

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Council of Galveston-Houston

2008 Services Report

Program Sites	Program Services	Services Reported
Vincentian Services - Conferences	Home Visits/Pantries/Financial Assistance/Disaster	313,836
Thrift Store & Distribution Services	Furniture & Clothing Vouchers	3,054
Food Depot	Food Services	5,101
Disaster Services – Central Council	Special Services to Disaster Victims (Ike)	9,769
Village	Emergency Shelter/Supportive Housing	<u>2,826</u>
Vincentian Services	Telephone Assistance - Referrals	<u>10,106</u>
Total Services Individuals received in 2008		<u>344,692</u>
<i>Number of Volunteer Hours:</i>	<i>Source of Information</i>	<i>Volunteer Hours</i>
Vincentian Services	Monthly Reports from Conferences	134,176
Central Council	Volunteer sign in sheets	99
Warehouse	Monthly Community Service & Volunteer sign in	3,981
Thrift Stores	Volunteer sign in sheets	409
Hurricane Relief/Distribution	Report from Program Director	1,736
Food Depot	Report from Program Director	1,151
Village	Report from Program Director	<u>3,919</u>
Total volunteer hours in 2008		<u>138,176</u>
Miles donated by Vincentians	As reported monthly by Conferences	<u>149,514</u>

2008 Summary of Special Projects and Services

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

The Central Council of Galveston-Houston of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul provides leadership, technical assistance, management training and resource development. This allows local Conferences to better devote their own resources to serving their communities. The Council seeks to develop and promote innovative strategies that address human needs and social justices. The Council responds to the Council of the United States in its focuses on economic justice, ending hunger and poverty in America, and the Society's response to natural disasters nationally and internationally.

VINCENTIAN SERVICES Serving those who serve others

Vincentian Services focuses on the implementation of Formation of new members and Conferences, Conference Renewals, Spirituality, and Service to the poor and marginalized. Staff promotes service to the poor by providing Conferences with referrals to partner agencies, current resources, financial assistance and community service projects.; Promotes holiness and dignity of life with respect to creating programs that increase the quality of life, especially during times of crisis and provides for the immediate needs of our neighbors who come to us for help.

THRIFT STORE MINISTRY (Retail & Donations/Distribution operations)

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul serves the community through a network of our thrift store and distribution center, where people in need as well as the general public, can shop for low-cost clothing, furniture and household items. Employees and volunteers join together and collect, refurbish and merchandise donated items for the stores. Those who cannot afford to shop at the store can receive needed items at no cost through a Vincentian referral system. Delivery is available. The SVdP Thrift Store Ministry has also made vocational training available to residents in our emergency shelter program; and all of our locations currently employ qualified recovery program graduates.

THE SVDP VILLAGE "SHORTENING THE TIME PEOPLE SPEND HOMELESS"

St. Vincent de Paul Village has aimed to promote stable, committed, well trained and self-sufficient families upon exiting our program. The Society has provided training, education, and personal development opportunities which help to transform these individuals and equip them with the confidence and skills they need to succeed. The St. Vincent de Paul Village has committed itself to collaborating with other organizations in an effort to provide services, in order to continue to serve those in need and help them with necessary tools to become economically self-sufficient before exiting St Vincent de Paul Village.

JOHN L. FOOD DEPOT

Like a conventional pantry, the goal of the **SVdP John L. Neighborhood Food Depot**-pantry program is to provide the client with groceries but in the style of a grocery store atmosphere, rather than a food pantry. Clients utilize shopping carts and travel down food aisles to select the foods their family would prefer. They are encouraged to take what they need and are allowed to select food based on their individual and family preferences, needs and circumstances.

N.O.C. (NETWORK OF CHARITY) Disaster Services – Special Outreach

Survivors of hurricane IKE require immediate assistance in rebuilding their lives to a level of self-sufficiency. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, through the Network of Charity Family Advocate Program, assisted individuals and families who have been displaced by Hurricane Ike. The program has provided one-on-one personal service and has addressed basic needs like housing, transportation and employment, which can be overwhelming and confusing.