



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



2020

“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.” - St. Theresa

ANNUAL REPORT

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“We must pass...from affective love to effective love. And that is a love which takes flesh in works of charity, service of the poor which is undertaken with joy, constancy, and tender love.” - St. Vincent de Paul

Letter from the Executive Director

“Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and the persons to one another.” - St. Vincent de Paul



Dear friends,

I am a firm believer that God does not give us more than we can handle. Earlier this year, I crossed off something from my personal bucket list - a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with my parents. It was late February, and I could not wait to set foot in the land of miracles.

At the same time, we became aware of the novel coronavirus. Knowing we could not be led by fear, we departed to the Holy Land. I did not know then that it would be the last time I would see the entire team together.

On March 11th, when the virus was declared an international pandemic, I was in Jerusalem. We felt like true pilgrims, trusting the Holy Spirit would take care of us and we all returned safe and well; Blessed abundantly by this experience.

Back home, everything was different. We had to come up with creative solutions to provide services remotely or by new methods to protect the safety of all. Home Visits became virtual and we all learned to use technology in new ways.

Food was an initial challenge. We converted our VSC facility to a major food distribution site. We also purchased food in bulk when certain staples could not be found and worked closely with our pantries to come up with creative ways to serve the community.

We applied for grants to provide our Conferences with the financial assistance they needed to distribute to the families we serve, often the most vulnerable.

We were blessed to have been awarded over \$1 million from the Harris County Covid-19 Relief Fund and \$500,000 from an anonymous donor, enabling us to help over 1,100 families meet their basic needs ranging from rental and utility assistance to food.

With this annual report, we hope to give you a glimpse of how the Society turned this moment in history into a miracle of love for our community.

While this year has been challenging, we are optimistic that you will continue walking with us through next year and witness a major milestone for our organization - our 150th Anniversary.

In the Spirit of St. Vincent de Paul,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Schorno".

Ann Schorno
Executive Director

About the Society

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international network of people serving people. We are a non-profit organization serving communities living in poverty. We provide basic needs assistance, including food, clothing, financial assistance, and hope. Our Council was established in 1871 in Galveston, TX with the purpose to serve those in the greater Houston area.

Mission

Inspired by Gospel values, we grow spiritually through person to person service to all in need in our community. Our actions promote the dignity of the person, alleviate suffering and distress, while addressing the conditions that cause them through systemic change.

Vision

We are a community actively living our faith by loving and providing hope to our neighbors. We do this through our Home Visit Ministry, which is at the heart of our mission. Like the disciples, we travel in pairs to the homes of those most in need. Our lifelong goal is to end poverty throughout the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston one family at a time.

Board Members

- | | |
|--|---|
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Executive Director |
| Matthew Ryan
District 3 President | |

Servant leadership is done in imitation of Jesus who said: “For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many.” Leadership positions in the Society, at any level, are always to be accepted as service to Christ, the members, and the poor.



Leadership Connections



Ann Schorno
Executive Director

Ann Schorno holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of California and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

For the first 15 years of her career, Ann worked for a telephone company excelling in areas of new business development and corporate strategy. In 1994, she entered the hotel industry and worked for 16 years at Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts.

In 2009, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul became a part of Ann's life. She began as a volunteer at the Society chapter of St. Anne Catholic Church in Houston. In April 2010, she was appointed Executive Director.

Ann not only brings her faith, but years of corporate experience to lead to the Society.



Pura Santangelo
Director of Vincentian Services

Pura Santangelo was born and raised in Falcon, Venezuela. Her Catholic education includes the Salesians Academy for Girls and a Catholic College Preparatory.

After graduating from high school, Pura enrolled in the English as a second language program at the University of Houston Central Campus. After completing the program, she pursued a degree in the Hilton School of Hotel and Restaurant Management.

Prior to joining the Society, Pura worked in the hospitality industry for 17 years specializing in event planning. In July 2004, she started volunteering at the Society's Central Office answering incoming calls to our helpline. Pura was hired three months later as a Vincentian Services support staff.

