



### Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Spring/Summer newsletter. This is a busy time for us at Saint Vincent's, as we deliver our current programs and continue planning and ramping up for new ones. We hope you enjoy reading about our Day Home happenings.

As most of you know, the Day Home's services are designed to ensure that children prosper, while their families are assisted in securing the necessary resources for building a strong family unit.

Our new Hedco Family Learning Center is an integral part of the Day Home's model to partner with parents to achieve their goals by securing steady employment and leaving poverty behind. One hardship these families face is the loss of the state subsidy for childcare when they improve their skills and attain better paying jobs. While our parents are willing to shoulder much of the cost of having their child at the Day Home, they often are unable to undertake all of it.

Our next step in helping to sustain these families during their journey towards economic self sufficiency is to provide child development continuity at the Day Home. With the Saint Vincent's Children's Scholarship Fund, these families will be able to participate in a temporary scholarship program that will ease the transition to paying the full cost of childcare.

No one wants to see a child forced to leave the nurturing environment of the Day Home because their parents are actually succeeding. With this fund, parents will be able to concentrate on their advancement in the workplace and break the cycle of poverty and dependency—knowing that their children are safe, well cared for, and well educated.

With your help, we can ensure that our families have the support they need to succeed. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do to help us build for the future, one family at a time. ■

*Corinne M. Mohrmann*

CORINNE M. MOHRMANN

## 2004 Children's



**PROFESSIONAL HONOREE:**  
Shawna Jones—  
Distinguished alumni and  
now a Head Teacher at the  
Day Home.

**GREETERS:**  
Saint Vincent's Day Home  
children greet guests as  
they arrive.

### Letter from the Development Office

I'll have a grande nonfat latte please! Pictured l to r: Sister Ann Maureen, Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown, and SVDH Committee Member Ted Gallagher at the recent grand opening of the new Starbucks at 8th and Broadway.



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### What Parents Want

While Read to Me is the program that marks the official start of the Hedco Family Learning Center, there's much more on the horizon. To help us formulate our programs, the Day Home surveyed parents to find out about their priorities and areas of interest. Parents were asked to rate their interest in the following literacy subjects:

- BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS**—creating documents, using Internet Explorer and Email
- FINANCIAL LITERACY**—using “Money Smart” Titles such as *Borrowing Basics*, *Check It Out*, *To Your Credit* and *Charge It Right*
- HEALTH LITERACY**—topics include women's health, alcohol and other drugs, child safety, health insurance, first aid and nutrition

The survey results will help guide us in program development so that we address our families' needs according to what's most meaningful to them. ■

### Three friends of the Day Home share their interests, culture, and commitment



Alexis and the Livewires

#### Reiko Homma True Board of Directors

Reiko Homma True was the Day Home's first mental health consultant back in the 1970s, providing preventive consultation work, support and intervention. Assigned by Alameda County Health Service, Reiko states that she was thrilled with the chance to get to know the community. She recalls the West Oakland area as quite blighted at that time, noting that the Day Home “provided the anchor for many of the at-risk families in the area.”

Today, Reiko is back with us, serving on our Board of Directors. Reiko reports that it has been a pleasure to reconnect with the Day Home. She sees the tremendous growth from the early days and the continuing support for families in need.



Reiko (center) with Executive Director Corinne Mohrmann and Board of Directors members Rene Boisvert and Kimberly Briggs

Reiko is currently in private practice and does a number of community consultations. Every year, she brings a contingent of Japanese professionals—college professors, social workers, mental health workers and teachers—to visit the Day Home. The group tours our facilities and talks with our staff, taking home lessons learned to assist them with their child advocacy services in Japan. Upon being awarded a Fulbright Senior Fellowship, Reiko has also traveled to Japan to provide some much-needed mental health disaster assistance after a devastating earthquake struck there.

Originally from Niigata, Japan, Reiko and husband Richard have three children and two grandchildren. She enjoys travel, music and reading.

