. I was really happy to be able to help out to others who aren't so fortunate.



ISMAILI COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE – MARCH 25, 2022

Don Fraser and Tom Stanko attended the Ismaili Muslims Community Center Open House on March 25th. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society was introduced to the Sacramento Ismaili Muslim community in 2016 when Zul Virani and Parina Hirani visited our office complex in Roseville. We gave them a tour of our facilities, explained our programs and services including our food locker and meal programs and discussed our mission and goals. Then they began to enlighten us regarding their local Ismaili Community. The ethics of the Ismaili communities, worldwide, include a commitment to improving the quality of life of their members, and of the communities among whom they live. We felt an immediate connection and thus began our friendship and association with the Ismaili community. In addition to the financial support of the Hirani Family Foundation, Ismaili Community volunteers have helped serve our clients by distributing turkeys and food baskets in our annual drive through event before Thanksgiving. Their volunteers have also helped us with managing the City of Roseville Turkey Trot racecourse on Thanksgiving Day. We feel so blessed to have the friendship of the Ismaili Community and I am so grateful that Zul and Parina reached out to us in 2016. Thank you for inviting us to this event and congratulations on the opening of your new community center.



Pictured from left: Rahim Karmali- President, His Highness Aga Khan Shia Imami- Ismaili Council for Western USA with ZulVarini, Tom Stanko, and Parina Hirani

BLESSING OF THE *Vineyards*

On April 24 the Blessing of the Vineyards took place for Mount Saint Joseph's winery. Father Phil, the pastor of St. Joseph Marelo Parish, led the blessing. Mount Saint Joseph winery has been a good friend to St. Vincent de Paul, participating in many of our fund raising events. Their tasting room, Vin Uva, is open for wine tasting. Wines from the local vineyards are now available for purchase at the tasting room. Check the web site for days and hours:

[Click here!](#)





On May 4th, at the grand re-opening of Safeway in Roseville, St. Vincent was awarded \$3,000 to continue our services to our community! We are so honored to be awarded this generous check and know that it will be used to bless so many in our community!

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation recently awarded Saint Vincent de Paul, Roseville, a grant in the amount of \$10,000. This support from Bank of America helps us continue and expand our Food Locker Program. This program not only prevents hunger but also prevents homelessness by allowing families to spend less income on food and have more money for other expenses. The Bank of America Foundation has been partnering with Saint Vincent de Paul, Roseville, since 2010. Thank you, Bank of America!

ST. CLARE, SOCIAL CONCERNS MAC

St. Vincent de Paul was recently blessed with two brand new Mac Mini computers and accessories through a gift from St. Clare Social Concerns. Thanks to Bill Durborough for making the observation that Rebecca was struggling with an old computer one day when he stopped by the office. Bill put the wheels in motion and St. Clare Parish recently approved the purchase! A big thank you to Bill Durborough, Social Concerns and St. Clare Parish for this wonderful much needed upgrade.



TRADER JOE'S DOES IT AGAIN!

Huge thank you to Trader Joe's for not only providing the freshest groceries to our food locker clients but for going above and beyond. We were recently gifted beautiful flowers from Trader Joe's- they gave so many that nearly every food locker client was able to receive a fresh bouquet. Thank you Trader Joe's!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO THE SVDP FAMILY!

Kathy Conner, *Office Volunteer*

St Vincent de Paul gained an office volunteer recently! Kathy retired in July 2021 and after visiting with Bill Durborough while attending St Clare Parish, she decided to visit us. Kathy checks clients in at the door on Wednesday mornings for food distribution. She says she enjoys working with the employees and other volunteers, and especially enjoys the people we serve. Kathy also said it's fun when we distribute the extras like new cookie sheets, and candles! Kathy is a great addition to our team.



Kathy Conner
Office Volunteer

Mike Lyons, *Board Member*

We are very pleased that Mike has joined our Board. He comes to us with many years of volunteer experience at S.S. Peter & Paul and other organizations, including St. Vincent de Paul. A long time employee of Hewlett Packard, Mike brings energy and a new vision to our organization. Welcome Mike!



Faith-Based Partnerships



St. Rose



St. Joseph
Mareello



SS Peter & Paul



St. Clare

FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



CLICK THE ICONS TO FOLLOW ALONG!