



Saint Vincent's Day Home

“Listen to the Children”

This is the code by which Sister Adrienne has lived. She has found that when you listen to children, hear their story and take care of them, these very simple interactions form a bond of trust and friendship.

She strongly believes that “...children are people and should be treated with the same regard you would an adult.” She believes our primary job as caregivers is to always be positive—encourage them, help them with their growth and development, help them learn to trust and to overcome their fears.

Sister Adrienne also counsels that our ability to help children with their physical and emotional development depends on the rapport we are able to establish with them.

Sister Adrienne Andreani closes one chapter and opens another

25

Years of unwavering dedication to the children of Saint Vincent's



“With her special combination of nursing skills, abundant love for children, and ability to communicate with them on a respectful level, Sister Adrienne has enhanced the physical and emotional well-being of so many of our Saint Vincent's children.”

Corinne M. Mohrmann,
Executive Director

“Sister Adrienne's quiet voice, warm smile and gentle way of earning the children's trust has made her an invaluable asset to the Day Home community.”

Jennifer Youngblood,
Program Director

After 25 years of bandaging booboos, drying tears, and keeping a close and loving eye on the safety and well-being of the children of Saint Vincent's, our beloved Sister Adrienne retired this summer.

Sister Adrienne has spent her life working with children, first joining us as a volunteer while in high school. She later attended Providence College and Holy Names University. In 1979, when she completed a Master's Degree in Religious Studies, Sisters Ann Maureen and Corinne invited her to join them in their work at the Day Home. She accepted and has been on staff and a part of our family for 25 years. Her time with us has been truly inspiring.

Promoting the Well-Being of the Whole Child

A “jack-of-all-trades” is how Sister Adrienne describes herself. On a daily basis she has stood guard over the children's physical and psychological well-being—handling everything from proper treatment when injured, to helping them over a tough moment, to referring them to services when she detects a special need. She has played a vital role in terms of identifying children who would benefit from speech and language services, and notes that this service is one of the most meaningful that the Day Home offers.

Sister Adrienne has many stories of children who have overcome obstacles thanks to the whole-child approach at the Day Home. For example, she recalls one small child who was born drug exposed. When this child entered Saint Vincent's, he was withdrawn and possessed few language skills. With love, care and speech and play therapy, this little one has now finished kindergarten and is ready for elementary school. According to Sister Adrienne, “Today he is a different boy.”

Bunnies, Guinea Pigs & Love

Because of her love for animals, Sister Adrienne introduced animal therapy to the Day Home. At one time, there was a bunny or guinea pig in every classroom. These pets fulfilled several missions. They helped the children learn how to overcome their fear of animals and treat them with care. They also provided an opportunity for warmth and affection—sometimes a short visit with Sister Adrienne and a bunny could cure the woes of a little one and help him or her handle a difficult day.



With a growing number of asthma cases in the Bay Area, the animal program eventually had to end. So Sister Adrienne turned her attention to working with parents to handle asthma management for the children. The parent-school cooperation in monitoring asthma cases and administering treatment has been extremely effective. A leading example is one small child with a serious case of asthma who last year missed only two days of school, neither of which was asthma-related.

The Ouch Report

As a registered nurse (RN), Sister Adrienne has been more than capable in handling the day-to-day illnesses, bumps and bruises that came her way. Still, she reports that her heart would pound every time she heard her name over the intercom system, worried that she wouldn't know what to do for the child.

She has implemented a very effective system for tending to the children called the “Ouch Report,” which documents any incidents. This helps to keep parents informed and aware that the Day Home is providing a safe environment. When something is up with a child, he or she is brought to the office by a child partner, who acts as spokesperson. The spokesperson tells the story and is an integral part of the routine to fix what needs mending. Every little ouch is treated with great care. For example, should a child get a bump on the head, he or she receives a head-wrap that coordinates with his or her clothing.

The Next Chapter

We're not sure what the Day Home would be like without the love and dedication Sister Adrienne has shared with us on a daily basis. Fortunately, Sister Adrienne's retirement will be a very active one. She has accepted our invitation to join the Day Home's Board of Directors and plans to volunteer her time by participating in our dental and vision screenings. She also plans to be active in reorganizing our family resource library, which has been in limbo since recent flood damage. Sister Adrienne says that her “retirement” will leave her plenty of time to enjoy the children.

When she's not with the children, there's a good chance she'll be cheering on her favorite sports teams (the 49ers, Raiders and Warriors) or enjoying her pet bunnies Perry and Tuppence and her cat George.

