

"The poor will teach you many things. Honor them as you would honor Christ himself."

— **St. Vincent de Paul**

FROM THE HEART

Dear friends,

Two feast days arrive this season. St. Vincent de Paul's is September 27. St. Francis of Assisi's is October 4. We celebrate both.

Vincent's first schooling came from the Franciscans, long before the Daughters of Charity existed. And here in Santa Barbara the two traditions have kept company for our entire history. The friars were at the Mission decades before the Daughters arrived in 1858, and in the years since, when they needed friends, the friars were always there. In 2019, the two traditions built something together: the Fr. Virgil Cordano Center, our daytime resource center for unhoused neighbors, named after a friar this whole city knew and loved.

Francis and Vincent arrived by different roads at the same understanding: the line between the person who helps and the person who is helped can be blurred. We are all somebody's neighbor. Any of us might be on either side of the story.

We see it here again and again. Families served by the Daughters generations ago give and volunteer now, and so do their grandchildren; you will meet one of them on page 3.

Some of the associates working in our programs today first came to us as participants in them. And this year, when required maintenance caused the closure of the Cordano Center for a few weeks, many of our members asked how they could help us move back in. People with almost nothing offered what they had.

The Daughters have never kept a ledger. They go about the work of caring for people, and after 168 years it seems to have rubbed off on so many people in our town.

Thank you for being part of this. Whatever brought you to St. Vincent's, you are already inside the story.

- Rosa Paredes, President & CEO

SAVE THE DATE



Save the Date
Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon
**ROSEWOOD
MIRAMAR BEACH**
1759 South Jameson Lane, Montecito, CA 93108
Saturday, November 28th, 2026
10 AM - 2 PM
Early Bird Registration: \$150
after October 30th: \$175

Sip, stroll, and shop oceanfront on the opening weekend of the holiday season. Our silent auction is full of one-of-a-kind gift baskets and handcrafted pieces, so you can start your shopping early. Registration is open, tables go fast, so gather your friends and reserve a full table at a discount. All proceeds benefit our Family Strengthening Program.

Scan the QR code or call 805-683-6381.



The Long Way Home

Alicia arrived at St. Vincent's homeless, with a small daughter and pregnant with her son. Today she works here.

She spent twenty-seven months in our Family Strengthening Program, Santa Barbara's only transitional housing program for single mothers with young children. The length is the point: housing alone doesn't undo what brings a family here. Time does, if it's used well.

The months are full: counseling with a licensed therapist, case management, parenting classes, career and legal counseling. Childcare at our Early Childhood Education Center, steps from where families sleep, lets mothers work or study instead of choosing between the two. The program has operated this way since 1996.

Like every mother in the program, Alicia had to work. She took a job in hospitality, moved into management, and graduated in 2023 with her own place to live. Because she understood women in her old situation, when a position opened here in 2025, she returned. She's now a Peer Support Specialist and Case Manager, walking mothers through the same twenty-seven months she once lived. On tours, she points to the bedroom where she got her start.

A woman arriving here has to believe something hard to believe: that in two years, her life will look different. Our team can tell her so. Alicia can sit beside her and say she knows exactly how it feels.



"From the moment I arrived, someone looked at me and saw potential instead of problems."

— Alicia

Mothers arrive from every circumstance and leave toward every future. Some finish a GED. Some get a driver's license and finance their first car. Another mother, Maria, arrived in September 2023, partway through law school, leaving a relationship she knew would have ended her life. She finished her degree and sat for the California Bar exam this July. She intends to practice criminal defense.

Earlier this year, a family from the program's early days turned up again by chance. An associate mentioned St. Vincent's to a friend, who knew exactly who we were: he and his mother had been helped here during a hard stretch. He still remembers the sisters' encouragement. Now he runs his own videography business and deeply loves his mother.



A mother comes to St. Vincent's when other doors are closing. She's changing what's possible for a child who might be too young to remember it. We see the program's effect in month twenty-eight, when the mother starts standing on her own. Twenty years later, we can still see it in her children.

The Fashion Show & Luncheon on November 28 supports this program. We hope you'll join us.