She worked her way up to Director of Vincentian Services. Pura is responsible for overseeing programs that promote greater spiritual growth, encourages greater unity and solidarity, and strengthens relationships within our Parishes, Conferences, and Districts.



Nancy Garza
Director of Finances

Nancy Garza holds a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Houston. She began her career in public accounting, later moving to the oilfield industry.

Although Nancy enjoyed working in the corporate world, she was drawn to the Society's mission and decided to make a career change.

In January 2019, Nancy left behind the corporate world and joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. She brings over 15 years of accounting experience.

Nancy is the mother of three school-aged children. On her days off, she enjoys spending time with her family exploring the outdoors.



Marie Schwartz
Director of Programs

Marie Schwartz holds a B.A. in Hospital Administration from Daemen College in Amherst, New York, and an MBA from New Mexico State University. Her entire career has been spent in the non-profit world.

She has worked with the Domestic Violence Resistant Team as a Community Advocate, was the Director of Development at The Gathering Place, and the Executive Director at Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Marie joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 2015 as the Director of Programs and works directly from the Vincentian Service Center (VSC). Her life's mission is to help others, and knowing the Society's unique network helps people in numerous ways and addresses many types of needs fulfills her spiritual mission. She understands the Society's expansive network reaches outside of the City of Houston limits, impacting the lives of those living in rural areas.

Marie is also the mother of three children. When not at work, she enjoys spending time with family, working-out, and doing crafts.



Jenni Granero
Director of Development

Jenni Granero holds a B.A. in Social Science from the University of Houston. In addition, she received a Grants Specialist Certificate from the National Grant Writer's Association. Jenni holds many awards from various nonprofits celebrating her successful leadership and philanthropy.

Jenni has over 25 years of philanthropy in the Houston community. She has prepared and secured major government and private grants as well as individual gifts up to \$1 million. She has experience in planning special events that have raised over \$750,000.

Jenni joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as the Director of Development in January 2020. Her experience has contributed to the overall success of the organization.

When not working, she enjoys bicycle riding with her husband of 25 years and their two children. She and her family are parishioners of St. Cecilia Catholic Church, where her children attend school. Jenni's upbringing includes being taught by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and The Marist Brothers.

Councils exist to serve all the Conferences they coordinate. They help the Conferences to develop their spiritual life, to intensify their service, and to diversify their activities so that they may always be responsible to the needs of those who suffer. [Rule: Part 1, 3.6]

Vincentian Services

As part of the international charity organization of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we honor our mission through the special action of visiting our friends-in-need in their homes. You will notice that our report uses the phrase “friends-in-need,” rather than using the word “clients.” This is done on purpose and is a practice that our founders set in place in 1833. They wanted us to see Christ in the face of every person, and think of each person as a friend or neighbor.

The relationship built while visiting with our friends-in-need cannot be explained or described, it must be experienced. Through the Vincentian elements of spirituality, friendship, and service to the poor, we are able to impact the lives of our friends.

Spirituality is what guides our Vincentians to take the calls and make the visits. Friendship is what our Vincentians build with the community. Service to the poor is what Vincentians provide.

Our history of helping those in need in a discreet way is another unique part of our programs, but also one of the most difficult. We need to be able to share stories to encourage our supporters to see our good work and join us in this great mission while at the same time respecting the dignity of our friends.

The following stories are shared from a Vincentian’s point of view. We hope you enjoy reading the stories of the lives you helped impact this year.

Life Must Go On



At 65, Mary and her husband became the legal guardians of their five grandchildren. Both of them worked full-time jobs - her husband worked during the day and Mary worked at night at a nearby Senior Home as a housekeeper. It was done this way so an adult could always be present with the children.

In early March 2020, Mary’s husband began feeling ill. They soon learned he had contracted COVID-19 at his workplace. Days later, Mary began feeling sick. Her job kept her position open for her but it did not give her sick pay and she did not qualify for unemployment.

