

Society of St. Vincent de Paul 2021 Community Impact Report

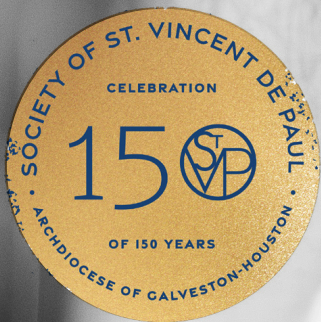


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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear friends,

One of the greatest gifts of St. Vincent de Paul was his ability to recognize the face of Christ in those who struggled living in poverty. To help his brothers and sisters in Christ, he brought together the rich and the poor, women and men, clergy and lay. His powerful mission teaches us that through human vulnerability, there is always hope if we trust and believe in Him.

Last year, we practiced St. Vincent de Paul's words of wisdom. We entrusted our courage and hope in our faith. We were working through a pandemic when the February Winter Storm hit Houston and other parts of Texas with record-low temperatures. The unforeseen event left millions of Houstonians in the dark and in the cold. Our own office was mildly affected by the winter storm, but we were able to get through it.


In July 2021, we welcomed our staff back into the office taking all of the necessary precautions. We had large upcoming events, including the 150th Anniversary Gala, the 18th Annual Parsley Golf Tournament, and hosting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul National Council's Annual Assembly. All of these events called for teamwork and collaboration.

One of the most exciting announcements made this past year was the launch of our Endowment Fund with a long-term fundraising goal of \$20 million. The Marek Family, long-time supporters of the Society, helped the Society kick-off our Endowment Campaign with a generous gift.

I welcome you to enjoy reading about this past year's accomplishments. It was an exciting year, to say the least, and we made it happen with the support of all of our donors and volunteers.

I will keep you all in my prayers.

Until next time,



Ann Schorno
Executive Director

"Charity is certainly greater than any rule. Moreover, all rules must lead to charity." -St. Vincent de Paul

2021 Community Impact Report

In 2021, we provided \$13.2 million in direct aid to 52,000 people.

Food Network

\$8 million in total food distribution.



14,000	4.5 million	3.1 million	21
Households assisted	Pounds of food distributed	Meals provided to families in need	SVDP food pantries serving our community

Financial Assistance

\$3.7 million in total rental and utility assistance.



5,200	Households assisted with utility support	6,700	Households assisted with rental support
\$224	Average utility payment	\$371	Average rental payment

Disaster Relief

\$800,000 in disaster relief support.



668	Number of households
\$1,225	Average rental payment

Home Visits



\$3,521,836
Value of volunteer hours (equates to 59 full-time employees)



123,400
Hours of service provided by our volunteers (equates to 59 full-time employees)



236,900
Unreimbursed miles driven across our city to help those in need

Did you know?

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has 2,000 volunteers, known as Vincentians, actively visiting our friends-in-need and providing services.

The staff of 25 full-time employees supports the work of these volunteers by taking care of all administrative needs, giving Vincentians more time to focus on helping the poor.

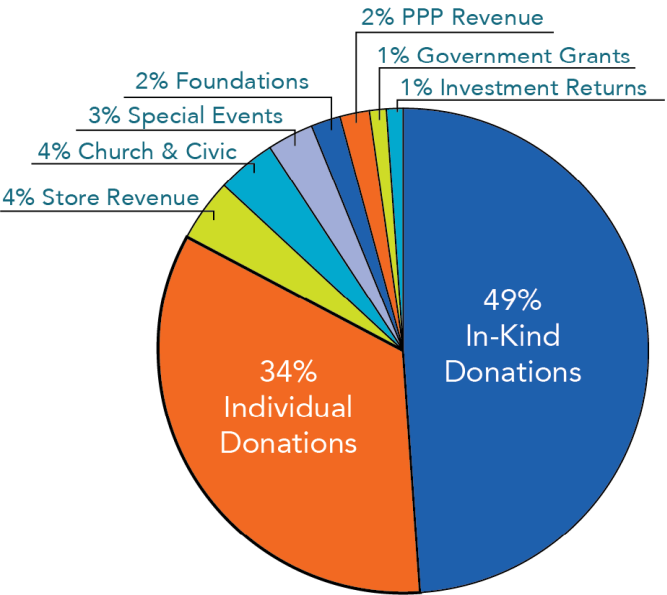
2021 Financial Report

In 2021, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul raised **\$16.7 million** from a diversified funding base.

