



**Saint Vincent's Day Home**  
Over a Century of Service to Families

“The first five years have so much to do with how the next 80 turn out.” William H. Gates, Sr.

# Letter from the Executive Director

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## Dear Friends,

I never thought I would actually “retire” from what I love the most—Saint Vincent’s Day Home with its precious children and families, loyal friends, and supporters. I believe it is now time to begin a new chapter in my life and pass the torch of leadership to a new generation. My desire is to make June 30, 2016 my final day, thus giving the Board of Directors ample time to execute a seamless leadership transition that will ensure the Day Home’s ongoing success.

The mission of Saint Vincent’s Day Home has been my life-long passion. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to have developed innovative programs and educational opportunities for those children and families in need who have crossed our threshold.

Saint Vincent’s Day Home has become a well-respected and renowned Family Service agency. We enjoy a reputation for excellence in education and family services, both nationally and internationally. I have been joined in my work by many dedicated and generous partners: our talented and committed staff, volunteers, donors, Board of Directors, and the Sisters of the Holy Family. Each has supported me and played a key role in the Day Home’s mission, vision and growth over these past 40 years.



I personally wish to thank you for all that you have contributed to the Day Home and, most especially, for your support of my life’s work. Together we have guaranteed that “as long as there is a Saint Vincent’s Day Home, there will always be a place for a child to call home.”

Gratefully,

Corinne M. Mohrmann, Executive Director

## Three Generations of Love for Saint Vincent's

Cherisse Harper is the second generation of Day Home alumni in her family and certainly not the last.

In the mid-1950s, her father attended Holy Family Day Home in San Francisco. She attended Saint Vincent's with her brother in the early '80s. When her son enrolled in Saint Vincent's as a toddler, Cherisse became one of our few families to pay the full tuition, because she says the Day Home "is not just child care, but a place where I know my child will be loved."

With wonderful childhood memories of the Day Home, Cherisse says "the Sisters taught us with such warmth and so many hugs." She remembers "Sister Corinne" visiting the classrooms daily and credits Corinne's hands-on administrative style with preparing Saint Vincent's to thrive in its second century.

A graduate of Stanford University and St. Mary's College, Cherisse attributes her love of learning to her early education at the Day Home. "The Day Home is a place to grow, learn, and be loved," she says, "and has provided a rich service opportunity for my family."

As she was growing up her grandmother, aunt, and father volunteered at Saint Vincent's and currently Cherisse is President of our Parent Board. "I feel so invested in the Day Home," Cherisse says, "not only for what it has meant for me and for my son, but what it means for the community."



*Cherisse with her son,  
Kuba Ra, a third generation  
Day Home student*



# A Legacy of Excellence for Every Child and Family

**Corinne Mohrmann's mission in life has been to nurture, protect and educate children, especially those most in need, and to help families survive and thrive.**

That mission has focused her life of service and her 40-year leadership of Saint Vincent's Day Home. Working, not only at Saint Vincent's but at Day Homes in San Jose, San Francisco, and Las Vegas, Corinne has touched tens of thousands of lives with her kindness, wisdom and determination.

Orphaned at an early age and growing up in foster care, Corinne learned how important a teacher can be in the life of a child, calling her own teachers "my guiding lights." A placement with a Catholic family introduced her to a parish where she began helping with catechism classes. She

*Corinne as a young nun*



graduated from high school at age 16 and left her foster placement. Authorities challenged her bid for independence and threatened her with juvenile detention. Acting as her own advocate, Corinne negotiated her enrollment in San Jose State University. Living in student housing, she supported herself as a kindergarten assistant at Saint Elizabeth's Day Home. Her faith was always important to her and there she found the call to service that has guided her ever since. While still a legal minor, she successfully petitioned the court to enter the religious order of The Sisters of the Holy Family.



*Corinne with Jim, her youngest brother*

Working with those who faced life's challenges resonated with her earliest experiences. In her Las Vegas kindergarten class, Corinne first encountered African American children from the South who were socialized not to look adults in the eye. Led to believe they were inferior, she taught them that life could be different, how to give true respect, and how to expect it in return. Remembering this experience many years later she observed: "When you encounter the residual of something wrong from our history, you have an obligation to change it. That is what teachers do."