During their quarantine period, Mary reached out to her only sister and asked her to look after her grandchildren. Mary’s symptoms were not as severe as her husband’s and was able to recuperate at home. Unfortunately, her husband was hospitalized, placed on a ventilator, and died on May 15.

After weeks of not being able to work, dealing with her husband’s recent death, and the rent and bills accumulating, Mary reached out to the Society seeking assistance with food and rental relief. We delivered food to her home, paid her electricity bill, water bill, and her rent.

Because of her exposure to COVID-19, she was unable to return to her previous job. We were able to prepare her resume and she immediately found employment with better pay.

“I am not afraid of being alone; I’m afraid of not being able to provide for my grandchildren.”
- Mary

Meet the faces behind the service...

Nelopher D’Silva is one the youngest Vincentians of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. She joined the Society chapter at St. Angela Merici in 2019.

As a Vincentian, she does home visits and helps at the food pantry. She speaks multiple languages including English, Konkani, Hindi, and Spanish.

In her experience, the majority of the friends she comes into contact with do not speak English.

“I came across a family who was from Pakistan and spoke Hindi as well as basic English. While we were able to communicate in English, being able to speak to her in Hindi made her feel more comfortable and open towards us,” Nelopher shares.

She has always had a desire to serve God through serving the poor and needy. That desire became more evident and strong enough to move her to make the commitment to become a Vincentian after attending the St. Angela Merici ACTS retreat.

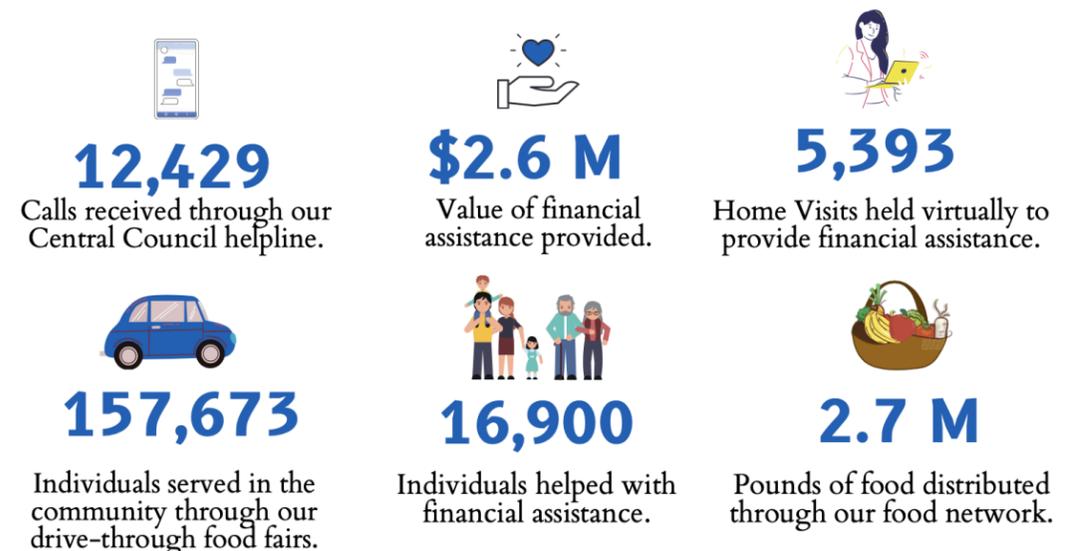
“With everything SVDP does to help low-income families, from rent and utility assistance, food pantries, giftcards, furniture and other resources, being the mediator person to assist the families with their needs has been nothing less of a blessing,” she says.

Nelopher has also learned a lot from the families she visits. She believes that most of the time, the families end up showing Vincentians first-hand how to have an unwavering trust in God in real adversities.

“In our everyday life, we often help our loved ones, our families and our near and dear ones; However, the opportunity to serve a stranger as a Vincentian of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is one I am most grateful for.”