Scan to watch a special KEYT 's segment, or read more stories at stvincents-sb.org



Scan Me

A Girl on the Tennis Court

There is a photograph in our archive of a young woman standing on the tennis court at St. Vincent's, around 1930, racket in hand. Her name was Venita. She was raised here by the Daughters of Charity, who took her in when she had no one.

So were the sisters of a young man named Anthony Cordero. Venita and Anthony met at St. Vincent's and married in 1936. They raised a large family in Santa Barbara. One of their children was Bill.

After attending college, Bill built a career in education. He taught elementary school, served nine years on the Santa Barbara School Board. Later at Santa Barbara City College founded CARE, which gives single parents grants, support, and childcare to finish their degrees. Today CARE is part of every community college statewide.

He grew up knowing exactly the support and love that helped his mother, and has spent his life quietly giving it back. Much of that has come back here, to the place where his parents met.

Bill was an early supporter of the housing programs on this campus. He also started the Charity Golf Classic and brought in his friends at the Sarah Lee Pascoe Foundation as the Presentation Sponsor. Bill has chaired it for twenty-five years; he and his son Billy Jr. sponsor the Putting Challenge that has become one of the day's traditions. Last year the event raised \$170,000.

Many of his family members play in the tournament, and they too remember what the Daughters did so long ago.

In 168 years here, the Daughters of Charity have never stayed still. The needs in Santa Barbara changed, and so did the care they gave. Today, funds raised at the Golf Classic support the Family Strengthening Program, which gives single mothers and their children a safe place to live while they get back on their feet. Venita got help here once, now Bill is making sure somebody else's mother gets support too. Ask Bill why he keeps at it and he will tell you about his mother.



Venita Gomez at St. Vincent's, c. 1930. The Daughters of Charity raised her here. (top right) Bill and his wife, Linda in our Legacy Garden (right). Bill has given twenty-five years to our Charity Golf Classic (bottom left).

IN THE COMMUNITY



A Taste of Better Health at Our Senior Housing Program

This summer, *Rooted Santa Barbara County* brought a bilingual nutrition class to Villa Caridad.

The topic was why hydration matters when you add fiber to your diet. Water isn't the only source, and *Rooted* brought tasty examples: sweet peppers, watermelon, tea, sparkling water. Our seniors enjoyed every bit of it.

This was an introduction to *Rooted's Eat to Thrive Fiber Jumpstart*. We're grateful and will be bringing more programs to residents across our campus.



Where Two Generations Meet

Every week, children from our Early Childhood Education Center visit seniors at Villa Caridad. They make playdough art, play with dolls, and enjoy each other's company.

The Intergenerational Program is part of our Aging Well Activities. Some of the seniors live here, others come from the surrounding community; they'll all tell you they miss the children when they can't make it. Any senior in Santa Barbara is welcome to join. Scan the QR to learn about our Early Childhood Education Center and senior housing or call (805) 683-4375.





4200 Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93110



THANK YOU!

For your prayers, your time, your generosity —
all of it matters.

Your financial gifts create change:

\$50 – Classroom supplies and meals for preschoolers

\$75 – Daily services for our unhoused neighbors

\$125 – Housing support for mothers and children

stvincents-sb.org/donate

DONATE 



SCAN HERE

COMING UP



**35th Annual Santa Barbara
Senior Expo**
October 14 | 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Earl Warren Showgrounds

Find us at Senior Expo, hosted by Family Service Agency. Stop by to learn about Villa Caridad — and to hear about our Intergenerational Program, open to seniors throughout Santa Barbara. Every week, local seniors join preschoolers from our Early Childhood Education program for a gathering that delights everyone in the room. Individuals and organized senior groups are welcome to participate.



**Santa Barbara City College's
First Resource Fair**
October 1 | 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
St. Vincent's Campus

Santa Barbara City College is coming to our campus — a new partnership we're proud to celebrate. With more than 15 tables representing programs across the college, this is an opportunity to explore everything SBCC has to offer: tuition-free extended learning programs in career skills, ESL, parenting, wellness, and older adult education — as well as pathways to credit courses and degree programs. SBCC brings with it dedicated resources to help anyone facing social, economic, educational, or language barriers get the support they need to enroll and succeed.