She brought this understanding to West Oakland's Saint Vincent's Day Home at the right time—just as the neighborhood was changing in the wake of Oakland's late '60s redevelopment.

*The Day Home as it looked circa 1968 when Corinne first arrived to teach*



*Corinne with Sister Ann Maureen Murphy, life-long friends and colleagues*



The Day Home and the mortuary were the only buildings left in the wake of Oakland's late '60s redevelopment when she arrived. Corinne's dear friend, Sister Ann Maureen Murphy, was the kindergarten teacher. Together they developed a vision for the early childhood center as a nurturing, home-like environment; a modern fulfillment of the Sister's mission to take the children into their own homes when their mothers were unavailable to care for them.

Their jointly-authored master's thesis from Pacific Oaks College outlined a plan for constructing the Saint Vincent's we know today. The beautiful Queen Ann Victorian home was preserved and new classrooms built. The Day Home became a park-like oasis with a garden, grassy hills, and open space.

Children could learn and thrive mentally, emotionally and physically in modern classrooms with the latest teaching methods and educators specializing in early child development. Parents, who faced challenges of poverty, illness, and lack of opportunity, were supported to become self-sustaining. Families took classes in parenting skills, literacy, and financial management. Referrals addressed their obstacles including secure housing, medical and dental care, clothing, nutrition and immigration concerns.

Corinne has been a trailblazer throughout her career, consistently bringing innovations to the program. She initiated many family services that far exceeded the best practices of the day. Families learned to use computers and the Internet, prepare for job interviews, and support their child's literacy. Building on strong community relationships and outreach opportunities, Corinne has enriched the children's educational experience with resident artists, speech and play therapy, mental health services, music, dance, and physical activity classes. While aspiring in every way to make Saint Vincent's a "home away from home," Corinne has never strayed from the ultimate objective of elevating the family and strengthening the child's role within it.

Recognized throughout her career for outstanding service, Corinne has been honored numerous times by California's state and local legislative community and Department of Education. She has been designated the City of Las Vegas' "Educational Mother of the Year," inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame, and given the Oakland Diocese's Monsignor McCracken Award. While honored by the recognition, Corinne says, "The greatest reward is being blessed to see the impact of your work over time."

Never feeling alone in her work, Corinne remembers how "People came into our life at the Day Home just when we needed them most." She deeply appreciates the generosity of so many, including Saint Vincent's benefactor Alba Witkin, who increased her annual support twelvefold so no child or staff member would lose their place when state funding drastically decreased in the 2008 recession.



**"The greatest reward is being blessed to see the impact of your work over time."**

**Corinne M. Mohrmann**

"The Day Home has been extremely blessed to be able to depend on the goodness and generosity of longstanding, faithful friends," Corinne observes. As she nears her 40-year anniversary and plans for retirement next year, she says: "I am most proud of the level of excellence and innovation the Day Home has achieved. Everyone has worked together going the extra mile to ensure that children and families have had what they needed to succeed."

# The Day Home Family

Saint Vincent's Day Home provides high-quality Early Learning programs for children between the ages of 2 and 10 years old whose families have limited incomes and a need for child development services due to work, school or disability.

Children develop a healthy sense of self so they will learn with confidence and realize their highest ambitions.

Families are supported to become self-sufficient and advocate for their child's best interest.



## In 2014–2015...

- The Day Home served 277 children from 223 families.
- 89% of families lived at or below the Federal Poverty Level.
- 65% of children entered the Day Home with little or no English language proficiency.
- 78% of children had single parents; 21% lived in two-parent homes.
- 83% of parents worked full-time; 13% worked and attended school, and 4% of parents were students or seeking employment.
- 14% of children were in foster care.
- 11% of children were identified as having special educational needs.