COVID-19 Assistance Community Impact Report March 17 - August 22, 2020



Community Impact

Harris County COVID-19 Relief Grant

In late May 2020, the Greater Houston Community Foundation invited 110 organizations, including the Society, to apply for the Harris County COVID-19 Relief Fund. We were one of 45 organizations selected to receive this grant.

The award's purpose was to serve the most vulnerable populations heavily impacted by the pandemic. Our grant maximized the use of philanthropic dollars to help families and individuals in the counties of Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, and Waller - areas already served by the Society.

Our longstanding history of service and the trust built through our Home Visit Program made the distribution of funds manageable. With the help of 12 Conferences, we were able to serve 825 families, including Joe - a single father raising two boys with the help of his parents.

Two years ago, Joe's wife passed away. Since then, Joe has had to juggle work and making time for his boys. Joe's mother helps take care of the boys, ages 6 and 8,

while he works. Joe is an Uber driver and works evenings and weekends. When the pandemic hit Houston, Joe's ability to support his family was greatly impacted with the closure of local airports, sporting events, concerts, bars, and dining.

The risk of exposure to COVID limited his income and has kept Joe from earning enough to make ends meet. The funds from the Harris County COVID-19 Relief helped Joe and his family with everyday basic need expenses, like food, to live a life with dignity.



Good Shepherd Grant

An anonymous donor saw the great work the Society did in distributing the funds from the Harris County COVID-19 Relief Fund.

The donor invited us to apply for a \$500,000 grant to provide financial assistance to families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic living in the Greater East End, Third and Fifth Wards of Houston.

The grantor selected 13 parishes and one non-parish location, many of which the Society does not have an active chapter. Vincentians were invited to act as ambassadors in conjunction with the 13 selected parishes and begin processing the applications of families requesting financial assistance.

Kristina is one of the recipients of the Good Shepherd Grant. She was living on the sofa of a family friend.

She worked as a server at a local restaurant when the pandemic hit.

When the restaurant closed, she was left unemployed. She lost her home and struggled to support her two children. Kristina reached out to a lifelong friend and asked her for a place to stay.

Since meeting her, the restaurants in the area have reopened and she has found a new apartment. She was happy to have received assistance with the deposit on the new apartment for her family.

Kristina is only one of over 350 families helped by the Good Shepherd Grant. The impact also helped more than 88 seniors over 65, 60 disabled individuals, and 6 veterans.

Honoring Major Donors and Stakeholders

Thank you for helping our mission!

Good Shepherd Grant

Marek Family Foundation

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Scanlan Foundation

Catholic Endowment Foundation of Galveston-Houston

Strake Foundation

Greater Houston Community Foundation

The Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation

Harry S. and Isabel C. Cameron Foundation

The Hildebrand Foundation

J.W. Couch Charitable Foundation

The Sarofim Foundation

John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation

United Way of Greater Houston

United Way Worldwide

Lewis and Joan Lowenstein Foundation

Resiliency F.I.R.S.T.

Since 2017, the Society has been working in partnership with three member organizations from the Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries of Greater Houston (ACAM).

Our goal is to create a successful Systemic Change Program to help poverty-stricken families aim beyond receiving immediate needs such as food, clothing, or financial assistance.

In 2019, we launched Phase 1 of this group research and development pilot study dubbed Resiliency F.I.R.S.T. (Family Independence through Resiliency and Self-Sufficiency Tools). The Society recruited seven of our chapters to help with Phase I.

During this phase, 97 families were selected and barriers of long-term poverty were identified - credit history, network support, community involvement, and healthcare coverage.

In February of this year, before the pandemic, we initiated Phase II. Our goal is to assess a team-approach to assisting our friends. This phase includes providing our friends with the resources to help with their identified barriers, goal planning, and continue following-up in their progress.

If you would like to financially support this program, please email development@svdphouston.org.

Ways to Give & Support

FINANCIAL GIVING

One of the most common reasons to make a gift is **in honor or memory** of a loved one. When you make a gift, the Society sends a letter to your loved one's family notifying them of the gift.

Other donors prefer to **leave a legacy through Planned Giving** that will impact the lives of many underserved individuals. Planned gifts can be in the form of bequests, life insurance/IRA, stock, or other charitable annuities.