As we say goodbye and offer our sincere thanks for a wonderful 25 years, we say hello to a new relationship with Sister Adrienne and all the talents she continues to share with the Day Home and our children. ■

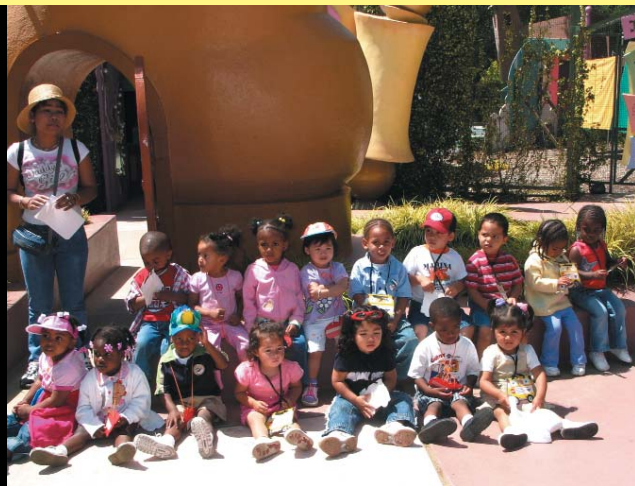
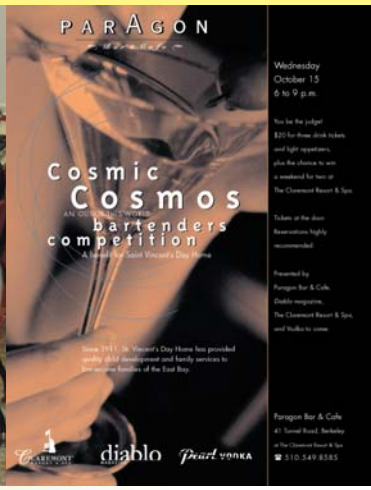
Our Year in Review

The Hedco Family Learning Center is up and running, thanks to an “in-kind” donation of computer equipment by Hewlett-Packard.

Cosmic Cosmos—The Claremont Hotel and Resort, along with Diablo Magazine and Pearl Vodka, sponsored a bartender competition “fun-raiser,” with all proceeds coming to The Day Home to support our family services.

Our “Read to Me Program” continues, and we now have volunteer parents who have completed the program and are ready to assist in teaching classes to other parents.

Basic Computer and Internet Skills—SVDH’s volunteer Family Literacy Committee worked diligently to set up our curriculum and parent classes. Our first Basic Computer Skills class was held on August 7th. A Basic Internet Skills class followed in September.



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Since opening our doors in 1911, Saint Vincent’s Day Home has served more than 30,000 children and their families. The sheer number is something that I believe all of us here take pride in. But more significant than the statistic is the way in which the Day Home has touched so many lives, and how our “virtual family” stays connected.

Every day we strive to nurture healthy children, strong relationships and a sense of community and belonging that they can carry into the world. And it is so rewarding to know we’ve made a difference, especially when some of the children who have passed through our doors return “home.” Nanette Do, who you can read a little about in this report, is one such example. Nanette entered the Day Home when she was just two years old. She attended our after-school programs during her elementary years, volunteered while she was a high-school student, and came on staff for a time after college. To this day, she still maintains contact.

Other friends who were introduced to us in their youth have played a vital role in delivering quality child development programs at the Day Home. Our beloved Sister Adrienne started as a high-school volunteer at the Day Home and has just completed 25 years of service with us. And Mary MacPherson, our long-time friend and speech-language pathologist was also introduced to the Day Home as a high-school volunteer.

These are just a few of the special people who have stayed connected to Saint Vincent’s and who continue to be involved in supporting a program that has had meaning in their lives. Whether you are a volunteer, an alum, or a friend old or new, we are thankful that you too are part of our family. Your continued support enables us to deliver a vital service that will have true meaning for the next generation and beyond. ■

Gratefully,



Corinne M. Mohrmann

Corinne M. Mohrmann

Spotlight

A Lifelong Connection with the Day Home

Playing in the sunroom and looking down on the yard. How grand the dining room seemed, in fact how huge the whole place seemed. Celebrating birthdays, decorating trees at Christmas, and mistaking Sister Adrienne’s newborn bunnies for rats because they had no fur yet. These are a few of the Day Home memories that alumni and friend Nanette Do recalls.

When the Do family emigrated from Vietnam to California, they arrived with three children, the youngest being 8-month old Nanette. They learned of Saint Vincent’s when Mrs. Do got a job in the health care center across the street from the Day Home. Nanette’s two older siblings were enrolled, and Nanette entered when she reached age two. The family continued to grow, and in all, seven of the eight Do children spent part of their childhood at the Day Home.



