



“Community Hero” SVdP Receives \$25,000 for Free Clinic from Los Medanos Community Healthcare District

PITTSBURG — St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County (SVdP) announced today its receipt of \$25,000 in allocation funding for the RotaCare Pittsburg Free Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul from the Los Medanos Community Healthcare District (LMCHD). LMCHD recently named the RotaCare Pittsburg Free Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul a “Community Hero” for its work supporting low income people in East Contra Costa County. The free medical clinic, developed and built by St. Vincent de Paul, is one of 12 bay-area RotaCare Bay Area free clinics. The free clinic is a program of St. Vincent de Paul, and receives support from area Rotary Clubs including the clubs of Pittsburg, Alamo, and 9 other Rotary Clubs.

This new funding will help support the ongoing needs of the free clinic, which has provided more than 4,300 patient visits to uninsured and low income members of the local community since its opening in 2011. More than 98 percent of patients seen at the clinic have incomes at or below the federal poverty level—an especially stark figure viewed in light of the comparatively high cost of living in the Bay Area.

LMCHD’s latest funding is the most recent in a long history of support for the RotaCare Pittsburg Free Clinic at St. Vincent de Paul: LMCHD provided \$20,000 in seed funding for the clinic at its founding in 2011, and has since contributed nearly \$150,000 toward patient expenses including pharmaceutical products, lab tests, x-rays, and other medical supplies.

The most recent grant will help ensure the free clinic will continue to address health disparities in the Pittsburg and East Contra Costa County community. The LMCHD funding is targeted for direct patient needs such as pharmaceuticals, lab services, x-rays and diagnostics, and medical supplies. LMCHD is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to address health disparities, particularly in minority populations with lower socioeconomic indicators.

SVdP’s Executive Director Melanie Anguay expressed gratitude for the funding, which she described as critical: “Without this funding, we would not be able to treat many people who are slipping through the cracks because they lack access to insurance through the Affordable Care Act or who cannot afford co-pays.” According to Anguay, “[t]hose people often end up in emergency rooms, placing strain on already stressed healthcare systems in the region. Thanks to our volunteers and donors, we are here to care for them when no one else can.”

Pictured in photo receiving grant allocation from LMCHD, (l to right), Helene Glaser, (Volunteer Nurse Co-Coordinator at free clinic), Dr. Jane Hewitt, (volunteer physician at clinic), Barb Hunt, (SVdP Development Director), Bobbi Palmer, (CEO of LMCHD), Angela Rivello, (Volunteer Nurse Co-Coordinator at free clinic), and Joanne Hodge, (Co-Chair of the RotaCare Pittsburg Advisory Committee and Pittsburg Rotary).

About St. Vincent de Paul

Inspired by values of charity, humility, and social justice, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County provides person-to-person service of time, talent and resources to help neighbors in need regardless of gender, national origin, race, or religion. It is part of an international non-profit, organized locally to bring concrete aid and comfort to those who are poor and suffering in Contra Costa County. The Society collaborates with other people and organizations of good will in mitigating need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served.

Services include free medical care, food, clothing, furniture, rental assistance, job training, shelter for the homeless, immigration and legal services. We operate a Family Resource Center in Pittsburg, and operate 21 food pantries throughout the county. Over 200,000 county residents receive assistance from SVdP annually.