Finally, you can also choose to be a monthly donor. By giving every month, you are making a monthly investment in our food network and other programs that serve underserved communities.

Questions? development@svdphouston.org

EMPLOYEE MATCHING

Check with your employer to see if they have a matching gift program. If so, request a match for your gift.

Oftentimes, businesses will confuse our organization with a church. No problem! Provide them with our EIN# 74-1464210. Companies can then search for our rating as a non-profit organization using Charity Navigator or Guide Star.

The following corporations are already matching the gifts of current donors like you: Exxon, Chevron, Shell, State Farm, Nintendo, Halliburton, Hewlett Packard, AT&T, Phillips 66, TC Energy, Wells Fargo, AIG, BP.

VEHICLE DONATIONS

You can donate your unwanted vehicle to the Society's Vehicle Donation Program. The income generated from your donation will be used to help those in need. No matter what condition your vehicle is in, the Society can use the value proceeds to support our programs.

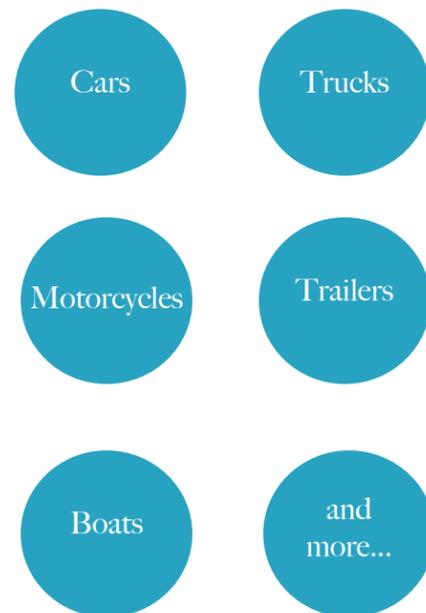
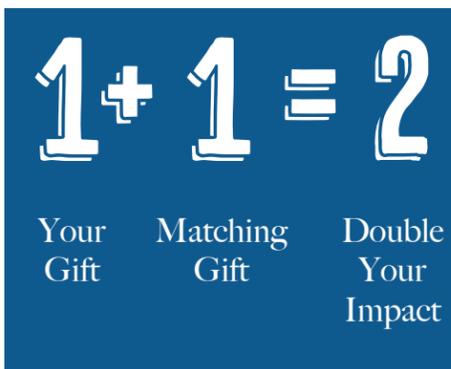
Here is how it works:

1. Call us at 1-800-322-8284 or complete the online form on www.svdpusa.careasy.org.
2. We will then tow your vehicle at no cost to you!
3. Get a tax-deductible receipt and help our cause.

We accept cars, motorcycles, boats, trucks, and more.



CLICK here to donate online.



Ways to Give & Support

DROP OFF OR SHOP AT OUR RESALE SHOPS

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has TWO resale shop locations - one in the Bellaire area and the other in the Gulfgate area - where you can either shop or drop off gently-used items. We accept clothing, shoes, furniture, jewelry, and other miscellaneous items.

Scan our QR code using your camera phone to find our donation guidelines.



CLICK here to learn more about in-kind giving.

DROP YOUR ITEMS OFF AT ONE OF OUR 14 BIG BLUE BINS

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has 14 Big Blue Bins throughout the greater Houston area, including bins in Katy, Sugar Land, and Kingwood.

Find the bin closest to you and drop off your gently used clothes, shoes, and other small miscellaneous items you can fit in the bin.

Make sure you read through our donation guidelines before dropping your items off. The QR code above will lead you to this page.



