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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Barb Hunt, St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County
(925) 330-6732
b.hunt@svdp-cc.org

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa Announces a New Cycle of The Workforce Development Program – Paid Job-Training!



Mary Turner(left), a graduate of the WFD program at St. Vincent de Paul, hugs her mentor Gail Fitzgerald (right) outside of her newly purchased home in Stockton, California.

Jobs Program Offers Paid, Part-time Employment and Training

April, 2022 - The Workforce Development Program at St. Vincent de Paul is a paid job training program aimed at helping the unemployed re-enter the workforce and find stable employment. In these hard times, it is more important than ever that job applicants understand workplace expectations and have the soft skills to be a contributing employee. The 24-week program teaches participants skills and techniques to find a job and be successful in the workplace, offering training in resume development, interviewing, and organizational skills in a supportive & compassionate environment. The Workforce Development Program at St. Vincent de Paul aims to help those in need overcome whatever barriers may exist that are preventing them from finding a good job.

Mandatory orientation sessions, applicants should choose either the Pittsburg, Walnut Creek, or Brentwood sessions. The Pittsburg Sessions take place on **Monday, 04/25/22 & Friday, 04/29/22 from 2 PM – 5 PM at St. Vincent de Paul Pittsburg Thrift Store at 2210 Gladstone Dr.** The Walnut Creek Sessions take place on **Thursday, 04/28/22 and Monday, 05/2/22 from 9 AM – Noon at 1888 Trinity Ave.**

The Brentwood Sessions will take place on **Monday, 05/2/22 & Friday, 05/6/22 from 2 PM – 5 PM at the St. Vincent de Paul Brentwood Thrift Store at 8890 Brentwood Blvd.** Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. To learn more and download an application, visit svdp-cc.org. To RSVP for a session call (925) 439-5060 or email info@svdp-cc.org

The Workforce Development Program aims to help tear down the barriers that stand in the way of employment for individuals who have struggled to obtain and maintain employment. Participants work with mentors and take weekly classes to develop workplace skills. A new class of participants is selected every three months.

Participants gain paid, part-time, (22.5 hours per week), work experience in a St. Vincent de Paul thrift store or SVdP's trucking and transportation department. Additional training in retail operations including cash register operations, inventory display and optimization, and warehouse operations is also provided.

Mary Turner, a graduate from SVdP's Workforce Development Program, was living in her car when she started first began the program. A senior citizen, Mary found herself having to return to work when her rent increased beyond the means of her fixed income. After entering the WFD program at St. Vincent de Paul, Mary found work as a medical support assistant. In October 2021, Mary purchased her first home in Stockton, California.

"It was hard, I was living on SSI and Disability, but my rent just kept increasing until I couldn't afford it," Mary said. "Now, I have a good job as an Advanced Medical Support Assistant, and I have my daughter and grand-babies stay in my home. If you want to be a home owner, it's possible. It's hard, it's a struggle, but it's worth it and it's possible, and the people at St. Vincent de Paul showed me that."

St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County has provided safety-net services in the county for over 57 years, serving 100,000 people annually and distributing over \$1.7 M of direct financial assistance and over \$2.3M of in-kind aid. Over 700 SVdP volunteers and a small staff lead operations in Contra Costa including the SVdP Family Resource Center in Pittsburg, 28 branches, and 3 Thrift Stores. One of the largest charitable organizations in the world, St. Vincent de Paul is an international, nonprofit, Catholic lay organization of more than 800,000 men and women who voluntarily join

together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in 155 countries on five continents.