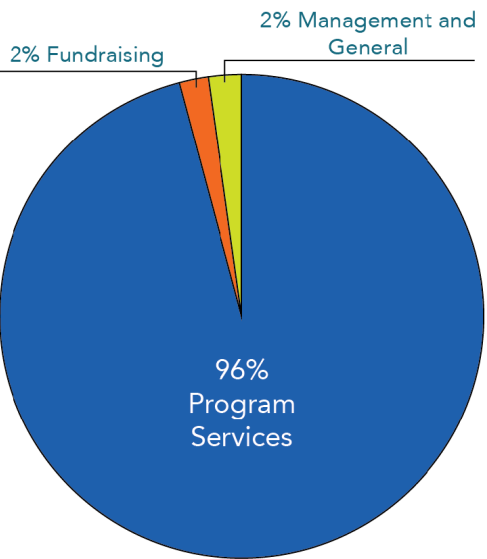
The largest sources of funds come from individual donors who give generously in financial and in-kind support. The Greater Houston Community Foundation and the City of Houston greatly supported our efforts in helping the community after the winter storm.

The Society closed the year with two successful events - the 150th Anniversary Gala and being the recipient of the 18th Annual Parsley Charity Golf Classic.

Sources of Funds - \$16.7 Million

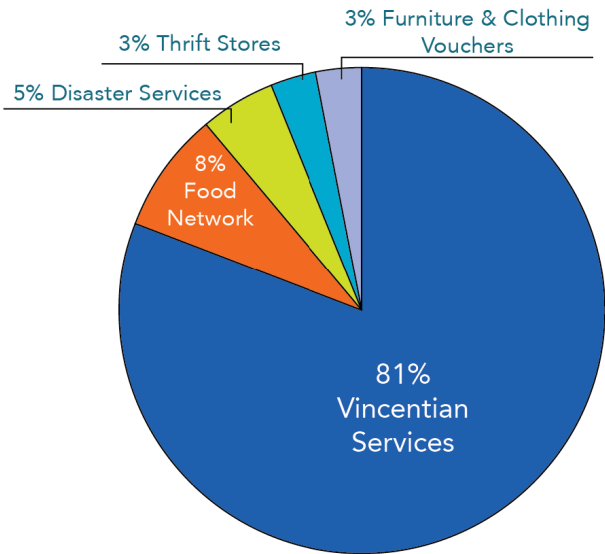


Organizational Expenses - \$15.6 Million



In 2021, 96% of the \$15.6 million of organizational expenses went to program services and direct aid. Only 4% supports our administration, including development and fundraising needs.

Program Expenses - \$14.9 Million



The Society spent \$14.9 million on program services with 81% supporting Vincentian Services, allowing our 2,000 volunteers to continue serving those most in need.

Getting Ahead, a new program helping our friends-in-need with self-sufficiency



We recently launched a new program called *Getting Ahead*, an incentivized program that helps our friends-in-need improve their lives through self-assessment modules.

The goal of the program is to guide our friends in creating their own plan towards a sustainable life, build healthy relationships with community members, set short- and long-term goals, and develop a step-by-step plan to achieve those goals.

Our first class of participants was made up of six participants, five of whom had some college education

or technical school training, and varied in age between 20-65.

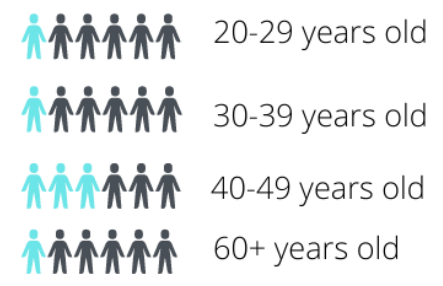
Three of our Society chapters referred investigators/ participants into the program. Participants attended a 16 week facilitated workshop aimed at helping them identify barriers and build resources to "Get Ahead".

Six participants graduated by the end of this program.

About the Participants

- 6** Number of participants that completed the 2021 Getting Ahead Program
- 5** Number of participants with some college education or technical school training
- 5** Number of participants enrolled in one of more public assistance programs
- 4** Number of participants employed part-time or full-time throughout the program
- 3** Number of St. Vincent de Paul chapters participating in the program as mentors
- 100%** Of participants were women

Age of Participants



Dear Friends of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

On behalf of the board, staff, and communities served through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we wish to thank all of you who volunteer and support our programs, and for helping us launch the Creating The Legacy Endowment Campaign this past year. We are honored to serve as co-chairs and remain humbled by the interest and support we continue to receive as we progress towards our goal of building an initial \$20 million endowment fund.

