



Case Study: St. Vincent de Paul

Both faith-based and mission-driven institutions benefit from being members in MOC, which helps them build leadership skills among their own members, as well as enabling them to work together with other institutions across the county, building a shared agenda of issues, and wielding collective power.

After attending organizing training, I restructured our volunteer orientation process so that I now meet each volunteer individually; it's how we keep volunteers connected and how we help grow volunteer support for the SVdP mission.

The principles of organizing have also provided a way for volunteers to grow within the organization; it has helped grow volunteers into donors and donors into volunteers. This has done wonders for volunteer retention - as volunteers can now connect with Vinnie's on a much more personal level.

Being a part of MOC has been my first experience feeling like the work I'm doing can affect real change at the community level. It is inspiring to be a part of a community of people focused on making concrete, actionable change in their community, and actually having the influence to be able to implement these changes.

— Alex Lyon, Volunteer Coordinator, St. Vincent de Paul Society

Our Track Record

Homelessness

Over the last ten years, MOC leveraged millions of dollars in county funding to shift services for homelessness away from band-aid solutions and towards permanent housing and effective support. The county's first Housing First Shelter will launch this year, largely as a result of our congregations' work.

Housing

MOC marshaled community support for Victory Village, an affordable housing development in Fairfax. More recently, in December of 2017, after months of dialogue with county officials, MOC passed the first law in Marin County protecting renters, a mandatory mediation ordinance.

Immigration

When the leaders at St. Raphael's in San Rafael heard stories of hardship suffered when their parishioners' cars were towed and impounded for thirty days, they organized a meeting where over 600 people shared their stories with other non-immigrant leaders. This began a two year organizing campaign that changed the policies of the City of San Rafael Police Department.

Health Care

Following passage of the Affordable Care Act, our leaders became concerned by the lack of planning in Marin, and successfully pressured the County of Marin to hire an additional 20 eligibility workers. We created a monthly roundtable for all major players to meet and coordinate their implementation plans, resulting in Marin County having one of the highest enrollment rates in the state.

MOC is currently working to...

- **Continue expanding the services and options available to unhoused residents of Marin**
- **Establish legal protections for renters suffering from increasing rent and fear of eviction**
- **Work with parents and educators in San Rafael City Schools to address educational inequity**
- **Support and engage the immigrant community through work on citizenship, schools, and housing**