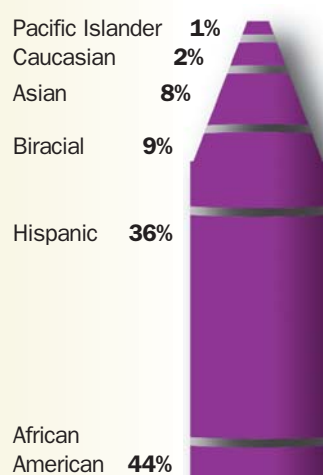
this time for her first full-time job. Nanette spent several years with us working in the areas of social services and operations. She then went on to receive degrees in Public Administration and Health

Nanette’s connection with the Day Home has spanned from toddler to adulthood. In her elementary school years she attended our after-school program. As a teenager, Nanette volunteered at the Day Home for several summers. Since both her parents worked full-time, it was difficult to make arrangements for the older children during the summer months. Nanette recalls sometimes going to job sites with her dad, a general contractor, but this was not always practical—so the Day Home volunteer opportunity was a perfect solution.

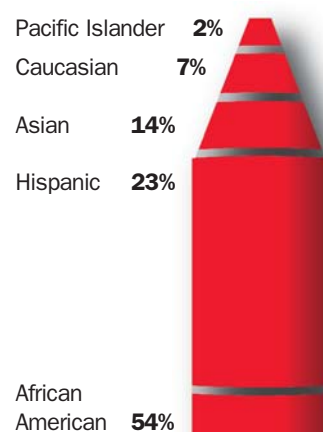
When Nanette enrolled at Whittier College, she still maintained her ties to us, visiting and helping with tasks such as addressing envelopes. After she graduated, she returned to the Day Home once again,

2003-2004 Financial Report

Children’s Ethnicity



Staff Ethnicity



Revenue \$2,249,480



Family Celebration—On August 31st, we gathered to welcome new families and say good-bye to those who were leaving us. There were activities for the children, singing, and general merry-making.

Golf Tournament—The bugler played First Call to open our third annual golf tourney, which was held this past May at the beautiful Sequoyah Country Club. Racing Hall of Fame Jockey Russell Baze

and Oakland Raider Center #62 Adam Treu joined us for the day, which featured a continental breakfast, tee prizes, putting contest, lunch, awards dinner and auction—a good time for all, for the benefit of our Day Home children.

Hole in One—Our Executive Director, Corinne Morhmann, pulled off a neat trick last Halloween when she shot her first hole-in-one! ■



Services Administration from the University of San Francisco (USF).

Nanette's work reflects the love and passion that began at Saint Vincent's Day Home. Today she is the manager for California Pacific Medical Center's (CPMC) Pediatric Specialty Clinic, where she handles all the financial and administrative aspects of running the clinic. Her mom still works across the street and Nanette still recalls fond memories of her time with us. ■

Giving the Gift of Language

Building language skills forms the foundation for strong literacy and future success in the classroom. Thanks to a grant, the Day Home is able to deliver onsite speech and language pathology services.

Mary MacPherson, a long-time friend and speech and language pathologist, visits the Day Home three mornings a week. In a collaborative program,

Mary goes into the classroom and works with our teachers on modeling language techniques. This involves instruction on using simple language with the children, mirroring what the child is interested in, and using techniques to build listening skills and basic vocabulary. For example, many young children do not know the basic vocabulary for body parts or items of clothing.

Mary also sees children individually and works with them on attention and listening issues. By helping them develop their language and social skills, Mary gives the children essential tools for using language to get what they need instead of resorting to aggressive behavior. She notes that even just a little interaction with the children brings about tremendous results.

In Mary's private practice she works with people of all ages, although recently her clients have been mostly preschoolers and school-aged children. When asked what she loves about her work, Mary states that she loves interacting with people. She feels like she is always learning and is never bored because something new always comes up. She loves the variety of her work and the never-ending possibilities. She particularly enjoys the children at the Day Home, who she says are "very loving, wonderful children."

Mary began her relationship with the Day Home as a high-school volunteer. When she completed her degree program in speech and language she returned and has been providing speech and language services to the children at Saint Vincent's ever since (which Mary estimates at more than 20 years). ■

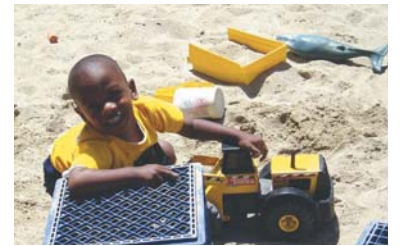
Letter from the Development Office

Dear Friends,

Many of you have witnessed first-hand the results of the Day Home's exciting expansion project—new classrooms and expanded capacity to serve more children and families. And if you've visited recently you've seen that our Queen Anne has received a "facelift", a much-needed fresh coat of paint to help her weather the coming years.