The Society has long been a philanthropic priority for our family, initiated by the late brothers Ralph, John and Bill Marek, and our grandmother, Granny Marek, all longtime and faithful supporters of the Society’s mission. They had a very difficult time when they lost the family farm and did not want such a tragedy to happen to anyone else; this is how our support began years ago, and our family remains committed to this legacy of giving.

Each year, about 5% of the endowment’s assets are distributed to support the Society, while the rest are left to generate investment returns that over time are intended to outpace the rate of distributions. The plan is for the endowment to eventually generate \$1 million annually to support the following:

- expand the Society’s presence in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston,
- support existing conferences in areas with limited resources, and newly formed conferences,
- provide additional training and leadership development of volunteer networks,
- grow programs that help those served move from crisis situations to resiliency and self-sufficiency,
- expand impact through new models where they are needed most.

Donors have two choices on how to contribute their support for this endowment campaign:

- Greater Houston Community Foundation monitors and invests funds that are designated exclusively towards the “Society of St. Vincent de Paul Endowment for Aid to the Poor of Greater Houston”.
- An additional endowment fund has been established at the Catholic Endowment Foundation in memory of Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza for the benefit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

As of September 1, 2022, we have raised over \$9 million towards our goal. We are excited to report that our first distribution from the endowment fund enabled the Society to assist one of our poorest parishes and set up their first SVDP conference. From our perspective, it has energized the pastor as well as potential volunteers with a renewed hope that they now have additional resources to help many more from their community. With the growth of the endowment, additional parishes will soon receive assistance to implement conferences and volunteer support.

We know the Society is only present in 38% of the parishes. But the need is so much greater. There are communities in rural and inner-city communities where poverty is high with few social service agencies to turn to for help. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Houston ranks first in poverty rates in this country. We must do better, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is part of that solution. Thank you again for your support.

Gratefully yours,

Stan Marek
 Stan Marek
 Co-Chair
 Endowment Campaign

Bruce Marek
 Bruce Marek
 Co-Chair
 Endowment Campaign

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Celebrates 150th Anniversary

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul celebrated its 150th Anniversary on Saturday, September 18, 2021, at the River Oaks Country Club. Chaired by Stan and Bruce Marek, the Sesquicentennial event honored the legacy of Granny Marek and the late Marek brothers - John, Bill, and Ralph.

His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Auxiliary Bishop Italo Dell'Oro, Retired Auxiliary Bishop George Sheltz, and Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Fiorenza were all present at this milestone event that raised over \$550,000 in revenue. The night concluded with entertainment and music from the David Caceres Band.



Picture left to right: Bruce Marek (L), Stan Marek (R), Archbishop Fiorenza (C).



Picture left to right: Cardinal DiNardo, Bruce Marek, Ann Schorno, Stan Marek.



Pictured: Carol Croom and Shirley

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL FROM SHIRLEY

My name is Shirley and I am from Nigeria, which is in West Africa. I came here with my three children, Naomi, Gospel and Zoe. I left my country because the economic situation became so bad that we went into a recession. Before then, I owned a boutique. I dealt in clothing and accessories. My children were in a good private school. Unfortunately, my business failed.

Then one of my husband's uncles started suggesting that my girls should get married and their husbands will then put them in school. I felt so bad that it has come to the point that they are thinking of giving out my children ages 17 and 12 out for marriage

So, I spoke to a family friend of mine who lives here in Texas. She advised me to bring them here. I sold off everything I had and came here so that my children would have an education. My friend helped us with the school enrollment and our accommodations.

The accommodations she secured for us were beside the church. A week after we moved in, I saw some people giving out groceries. Initially I thought you had to pay for them, so I didn't bother going. Then two ladies came to where I was standing and offered me groceries and that made our day. That was my first introduction to SVdP

I thank God for ordering my steps here. I can't thank SVdP enough. My moving here is for the children to have an education, feel safe and have a better life. God used SVdP to make my dreams come true. SVdP does not only give food, they help you become a better you. Thank you so much SVdP and thank you all for listening. God Bless.



Thank you to our 150th Anniversary Sponsors

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Marek Family • Reed Family

ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo • Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
David Harvey and Michelle Hebl, Ph.D.