FURNITURE PICK-UP

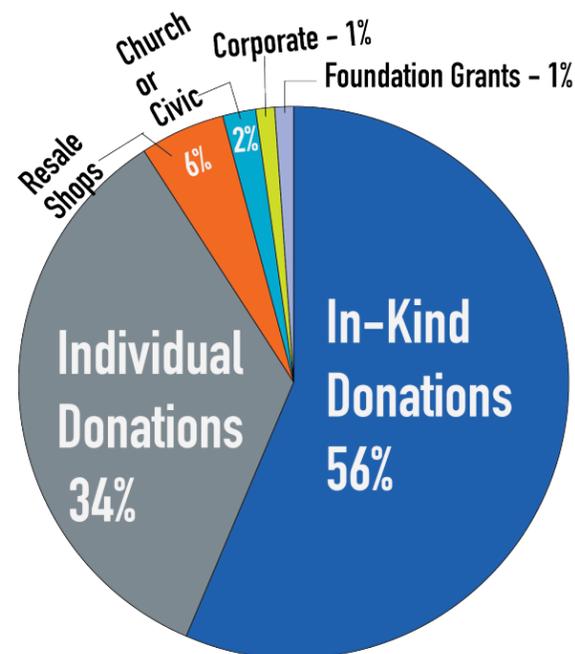
If you are in the process of redecorating your home, we encourage you to donate your gently used furniture to the Society.

You can schedule a furniture pick-up and our associates will drive to your home. If you have other miscellaneous items, such as clothing, you can include it along with your furniture.



Audited Financial Report for FY2019

SOURCES OF FUNDS - \$12.8 M



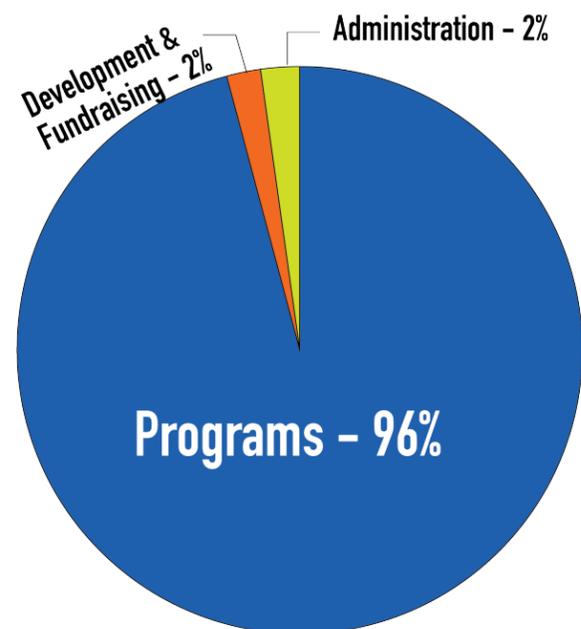
The Society raised over **\$12.8 million** in fiscal year 2019. The funds came from several places, but the largest sources were from individual contributions.

- In-Kind Donations - 56%
- Individual Donations - 34%
- Resale Shop Revenue - 6%
- Church or Civic Donations - 2%
- Corporate Contributions - 1%
- Foundation Grants - 1%

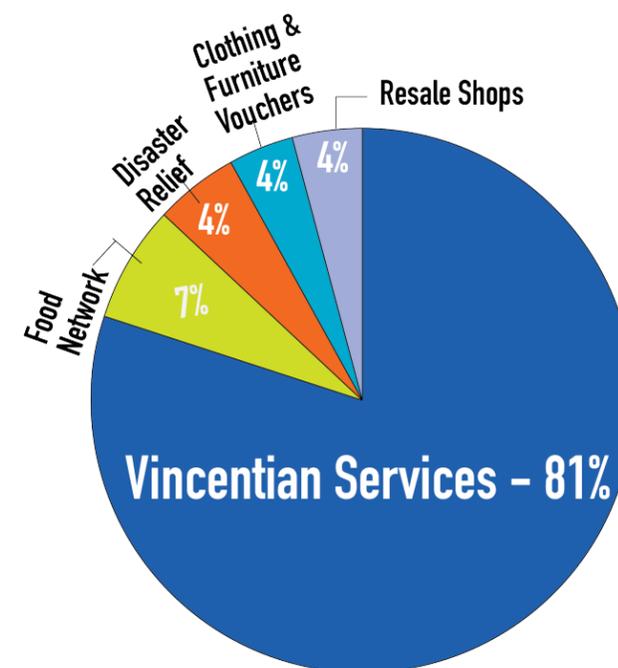
ORGANIZATIONAL EXPENSES - \$13.3 M

In fiscal year 2019, the organizational expenses exceeded our sources of funds. Although we raised \$12.8 million, our **organizational expenses were \$13.3 million**. The Society runs on a lean staff, and the majority of expenses were for programs.