## Our children and staff represent the diversity of the Bay Area.

### Children

Latino	35%
African American	30%
African	16%
Asian	16%
Biracial	2%
White/Middle Eastern	1%

### Staff

Asian	34%
African American	26%
White/Middle Eastern	15%
Latino	19%
African	6%

Our families and staff speak many languages including Amharic, Arabic, Cambodian, Cantonese, English, French, Mandarin, Mongolian, Spanish, Tigrinya & Vietnamese.

# Gifts from the Heart

Gifts to Saint Vincent's Day Home from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Thank you to our many friends

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Evelyn Benas

### **Alba Witkin**

Hon. Carol A. Corrigan  
Corinne M. Mohrmann

**THANK YOU** to our many  
community and corporate  
partners who enrich the lives  
of the children with their  
time and generosity.

3 Steves Winery  
Armanino LLP  
B.R. Cohn Winery  
BAIA Pasta  
Bay Area Beverage Company  
Bishop O'Dowd High School  
Bottega Napa Valley  
Bread and Roses  
Caffe 817  
Cal State East Bay  
Cali Fresh Produce, SF  
California Academy of Sciences  
Center for Student Missions  
Chaminade Resort & Spa  
Children's Fairyland  
Claremont Resort & Spa  
Concannon Vineyard  
Corpus Christi School  
County Plumbing

Crogan's Restaurant & Bar  
 Darcie Kent Vineyards  
 Dr. David Lee, DDS  
 Drake's Brewing Company  
 EarthCapades  
 Eaton Vance Investments  
 Elephant Bar  
 Far Niente Winery  
 Fenton's Creamery  
 Galleria Park Hotel  
 Genentech  
 Harding Loevner  
 Holy Family Day Home  
 Holy Names High School  
 Hotel Avante  
 In Forma Integral Fitness  
 Italian Colors  
 Kaiser Permanente Emergency  
 Department  
 Kristi Rasmussen, SVDH Librarian  
 Livermore Valley Winegrowers  
 Luxury Motor Ltd. - Walnut Creek  
 Merryvale Vineyards  
 Monaghan's on the Hill  
 Montclair Reflexology & Reiki  
 North Beach Pizza  
 Oakland Public Library, West Oakland  
 Oakland Technical High School  
 Oakland Zoo  
 Orin Swift Cellars  
 Piedmont Grocery  
 Prevent Blindness Northern California  
 Rock Wall Winery Company  
 Saint Mary's College High School  
 Samuel Merritt University School  
 of Nursing  
 Scott's Seafood Restaurant  
 Silver Oak Cellars  
 Snail People  
 St. Mary's College  
 St. Paul's Episcopal School  
 The DeSilva Group, Inc.  
 The Fat Lady Restaurant  
 Trader Vic's  
 West Oakland Health Center  
 Yoshi's

## A Positive Return

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,691,349</b>
Government Support	<b>80%</b>
Private Support & Grants	<b>20%</b>

<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$2,691,349</b>
Salaries & Benefits	<b>75%</b>
Educational Program Expenses	<b>20%</b>
Nutrition Program	<b>3%</b>
Facility Upkeep	<b>2%</b>

## for Our Community

Saint Vincent's Day Home serves low income, at-risk children and families with public and private funding. Our work to develop a base of loyal supporters for the Day Home ensures our ability to provide excellent programs and services now and well into the future.

In 2014–15, private charitable contributions made up 20% of our program budget. We strive to increase this percentage every year with multiple fundraising events and by fostering close relationships with philanthropic individuals and organizations who share our vision.

Early childhood education provides the foundation for every child's success in school, helping to reduce lifetime achievement gaps for the children in our community. There is a tremendous benefit as well for their families who endeavor to become self-sustaining.

High quality, early learning programs, like those offered at the Day Home, work to break the cycle of poverty.

**Numerous economic studies document a return of \$7 or more on each dollar invested in early childhood education programs.**

*"Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great. You can be that generation. Let your greatness bloom."*

Nelson Mandela





**Saint Vincent's Day Home**  
Over a Century of Service to Families

1086 Eighth St, Oakland, CA 94607

[www.svdh.org](http://www.svdh.org)