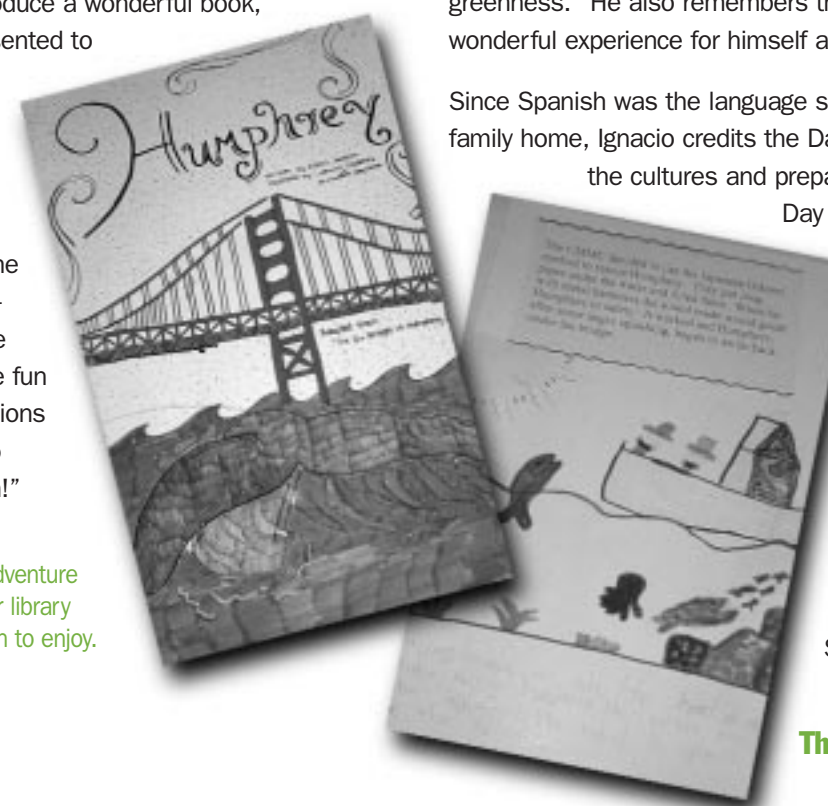
#### Alexis Michelle Jackson Student volunteer

A senior at Bishop O'Dowd High School, Alexis Jackson started volunteering at the Day Home when she was in middle school at St. Paul's and has joined us every summer since then to work with the children.

An aspiring marine biologist, Alexis shared her knowledge and enthusiasm on the subject this past summer when she worked with our Livewires (school-aged children) on an “Under the Sea Adventure.” The children spent time with Alexis learning about the ocean and the creatures that live there, including dolphins, humpback whales, sea lions, the blue crab and seahorse.

As part of the adventure, Alexis worked with the Livewires to produce a wonderful book, which they presented to the Day Home Library for all of the children to enjoy. In her letter that accompanied the book, Alexis encouraged all the children to have fun in their explorations and continue to “read and learn!”

*Under the Sea Adventure is available in our library for all the children to enjoy.*



#### Ignacio Guevara 1931 alum

When Ignacio Guevara started at the Day Home, he was barely out of diapers and didn't speak a word of English. That was in 1931, when he attended along with his older sister who had joined us one year earlier.

Ignacio remembers walking the block and a half to the Day Home with his mother, and recalls how the Sisters gave his mother such “peace of mind.” Ultimately the Day Home provided a safe haven for all five of the Guevara children.

Ignacio also recalls his first Christmas at the Day Home. As it was not the custom in their family to put up a tree, he remembers being amazed by the Day Home's Christmas tree and “smelling the greenness.” He also remembers those days as a wonderful experience for himself and his siblings.

Since Spanish was the language spoken in the family home, Ignacio credits the Day Home for teaching him English—bridging the cultures and preparing him so well for elementary school. The

Day Home experience left an impression, as

Ignacio later spent 30 years of his adult life as a language teacher, helping others develop their English language skills.

Gift in hand, Ignacio recently returned to the Day Home for a visit and praised the staff for the “good, healthy start” the children receive. He remembers his own time at Saint Vincent's as a “very precious experience” and is grateful because the Sisters “helped my mother so much.” ■

Thank you Alexis, Ignacio and Reiko



Ignacio and his sister Judith



# Saint Vincent's Day Home

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## Moving Forward

America's low-income community is disturbingly under-served in its access to technology and ranks at the bottom of the educational and literacy skills ladder. Family health, financial and parenting skill education is important to a family's well being.

The Day Home is working on developing more resources that will increase a family's health, employment skills, community involvement, and economic well being—helping them be more self-sufficient and marketable through their use of technology.

Our vision includes development of a Web-based Family Education Library that will provide easy access to information that is vital to a low-income community. These resource topics include health, parenting and on-line learning opportunities. The education material will be based on the Saint Vincent's Day Home and Literacyworks model family literacy program.