- Program Expenses - 96%
- Administration - 2%
- Development & Fundraising - 2%



PROGRAM EXPENSES - \$12.7 M



The Society's mission is to help those most in need. Vincentian and community volunteers do this through our programs. In fiscal year 2019, our program expenses were \$12.7 million!

Financial support from individuals, corporations, local parishes, and other sources, helped run our programs and services to serve those most in need.

Here is how YOU support our programs:

- Vincentian Services - 81%
- Food Network - 7%
- Disaster Relief - 5%
- Clothing & Furniture Vouchers - 4%
- Resale Shops - 4%

Community Impact

In 2019, Vincentians and community volunteers served over 55,000 people in the community. These services included food distribution, financial assistance, clothing, and furniture

Your philanthropic support helped Vincentians make over 8,100 Home Visits, donating 174,000 volunteer hours and driving a total of 363,000 unreimbursed miles to provide immediate relief to families struggling with poverty.

Check out the breakdown of how great the impact of your donation was in the community.

\$6.5 million in food assistance



\$3.2 million in rent and utility assistance



\$500,000 million in disaster relief



\$380,000 in clothing assistance



\$225,000 other needs met (tuition, funeral, medical, etc.)



\$175,000 in furniture and appliance assistance



150 Years of Service

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is founded in Paris, France.

1833

Between 1833-1845, a Conference of the Society was established in the Republic of Texas but disbanded after the Mexican War.

1845

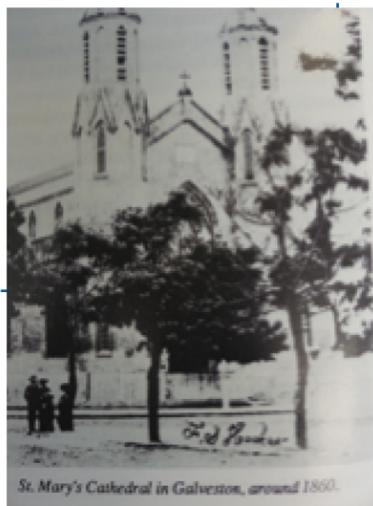
The first Society of St. Vincent de Paul is founded in the United States in St. Louis, Missouri.

1871

A Society Conference is founded in St. Mary's Cathedral Parish in Galveston, TX, and formerly admitted by the Council General in Paris.

Particular Conference of Houston is instituted by the Council General office in Paris, France.

1874



1993

The Society opens its second resale shop on Washington Avenue.



1990

The Society officially operates from their permanent home in St. Dominic Center.



1940

17 new Conferences are established.

1964

The Society grows to 22 Conferences.

1965: Women are allowed to become members of the Society.

1966

The Society graduates from a Particular Council to the Diocesan Council of Galveston-Houston.

1970

Bishop Morkovsky urges parishes to support the Society's first Black Bag Collection.

1971

The Society celebrates 100 years of service to the poor.

Lease signed for Bellaire Thrift Store.

1984

1988

Bishop Fiorenza offers the Society a plot of ground at St. Dominic Center for office space.

2010

Vincentian Services Center is opened and blessed by the Most Reverend Daniel Cardinal DiNardo.



2021 - The Society to celebrate its 150th Anniversary.

Families You Helped Serve



From left to Right: Salvador (76), Ana (42) and Diana (10), Estela (69), Jose Antonio (56), and Ramiro (50). Testimonials were obtained prior to the pandemic. Due to limited space, Ramiro’s story is not shared. We will share his story on our website.