With these projects completed we have moved forward to address the next pressing demand. During the capital campaign, the Day Home received a deadline extension to be in compliance with recent California-mandated playground regulations (for example, all of our swings have already been removed and the wooden climbing structures must go as well). So, it's time to start work on meeting the new standards.

For our new playgrounds we are developing an environmental design to support solid developmental exercise and stimulating play and learning opportunities—or, in other words, a fantastically fun play space that is also ADA accessible and safe.



The new design for the existing large playground will include a "trike & bike" path, large play structure for 3 years and up and another one for 6 years and up, newly located sand area with water source and channel, raised planters in various areas, along with several seating areas. There will also be worktables and plenty of shade trees.

The new toddler yard will include work tables, a play village, a splash pad, water channel along with water source for the sand area, raised planters and a stage with boulder seating, along with a storage shed. Both playgrounds will include poured, rubberized safety surfacing.

We estimate the cost of this project at \$250,000, and are thrilled to report that we have already received a substantial grant from the California Department of Education that will cover the lion's share of the costs. We hope to begin work early in the new year and complete the new playgrounds by June 2005.

As the saying goes, a child's work is play. And our work is to make that play a rich and rewarding experience. We hope you'll join us in making the new playground space a reality. Many thanks for your continued support. ■



Sister Ann Maureen

Sister Ann Maureen Murphy

Budget \$2,249,480

New Equipment	6%
Benefits	8%
Program	19%
Salaries	67%



“The quality of life for many residents of West Oakland is improved because of the good work of those at Saint Vincent's Day Home!”

Supervisor Keith Carson
ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Gifts from the Heart

Saint Vincent's Day Home, Inc. Annual Report 2003-2004 Thank you to our

\$50,000 and Up

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many friends whose donations guarantee that... "as long as there is a Saint Vincent's, there will always be a place that a child can call home."

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45th Wedding Anniversary
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William & Susan Almon
Carlos & Eveleen Lopez
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50th Anniversary
Kathleen Dobbins
Corinne M. Mohrmann
Ann Maureen Murphy, SHF
Frances Franco
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Corinne M. Mohrmann
Joyce & Dave Grimstad
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Saint Vincent's Day Home

Annual Report

2003-2004

510 832-8324

www.svdh.org

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Saint Vincent's Day Home

1086 Eighth Street

Oakland, California 94607-2697

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SAINT VINCENT'S DAY HOME AT A GLANCE

Founded in 1911, Saint Vincent's Day Home is the oldest and largest child development center in Alameda County, and among the oldest continuously operating childcare centers in the nation. The Day Home provides quality childcare and child development services to those in greatest need. We also deliver family services that support parent(s) in meeting their responsibilities.

Vital Statistics

Agency profile: nonprofit, non-sectarian agency located in the heart of West Oakland in the same Victorian house where it was founded in 1911

Enrollment: 230 children (185 families);

Programs: comprehensive programs for toddlers and preschoolers, licensed full-day kindergarten, before-and afterschool programs for older children

Families served: 83% single heads of households with incomes below \$27,000; 42% immigrants; and 85% live in neighborhoods with drug use and crime.

Thanks to the kindness of many friends, the Day Home has been a home away from home for more than 30,000 children since we opened our doors in 1911. ■

Choose Children!

There are many ways that you can support Saint Vincent Day Home and help to make a difference in children's lives:

1. You can give a donation to the Day Home honoring a family member, friend or colleague.
2. A monthly pledge will help a child learn and succeed.
3. The Day Home can accept donations of stock and real estate.
4. You can consider a gift through bequest, use of a trust, insurance or other planned giving methods.
5. You can also designate the Day Home when you make a pledge to the United Way. You'll need the following information:
Saint Vincent's Day Home, 1086 Eighth Street,
Oakland, CA 94607-2697

For more information on giving methods, please call us at **510-832-8324** or e-mail us at **info@svdh.org**. ■



Want to
know more
about Saint
Vincent's?
Visit our website at
www.svdh.org

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Save
the
dates!

Annual Brunch
September 26, 2004

Zonta Fundraiser
October 7, 2004

Golf Tournament
May 9, 2005

Annual Dinner
February 26, 2005

Zonta's Evening for Saint Vincent's at the Auction Gallery

On Thursday, October 7th, the Berkeley/North Bay chapter of Zonta International will host a special fundraising event for Saint Vincent's Day Home at Clar's Auction Gallery in Oakland. The event will feature a wine and hors d'oeuvre reception, a preview of items from Clar's monthly auction, and silent and live auctions. You can even bring an item and receive an informal appraisal. All proceeds from the event will benefit our family support programs.

Zonta International is a global service organization of executives in business and the professions working together to improve the status of women worldwide. ■