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NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

FR. ALAN MCCOY, O.F.M. DINING ROOM | PAUL FAIRBROOK KITCHEN | VIRGIL GIANELLI, M.D. MEDICAL CLINIC
ST. RAPHAEL'S DENTAL CLINIC | KARA BREWER FAMILY CLOTHING & SHOWER CENTER | SOCIAL SERVICES

St. Mary's Dining Room responds to poverty in San Joaquin County by feeding the hungry, caring for health issues and restoring human dignity.

Spring NEEDS

- Backpacks & Duffles
- Sleeping Bags
- Restaurant-Size Spices
- Walking/Tennis Shoes

Donations accepted
Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Check out our updated
Wish List at
www.stmarysdiningroom.org/donate

Volunteer Dentists Needed

Dental pain is unbearable, and when left untreated, it can lead to serious health complications. Many people who are living without dental coverage suffer for months before finding our St. Raphael's Dental Clinic.

Thanks to our dedicated team of volunteer dentists and hygienists, our clinic—the region's only free clinic—treats an average of 50 patients a month. But the need is great. There is an ongoing wait list with nearly two dozen people who need dental treatment.

Our clinic has the space a to serve these patients; however, we need more volunteer dental professionals.

If your dentist would be a good addition to our volunteer team, extend an invitation to tour our clinic!



New Ambassador Program Provides a Dose of Hope

A long-time Stockton resident, Paul found himself homeless about five years ago and has been living out of his van ever since. A recent illness resulted in hospitalization, and when he was ready to leave, he had no one to take him back to his van or assist in the recovery process. A social worker called our Health Ambassador, Marcus, who immediately met Paul at the hospital and connected him with the help he needed to begin recovering.



“So many different people have promised me so much, and I never saw them again,” said Paul, who was surprised to see Marcus at his van the following days, following through with his commitment to check on his progress and continue to connect him with services in the community.

With Marcus’ support, Paul is starting to make positive changes in his life. He has obtained his ID and Social Security card—first steps needed to apply for employment and housing. He has also enrolled in Medi-Cal and changed his diet, which has helped him feel better.

Marcus has also connected Paul to the San Rafael Dental Clinic to address some dental needs. His motivation to engage in services, he says, has been fueled by Marcus' support.

“Somebody cared. I now know that there are still good people out there.”

Read about the new program on page 3.

A Note From the CEO



PETRA LINDEN

I work with an amazing team who make sure that our guests receive the services that they need, starting early each day.

The kitchen crew starts at 6:00 am to prepare, cook and serve three hot meals a day for up to 500 people, working to make the meals nutritious and tasty. Guest Services & Safety open the Day Center at 7:00am for guests to come in out of the cold, get a hot cup of coffee, and relax. Staff in the Showers and Clothing Center open their doors at 7:30am to provide showers and a clean set of clothes, helping guests to stay clean and healthy and feel ready to meet the challenges of the day. By 8:00 the Resource Center is open, providing case management, connection to a full range of resources, and housing navigation.

Most of all the staff at St. Mary's provide hope. So many guests who have been helped come back to express their gratitude. When we ask what made the difference, they tell us, "It was because you cared. You didn't give up on me. You believed in me."

Staff, volunteers and donors make a wonderful team, and your partnership helps us to reach even more people in need of our services. Please consider how you can get involved today.

EVERY *gift* MATTERS

\$15..... Provides a guest with a warm shower, toiletries, clean clothes and dignity

\$100..... Provides a hot meal to 20 guests

\$1,000.... Provides case management services for a guest for six months

Make a meaningful gift today at www.stmarysdiningroom.org or call (209) 467-0703.

Health Ambassadors Create Pathways to Housing

Managing illness and ailments without an ID, a permanent address, insurance, or the support of people who care, can be overwhelming and despairing.

In partnership with St. Joseph's Medical Center, we have created a solution that is providing care and hope for individuals experiencing these circumstances. Our new Healthcare Ambassador Program partners with the hospital to provide trained staff members who offer a warm hand-off in ERs and assist with hospital discharges.

Health Ambassadors also help individuals apply for and manage insurance, provide transportation to follow-up appointments, make connections to Community Based Organizations and link them to treatment programs.

Maria Castellanos and Marcus Purvis, who have served in previous roals at St. Mary's



Maria Castellanos and Marcus Purvis bring lived experience and outsized compassion to their new roles as Health Ambassadors.

and have lived experience of homelessness, are our first Healthcare Ambassadors.

"Because we have a real understanding of their challenges, we are able to be authentic in our care, and that builds trust," said Maria. "Trust is critical in our relationships and is an essential part of getting them engaged in all of our services."

While improving health is a primary goal of the program, the ultimate goal is to help the homeless move into housing.



Volunteer Is Rooted at St. Mary's

On Mondays, when Francisco Mora isn't involved in a facilities project, he can be seen admiring the plants growing in the David Brewer Garden. It's a special place for the former groundskeeper and close friend of the garden's namesake, the late David Brewer.

Francisco has deep roots at St. Mary's, having served two decades as a staff member and volunteer. He not only planted many of the species in the Garden, he also painted the administrative office and the kitchen, and he used his craftsmanship skills to contribute to the expansion of the facilities.

He shared that St. Mary's has been a meaningful and inspirational place to share his talents and serve his neighbors in need.

Share Your Time and Talent

There are varied opportunities to share your time and unique talents with our guests. We are looking for nail technicians, crafters, dentists and more! Scan the QR Code or call Karen Gonzales, Volunteer Coordinator, at 209-467-0703 to find a volunteer role that matches your skills with our guests' needs.