About Salvador (76): Salvador learned about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s multiple programs when he walked inside of the Gulf Freeway Resale Shop looking for winter clothes on a budget.

“I had just retired and my wife and I were struggling. My social security check wasn’t enough to cover our bills and other things we needed, like winter clothes.” said Silva.

Salvador and his wife each found a few long sleeve shirts and a jacket.

“My wife found this beautiful, long black coat. It was about \$10.00 and I only had \$20.00 so we were deciding what pieces to leave behind.”

Salvador explained that the cashier overheard them talking about the prices. She approached them and told them that as seniors, they had an additional discount. Salvador and his wife took the black coat and everything else they had picked out.

“The cashier then told us they had a small pantry in the back and introduced us to Luann. The pantry looked more like a shopping store. We loved it because we were allowed to select what we needed.”

Even though the Food Network has undergone several changes to help more families, Mr. Silva says that he is very thankful for all the help he and his wife have received.

“I want to say thank you because we walked inside of the store and counting every penny we had for clothes, but you heard our call for help and gave us more than what we could ever have asked for.”

Mr. Silva and his wife attend our Food Fair events the first, third, and fourth Saturday of each month.

About Ana (42) and Diana (10): Ana has known the Society of St. Vincent de Paul since 2008.

“I learned about you all through Queen of Peace. I was going there to baptize my daughter,” explains Ana.

Ana was talking to a group of women and expressed how difficult it has been for her and her family lately.

“I asked one of the ladies if they knew of a store that sold baptism clothes that wouldn’t cost me too much. One of the mothers told me about the Society’s Clothing Voucher Program.”

Ana reached out to the Society for help and was given a Clothing Voucher to purchase a dress for Diana.

“Diana loves school. She’s so smart and I want her to go to college and have all of the opportunities I didn’t have at her age. When I come to the Food Fairs on Saturday, that’s a great help. I get to save money that I can use for what she needs in school, like the upcoming field trip to the Health Museum.”

Ana says she used to be shy about asking for help at first, but that the cost of living is way too high. Everything she does is for Diana. She wants her daughter to never have to struggle between choosing to put \$5.00 of gas in her vehicle or \$5.00 for a box of eggs.

“I want Diana to get out of poverty. I want her to live better than me.”

About Esthela (69): Esthela learned about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul during Hurricane Harvey.

“I lost my car in Harvey, but thank God my apartment complex is ok. Because I lost my car, I had to look for alternative transportation options.”

Esthela heard some of her neighbors say that there was a church nearby that was giving out food and cleaning supplies. She picked up her rolling cart and walked behind another group of neighbors.

“It took me 15 minutes to walk to the Vincentian Service Center and 15 minutes to go back home. I see this trip as

an opportunity to exercise. The only days I don’t come is when it rains.”

Esthela says the food she receives is a great help.

“I cook all sorts of things with everything they give me. One time, they gave me a fruit I had never seen before. They told me it was a dragon fruit.”

Esthela cut the dragon fruit in half and tasted the inside. She scooped it all out and froze it.

“I took it out, sprinkled a little lime and salt, and ate it. I’m not afraid to try new things.”

About Jose Antonio (56): Jose Antonio recently learned about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This was his third time at the Food Fair.

“I don’t like asking for help because it makes me feel like they think I don’t work and that’s not true. During the summers, I work over 60 hours a week but during this time of year it gets hard.”

Jose Antonio is diabetic so he cannot just buy anything to eat.

“I have to eat more vegetables and less junk, but the junk is cheaper than the healthy food.”

Jose Antonio looked over at the basket of food he was receiving that day. The basket had 2 lbs. of carrots, 2 lbs. of apples, 12 canned items, meat, and half a gallon of milk.

“If I had gone to the grocery store, easily I would have spent around \$30.00 or more, but because I came here, now I can use that money to buy toothpaste, toilet paper, and shampoo.”

Jose Antonio says that he will continue coming to the Food Fairs until work picks up.

“I appreciate all of your help.”



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