

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 & HYGIENE CENTER
 SOCIAL SERVICES



mural painted by, Ron Pecchenino

START WITH HUMILITY

We are so grateful to have met Alma Limon Bravo on several occasions here at St. Mary's Dining Room. To her recollection, the first time we met her was when she was just younger than 10 years old. At the time, her family did not have medical or dental insurance and her mother really needed medical and dental care, so she was referred to our St. Raphael Dental Clinic and Virgil Gianelli Medical Clinic to receive services, free of charge, which was a huge burden lifted off of her family. Alma mentioned that her mother is the glue that holds the family together, so for her to get the necessary services to care for her health at the time, was a tremendous help.

Years later, this past July, we met Alma again. She was part of a program called Decision Medicine with which St. Mary's Dining Room works closely with, annually. Decision Medicine encourages high achieving and under-represented students, to consider a career in medicine and eventually to return to serve our community. Alma and her colleagues volunteered in our various departments, such as our Kitchen and Hygiene Center.

As their day with us concluded, Alma decided to graciously donate to St. Mary's Dining Room. She mentioned that we helped her mother a while ago and said that "Coming to St. Mary's changed my view." She was "astonished" by the services we offer.

"I'm reminded that we should always start with humility and being alive is a reason to be thankful and give back."

Alma has high expectations for herself because of her parents. It is her goal to become a cardiac surgeon one day, a surgeon that serves her home community of Stockton.



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YEARS OF CARING

EDWARD FIGUEROA STEPPING DOWN AS CEO



It is with a heavy heart that I announce that I will be leaving the mission of St. Mary's Dining Room in April. In our December newsletter, I reflected on some of the accomplishments I was most proud of. I realized that I really had achieved almost everything I had set out to do. After a career of almost half my life, it is time for me to step down and let new leadership bring this agency, that I am so incredibly proud of, to new heights. I am leaving to pursue an opportunity that I would have regretted if I had let pass by. I look forward to sharing more about this new adventure once I begin.

The remainder of this article I will share my gratitude for all who made my time here possible. I will specifically not name any individuals as doing so I will leave out so many others who are just as special to me.

I thank the search committee of board members who took a chance on the then 29-year-old and offered me my entry into the mission of St. Mary's. I thank everyone who served on our board of directors over the years. I learned so much from each of you and even when we sometimes didn't agree you made me a better leader. A special thank you to those who served in leadership roles whether as an officer of the board or chairperson of one of our committees. Thank you for believing in me and for allowing me to take chances to see my vision for our agency become a reality. It is my hope that you will give this same support to my successor and support them as you did me even when on occasion my ideas did not quite pan out the way I had anticipated that they would.

Thank you to all the amazing staff members I have had the pleasure to work alongside of over the years. Each of you have given so much to ensure that our guests are cared for with dignity and respect every single day. Thank you for trusting me, for always saying "yes" to all my ideas. You have made me so proud, and you are the reason St. Mary's Dining Room has such a stellar reputation in our community. I challenge you to never stop learning to always seek new and better ways to care for our guests and most importantly I ask that you assist our agency's new CEO realize their vision. I wish each of you all the best and know that I will remember you fondly.

To our volunteers, our financial donors, and our donors of in-kind items a huge thank you! Without each of you St. Mary's Dining Room would never be able to achieve our mission each day. Your kindness and philanthropy have always provided me with hope, even on the most challenging of days. I have witnessed so many acts of kindness from each of you. I have truly become a better person from having had the opportunity to see you in action. The combined support from each of these donor groups has allowed our agency to feed the hungry, care for health issues and restore human dignity for the past 67 years. I know our incoming CEO will be equally rewarded from having the opportunity to witness your amazing generosity.

Gratitude to our city, county and state elected officials and staffs who I have had the pleasure to work with and who have supported the work of St. Mary's. Appreciation also goes to our partner agencies and their leaders. I have truly been rewarded working with my nonprofit peers. We have demonstrated that together we can achieve far more with less duplication and greater results. Thank you for being driven by results and not self-promotion.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Figueroa".

Edward Figueroa, CEO

**Without each of you,
St. Mary's Dining Room
would never be able to
achieve our mission
each day.**

-Edward Figueroa



VOLUNTEER TODAY WITH *St. Mary's Dining Room*

Volunteers make our mission possible! St. Mary's Dining Room volunteers ensure that those who are struggling with the effects of homelessness and poverty are well cared for each day. Above all, our volunteers help restore dignity to our community. Please visit our website to sign up today!
stmarysdiningroom.org/volunteer



Spring Needs

As Spring approaches, the needs of our guests change. We welcome your generous support for it changes the many lives of those who seek our services. Here are some of our top needs for the season:

Season-Appropriate Clothing
Underwear, Socks, Sports Bras
Travel-Size Hygiene Products
Men's Jeans

Donation Drop-off open
Monday-Friday 7:30am-3:30pm
545 W. Sonora Street
Stockton, CA 95203

For more information or to schedule a pick-up, please contact our Administration Office at (209) 467-0703.