BLESSED FREDERIC OZANAM

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Neus

BLESSED ROSALIE RENDU

Mrs. Raye G. White

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SPECIAL FRIENDS

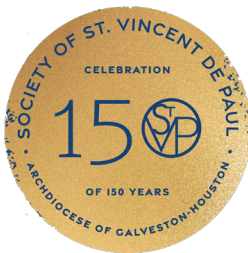
Ms. Mary Ann Beachler • Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dornak • Ms. Harriet Foster • Deacon David and Mrs. Garvis.
Mr. and Mrs. Gasper Mir, III • Ms. Carmen Rincon • Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Ryan • Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schillaci



Bruce Marek and Family



Scan to view the video tribute in honor of the Marek Family.



A special thank you to our 2021 Foundation Supporters

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Marek Family Foundation

Scanlan Foundation

Strake Foundation

Sarofim Foundation

United Way of Greater Houston

United Way Worldwide

Greater Houston Community Foundation

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Selected as Recipient of the 18th Annual Parsley Charity Golf Classic



The Parsley Family selected the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to be the recipient of the 18th Annual Parsley Charity Golf Classic, held at the Golf Club of Houston.



The day before the event, participants enjoyed a pre-tournament evening reception at Norton Ditto sponsored by Pierpont Communications.

The all-day event raised over \$100,000 in support of the Society's programs. We are thankful to the Parsley Family and all of the sponsors that supported this annual event.



A special thank you to all golf tournament sponsors.

St. Vincent de Paul Sponsors

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Blessed Frederic Ozanam Sponsors

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First Annual Vincentian Appreciation Luncheon

In the midst of the pandemic and after the winter storm, Vincentian volunteers continued providing services to our friends-in-need.

They planned drive-through food fairs at their local parishes, held virtual in lieu of in-person home visits, and continued growing in their spirituality in a challenging time.

To thank our Vincentians for all their hard work during a crucial time, we planned our First Annual Vincentian Luncheon.

With the help of Matt Ryan and Patricia Dornak, who graciously accepted co-chairing the event, Vincentians from St. Monica Catholic Church put

together a beautiful celebration that included a mass presided by Fr. Martins Emeh, J.C.L., pastor of St. Monica, followed by a BBQ lunch. In total, there were 100 Vincentians present.

A memorial table was setup honoring the Vincentians lost during the last year. The names were written on heart-shaped plaques and a candle was lit above each name. Vincentians shared their fondest memories left behind from the departed souls that dedicated a part of their lives to help those in need.

For many Vincentians, this was the first time in over a year they felt comfortable socializing outside of their personal circle.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul Hosts the 2021 National Council Assembly

Board President Carol Croom welcomed more than 600 Vincentians, including 60 local volunteers, from across the country to the 2021 National Assembly, held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel from August 25-29.

Titled “New Horizons of Hope and Service,” the National Assembly combined spirituality, service, and friendship to give Vincentians an opportunity to reconnect and recommit to our organization's faith and mission. The planning committee was co-chaired by Nick and Lucy Lomonte.

The National Council supports Vincentians and Society Conferences all over the United States with training, education, spiritual formation, and financial resources. As a way to bring together the thousands of Vincentians in the United States, the Society holds an annual national conference.

Cardinal DiNardo celebrated the final Liturgy and presided over the vigil Mass on the last day of the event. In his homily, Cardinal DiNardo reflected on his experiences with the Society. At his first parish in south Pittsburgh, Cardinal DiNardo recalled the Society's spiritual and social service impact provided to parishioners.



“By being a 'doer of the Word' of God, the Society continues to increase the Word in action on behalf of Jesus. And in doing it, you are making the world, a little step at a time, Eucharistic. I’ve always thought that sanctioned people would be close to the Eucharist because they are always close to everyday people with their need. And you assess it... It is like they are bringing a certain aspect of the gift of the Eucharist to the people. It is beautiful," he said.



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 envision a future where access to financial and social resources is not limited by where one lives.

History

Founded in 1833 in Paris, France, the Society is an international organization of mostly lay Catholics, but welcoming of all people with a spiritual need to serve the most vulnerable communities in our world.

In 1871, parishioners of St. Mary’s Cathedral in Galveston, TX opened a Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference to answer the needs of the poor in the area.

Today, there are 56 Conferences in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston with 3,300 volunteers helping people in the counties of Austin, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker, and Waller.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston