SVdP CARES 2020 Empty Bowls Campaign brings attention to the devastating impact homelessness has on people, and engages the private community in support of a solutions based response by SVdP CARES to rapidly rehouse without barriers, and provide wrap around services to ensure long term stability for the people it serves. An investment in the 2020 Empty Bowls Campaign advances the critical work being done by SVdP CARES.

SVdP CARES provides assistance in a 15 county service area to prevent and end homelessness for individuals and families who have low, extremely low, or no income. While the level and type of assistance varies, all programs are housing focused, with the goal of permanence. SVdP CARES models its programs on the principles of “Housing First” and low barriers, emphasizing choice and self-determination, while rapidly connecting homeless individuals and families to permanent housing with no readiness requirements. Individualized, client-driven, wrap around support is available to the household after the housing crisis is resolved.

Direct services offered by SVdP CARES includes case management, emergency shelter, bridge and transitional housing, rapid re-housing, prevention and diversion assistance, meals and food supplies, storage, and other general support. Prevention and rapid rehousing are available to US veterans and non-veteran households. Nearly 120 employees and 220 regular volunteers provide temporary assistance that help to carry out SVdP CARES services, while many other individuals and groups volunteer for special projects throughout the year.

SVdP CARES highlights some of its 2019 outcomes:

- Provided over 154,000 meals at the Food Center.
- Served over 10,200 clients through the rapid rehousing and homeless prevention programs.
- Provided 21 rooms year-round for emergency family housing in the Center of Hope.
- Provided thousands of vouchers for clothing, household items, furnishings, and beds to families, individuals, and US veterans.
- 83% Positive Housing Outcomes for US veterans over a 7-year period.
- 92% Positive Housing Outcomes for US Veterans homeless prevention over a 7-year period.

Additionally, SVdP CARES connects clients—365 days a year—to life sustaining resources that improve access to employment, health, and financial stability.

One of the US veterans served by SVdP CARES in 2019 said this: “I had become complacent living in various shelters, but the SVdP CARES staff believed in me, and helped me to start believing in myself again. I lifted myself out of my complacency. I am now housed, and I am working full time. SVdP CARES is the real deal, and because of SVdP CARES, I have a new lease on life.”

Sponsoring the 2020 Empty Bowls Campaign is an investment in the lives of the families, friends, neighbors, and US heroes who enter the doors of SVdP CARES seeking a new chance on life.