



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

... NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ...

Report from SVdP's Board of Directors, 2021

To John Foppe and members of the Society of St. Vincent dePaul - St. Louis Council Team. Congratulations on the successes of the past year despite the challenges facing our world. Everyone present at the September 23 board meeting was pleased to learn from the Executive Director and Department Directors' detailed presentations of the many highlighted accomplishments as well as the planned projects of the Council Programs and Operations for the coming year. We recognize and appreciate the dedicated hard work needed for the Council to help our Neighbors-in-need through supporting the conferences. Vincentians are honored to serve as conference members and on the board of directors to lend our efforts and input to the Council.

Your Servant Leaders also known as the Board of Directors would like to share with you some of the accomplishments in the last year. This past year blends into the year before and with us all "waking up" and wanting to resume our normalcy – you might want to see some of our dreams that have become a reality this past year.

The Board approved a *Rapid Rehousing Pilot Program* that is now going into its' 2nd year with over 20 neighbors being helped in collaboration with St. Patrick's Center.

The Board approved a *Credit Empowerment Task Force* to create the pilot program to help our neighbors with pay day loans that drown them in debt. This "idea" came from the Voice of the Poor Committee who dived into the problem and presented us with a proposal, working with a financial partner to give the neighbor counseling and a "way to go forward". There are several SVdP Councils in the United States that offer this program to the neighbor in need.

The Board approved a *Strategic Planning Committee* that will be rooted in our mission and vision for the next 3 years. Conference Surveys, Board Surveys, Listening Sessions and more will be reviewed by this Committee made up of Vincentians.

The Board approved the *ServWare* implementation for all the Conferences to be connected with the Council office for C.A.R. (reports) and fellow conferences. We have 98 conferences up and running.

The Board approved the *Pregnancy Initiative* which provides extra care for those women that are dealing with a pregnancy and need a place to stay and support by our Conferences.

Behind the scenes, there is the *Disaster Committee*, Development Committee, *Finance Committee*, the *Governance Committee*, *Voice of the Poor Committee*, and a new *Store Committee* that all meet on a regular basis and give their insights to the Board.

According to the Vincentian Leadership/Council President handbook: “The Board’s primary responsibility is for the interests of Vincentians in the District Councils. The Board should take action to assist every Vincentian and the programs should be provided to enhance spirituality, friendship, and person to person service to those in need.

According to the Governance-Council and Board handbook: “The meetings should be interesting, spiritual, decisive and fraternal.” We are implementing more time to listen and share with each other our views that we hear from you, our fellow Vincentians.

“Uniting to accomplish large works also requires a need to organize another side of our Society, the business side.” The business side brings a need for professional management and is led by John Foppe, our Executive Director. It is essential for the Conferences to have the resources in handling the more complicated needs of a Neighbor in Need so we have staff to assist our Vincentians. The Council Office implements the programs approved by the Board. Our Executive Director manages the business side, overseeing our staff and increased legal requirements, our stores, vehicles, equipment, and fundraising development. (Last year, donations exceeded a \$1.6 million goal by \$1 million)

The Board held our last 4 meetings in Florissant, Pacific, St. Genevieve and De Soto. Big open spaces and Zoom availability – Normalcy is slow to arrive.

Thank you for your support, your friendship, and God bless us all.

We applaud the accomplishments on behalf of the St. Louis Council and Board. We join our prayers that the Holy Spirit will empower us to grow in holiness as we work effectively as friends to give service to our neighbors.

Board of Directors
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis