



LOVE IN ACTION

"To seek and find the forgotten, the suffering and the deprived."

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL | FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL. | (323) 226-9643 | SVDPLA.org | info@svdpla.org

A LIFE COME FULL CIRCLE...

BECAUSE OF YOUR COMPASSION AND GENEROSITY

Once homeless and addicted, Tyrone is known today as the Mayor of Skid Row.

I used to sleep in front of that door 30 years ago," Tyrone says, referring to the entrance to our Cardinal Manning Center. Those words reveal a tragic chapter in his life.

Before that time, he was a family man – with three daughters he loved more than life itself. "I called them my little queens," he shares.

He had a good job in the Pennsylvania steel mills. Then the recession hit. "They shut everything down and a lot of us lost work. Some of my coworkers committed suicide," he explains. **That's when Tyrone's drinking began.**

Tyrone's brother lived in Las Vegas and suggested he go there to get back on his feet. "I worked in the casinos, but I was lonely without my family," he says. "So I'd pour myself a drink and, well..." His voice trails off as he recalls his downhill spiral.

Then someone told him about California. "Live free. Warm weather. Palm trees. I came here with the illusion that it would be for me," he shares. But by then, his addiction was full-blown. **Instead of living the dream, he wound up on Skid Row...**

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"I SLEPT ON THE SIDEWALKS. I ATE OUT OF DUMPSTERS. I PUSHED A SHOPPING CART. I DRANK AND I USED DRUGS. MY MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT WERE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME. I ROAMED AROUND LIKE A ZOMBIE FOR 20 YEARS. I JUST GAVE UP ON LIFE."

Then one day, asleep on a piece of cardboard, **he heard someone call his name... "Daddy?"**

It was his daughter. Now 29 years old, she had come to LA to find him.

"I was so weak, I could hardly get up," he says. "She went to grab me and I didn't want her to touch me because I was so dirty. She held me in her arms and the healing process began."

His healing continued through your support of St. Vincent de Paul.

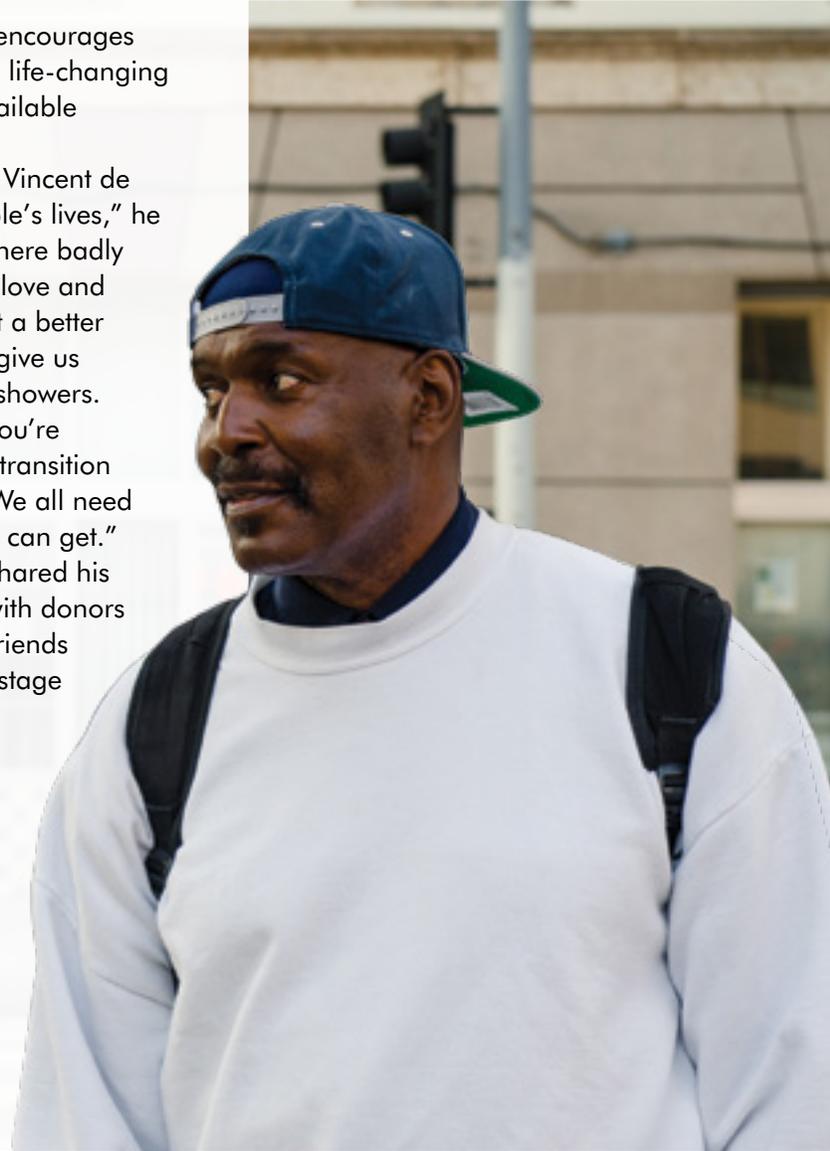
Tyrone successfully sought treatment for his addiction. Then he stayed in our shelter at Cardinal Manning Center while we helped him find housing. "I've been in my apartment, clean and sober, for 11 years now," he says. Not to mention, he now dedicates his life to helping others.

He mentors men in recovery. He visits the homeless on Skid Row. He eats lunch with the guests in our shelter. He's earned the nickname, "the Mayor of

Skid Row." And he encourages others to accept the life-changing services that are available through your gifts.

"This place – St. Vincent de Paul – it saves people's lives," he says. "We come in here badly mangled, and they love and minister to us about a better way of living. They give us beds. We can take showers. They serve food if you're hungry. And they'll transition you into housing. We all need every bit of help we can get."

Last spring, he shared his moving testimony with donors and Vincentians – friends like you – from the stage of the Bonaventure Hotel. "I'm so grateful to be on this side of life," he said. "St. Vincent de Paul brought me out of the darkness. Man, am I ever grateful." 🌱



MONTHLY GIVING
PROVIDES A
FOUNDATION OF
SUPPORT



We invite you to consider making contributions on a monthly basis to help us feed, clothe, house and heal struggling neighbors in Southern California. This kind of consistent giving enables St. Vincent de Paul to anticipate a more predictable stream of donated income and allows us to be more effective stewards of our resources.

For your convenience, your monthly gift – of any amount you choose to share – may be automatically charged to your debit or credit card. To get started, simply visit our website, **SVDPLA.org**, and check "recurring gift" on the online donation page.

AN HONOR AND A BLESSING



Claire Padama,
Past Board President,
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Claire Padama ended six years of service as Council President on September 30, 2016. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul thanks Claire Padama for her leadership, guidance and dedication to this ministry and, most importantly, to the people we serve.

Dear Friends,

In my term as Board President, and with more than 20 years as a Vincentian, I've been blessed to witness so many people doing so much good for our less-fortunate brothers and sisters.

Although many years have passed, I still recall being deeply moved when I learned of a homeless man who gave the Society \$250 in one-dollar bills to help others in need. His selflessness truly exemplifies the joy that comes from fulfilling God's call to love our neighbors.

The past six years have brought about tremendous growth in our Society and our outreach to Southern California. We now have a total of 138 active conferences of charity. Last year alone we touched the lives of 357,000 people with housing, clothing, rent and utility assistance and other forms of help.

That's just a small measure of the hope friends like you have brought into the lives of others. And my hope is for a continued focus on helping families secure affordable housing and empowering our youth to break the cycle of poverty.

The success of the organization would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff, our conference members and Vincentians, and the generosity of our donors and financial partners.

It has been my pleasure to work alongside each and every one of you. I ask that you pledge your ongoing support to our new Council President, Ray Sweet, as he continues the mission of our Society of St. Vincent de Paul. May God bless you!

Claire Padama



CONTINUE YOUR COMPASSION... *Consider a bequest*

You might think that a bequest, a gift included in a will, is only for the wealthy. But if you are able, you may want to consider this simple gift - a gift that ensures the St. Vincent de Paul programs you love supporting will continue in the future. We accept many types of gifts, including cash, real estate, property and stocks.

A bequest is eligible for an estate-tax charitable deduction and you may update your wishes at any time. If you'd like more information on planned giving, please contact our development department at **(323) 226-9643**, and we'd be happy to help you leave a lasting legacy.



SAVE THE DATE

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
**2017 Mardi Gras in May Benefit
Dinner & Awards Ceremony**

Wednesday, May 24, 2017
Westin Bonaventure Hotel

Visit our website, SVDPLA.org, for all the details including entertainment, honorees and honored guests, and sponsorship opportunities.

Our 2017 event benefits Circle V Ranch Camp, which provides innovative youth-centered programs and enriching outdoor experiences that build self-esteem, and expand knowledge and appreciation of others, nature and God. 



A SAFETY NET AND A NEW BEGINNING!

A hard-working single mother of a young daughter, Rhonda was devastated when the apartment they called home was disrupted by neighbors who threatened their safety. **And it only got worse.**

They quickly moved from the building and took up residence in a box truck Rhonda rented to store their belongings. **But the cold winter nights put them at risk too.** So Rhonda took her little girl to live with her grandmother until she could find them a place to stay.

You can imagine Rhonda's heartbreak when her daughter called her crying,

saying her grandma had been drinking. Not knowing what else to do, Rhonda reached out to her local St. Vincent de Paul conference. We helped her find a safe apartment and provided the first month's rent. Then volunteers unloaded her belongings and made sure she and her little girl had everything they needed to settle into their new home.

For people like Rhonda, your gifts are a safety net that can end a downhill spiral, and be the first step to a new beginning. Please give now to bring hope to others like Rhonda. Use the enclosed envelope or give securely online at SVDPLA.org.