Check out our entire Wish List at stmarysdiningroom.org/donate

MEET OUR NEW BOARD PRESIDENT, STEPHEN NELSON



Steve was born and raised in Stockton. As a child, his parents were heavily involved with St. Mary's Dining Room, which is how he developed a great passion for the community we serve. He joined our board of directors in 2018 and quickly wanted to learn and become more involved with our mission to serve the individuals and families that seek our services each day.

Steve acknowledges the efforts put forth by our staff, volunteers and board to ensure our guests' needs are met. He mentioned that our staff is like no other and is really an impressive part of our organization that carries great passion and care for our guests as if they are taking care of their own family. Steve also appreciates our volunteers for offering additional support for our staff and board of directors for helping guide St. Mary's Dining Room by supporting the CEO and the organization's mission.

“ I am passionate about our community and its efforts to provide services to better the homeless population. With homelessness so visual and on the minds of many, I hope to provide support in any way I can. ”

During his time as Board President, Steve hopes to continue to help our community deal with the ever-growing challenges of the increasing homeless population. He is aware that only a small percentage of the local population truly knows all of the services that St. Mary's Dining Room has to offer, so he is eager to spread awareness. We are excited to welcome Steve as our 2022 President!

ST. MARY'S DINING ROOM RESPONDS TO POVERTY IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BY FEEDING THE HUNGRY, CARING FOR HEALTH ISSUES AND RESTORING HUMAN DIGNITY TO OVER 700 INDIVIDUALS EACH DAY.

BOARD MEMBERS

2022

STEPHEN NELSON
PRESIDENT

BOBBIE WALLINGER
VICE PRESIDENT

ROCIO HOUSE
SECRETARY/TREASURER

STEPHEN LOFY
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

JOSEPH ANTONACCI
CORINNE BACHLE

PAT FREDERICK

RABBI JASON GWASDOFF

STEVE HERUM

SR. JUDY LU MCDONNELL, O.P.

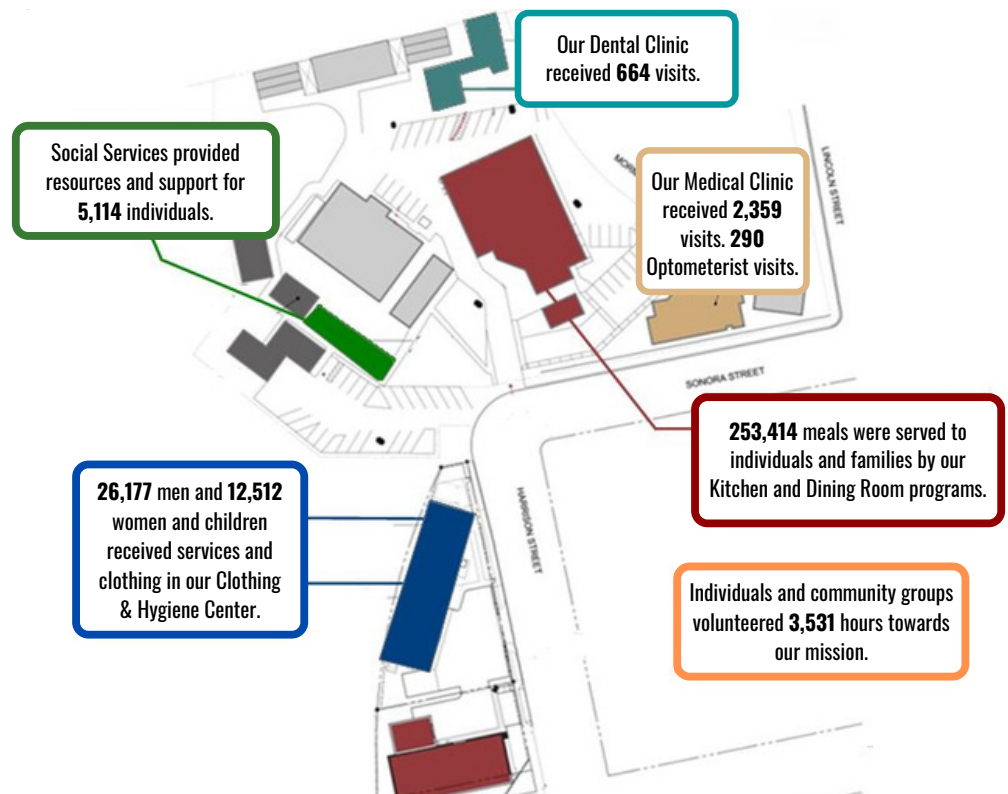
ROBYN MOORE

DANIELLE TIBON

BILL TOPP

ANITRA WILLIAMS

EDWARD FIGUEROA
CEO



REFLECTING ON 2021

St. Mary's Dining Room continued to support the working poor and those in our community who are facing homelessness during the pandemic, by providing the following services in 2021. This work was made possible by your generous financial and in-kind donations.