These materials will provide parents and instructors with multimedia, interactive curriculum on family health, civic participation, financial issues and other family topics of concern. It will also include staff development and teacher's guides. ■

## Family literacy can reverse the cycle of economic and educational hardship

## Hardware, software, modem, go!

With our Hedco Family Learning Center up and running, the Day Home is ready to help our families attain vital literacy skills and bridge the digital divide.

During our recent capital campaign, the Hedco Foundation presented us with a challenge: a \$238,000 grant to the Day Home if we could match it. And thanks to you, we did! Today, the dream of our family learning center is a reality.

And thanks to Hewlett-Packard Company, which donated all the equipment necessary to power our new Hedco Family Learning Center, the learning center is online and we will be able to implement a full array of computer, linguistic, health and financial literacy programs.

## Reading with Different Eyes

Our first program delivered through the learning center is the Read to Me program, which started this past May. This program is key in enabling the Day Home to help our parents and children gain essential literacy skills.

The Read to Me program consists of four weekly sessions in which parents learn new ways to read to their children and enrich the reading experience. The parents work individually or in small groups and are trained by volunteers, who provide them with age-appropriate books to take home and read to their children during the week.

In the first week, parents are introduced to the first genre—ABC books—and then do model reading and partner practice. Subsequent weeks include debriefings—how did it go with your child?—and introduction of new genres: rhyming books, wordless books and folk tales.

Saint Vincent's is fortunate to have Carolyn Raffo, the past principal of Wildwood Elementary School in Piedmont, chairing this project. Carolyn recruited kindergarten teachers Kristi Rasmussen and Kathy Rolefson to help develop this program, which promises parents that "...you probably have been reading to your child for some time now, but you will now read with different eyes!"



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Want to know more about Saint Vincent's? Visit our website at [www.svdh.org](http://www.svdh.org)

Save the date!  
September 19, 2004  
Saint Vincent's Day Home Annual Brunch

## Our Mission

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.

Since opening in 1911, the Day Home has been a home away from home for more than 30,000 children.

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Saint Vincent's Day Home  
1086 Eighth Street  
Oakland, California 94607-2697  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Would you like to join our family of volunteers? A great way to get involved is to join a committee. Committee work is a fun and rewarding experience, and can also be a stepping stone to a Board position. Interested? Please contact:

Erin McGlynn  
925 283-4331  
emcglynn@nrs3.com

Saint Vincent's Day Home Standing Committees  
Board Development  
Building and Maintenance  
Development/Events  
Family Literacy  
Program  
Finance

## 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](mailto:info@svdh.org). ■

## Many thanks for your kind support of the children!

### Saint Vincent's Day Home

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Executive Director

# Choice Awards

On February 20, 2004, Saint Vincent's held its "Building Towards the Future" Children's Choice Awards Dinner at Scott's Restaurant in Jack London Square.

### The honorees included:

#### CORPORATE HONOREE:

Hewlett-Packard Company—which donated the computer equipment for the Hedco Family Learning Center.

#### VOLUNTEER HONOREE:

Justice Carol Corrigan—Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeal; Chair, Saint Vincent's Day Home Board of Directors; and Chair, Board of Trustees at Holy Names University.



### Dear Friends,

All of us at Saint Vincent's are most grateful for your ongoing support and generosity, which enables each of us to continue carrying out our mission to our families here at the Day Home. Since the completion of our capital campaign, which we could never have accomplished without your faithful support, I am concentrating on several major needs for the Day Home. Our new challenges include painting and repair of our 1863 Victorian, funding our recently established Children's Scholarship effort, replacing our kitchen floor, renovating children's playgrounds to bring them up to code, and getting project support for our Hedco Family Learning Center's programs.

To help us meet these challenges, I would like to ask for your help in introducing me to friends and acquaintances who are involved in Corporate Giving programs and/or Foundations. As you know, it is easiest to get "in the door" with a personal introduction, and with your help in this area, the Day Home can make faster progress.



One organization that has recently answered our call is Starbucks Coffee. A guiding principle at Starbucks is "to contribute positively to our communities and our environment." Starbucks has pitched in by providing the continental breakfast at our recent golf tournament. And the Day Home was given good visibility at the Starbucks Family and Friends event held in March and their Grand Opening in April, where we had posters, Day Home fact sheets available, and our note cards for sale.

This relationship with Starbucks is a nice example of corporate collaboration with the community and we are grateful for this company's support. I hope you will be able to introduce me to more of these opportunities so that our Day Home programs—and children—continue to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support, as we could not do it without you. ■

*Sister Ann Maureen*

SISTER ANN MAUREEN MURPHY

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