



BOARD RESOLUTION TWINNING POLICY

At the Thursday, July 27, 2023, meeting of Board of Directors of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis the following recommendation was proposed and approved.

WHEREAS, At the Thursday June 29, 2023, Board Designated Funds (BDF) Task Force meeting, the Task Force proposed the establishment of a Twinning Policy, and

RESOLVED to establish the Twinning Policy as follows:

Policy Statement:

1. Twinning is often required to adequately meet the needs of the poor. It is the needs of the poor that spurs Conferences, Districts and the Council to assist other Conference or Districts with less resources or in challenging situations. (Rule I:4.1, pg. 13)
2. The Society embraces the principle of subsidiarity as its basic standard of operation (Rule, I:3.9, pg. 12)). The principle of subsidiarity reminds us that larger institutions in society (such as the Council or District Council) should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local institutions (such as Conferences). Decisions are made as close as possible to the need to ensure local environmental circumstances (cultural, social, political, etc.) are considered. However, larger institutions have essential responsibilities when the more local institutions cannot adequately protect human dignity, meet human need and advance common good.

Reason for Policy:

To provide a consistent, methodical approach to financial twinning between Conferences, Districts and the Council.

The SVdP Rule and Manual provide guidance:

Twinning promotes spirituality, deep friendship, solidarity, and mutual help. Funds and other material resources can be provided to enable a Conference, District or Council to help local families. Even more important is support given through prayer, as well as through mutual communication regarding what has been accomplished and what is happening among Vincentians in each area, including news about persons and families. (Rule 4:1.1, pg. 14)

Donations to Conferences, whether the donations come from church collections, members themselves, benefactors, or fundraising efforts, are meant to address today's needs (Rule: Part III, Statute 25). It is wrong for a Conference to seek financial security by building up a large balance for potential future needs, especially when other Conferences have immediate needs. Conference balances generally should not exceed what they expect to spend during an average quarter. Surplus funds should be shared generously with more needy Conferences or the Special Works of the District Council (Manual, Chapter 2, page 26).

Types of Twinning:

- Spirituality: Shared prayer/liturgies, requests for prayers for members/neighbors in need.
- Friendship: Events, District meetings, trainings, liturgies, shared stories and experiences.
- Service: home visits in other Conferences, special works, call takers, data entry. A Conference's success cannot be judged solely by the amount of money it receives or distributes. Conferences with limited resources can also have a big impact. A member's time and concern may be the best gift a Conference can give to the poor. (Manual, Chapter 2, page 23)
- Financial

Types of Financial Twinning:

- Support to a Conference for a particular Neighbor for a particular need, such as an expensive auto repair, rent, or large utility bill.
- Occasional support (as funds allow) to a Conference to be used at the discretion of the receiving Conference.
- Ongoing (such as monthly) monetary support to a Conference to be used at the discretion of the Conference. The receiving Conference relies on this support to meet the everyday needs of the Neighbors they serve.

Conferences may request financial twinning if:

- They are unable to meet the needs of their Neighbors based on lack of funds.
- Special cases needing very large amounts of financial assistance would seriously deplete the requesting Conference's bank balance.
- They are unable to meet the expenses of a special work or project.

Conferences are expected to provide financial twinning if:

- Conference balances exceed what they expect to spend during an average quarter. (Manual, Chapter 2, page 26)
- Unrestricted funds are being held in savings accounts or investment accounts.

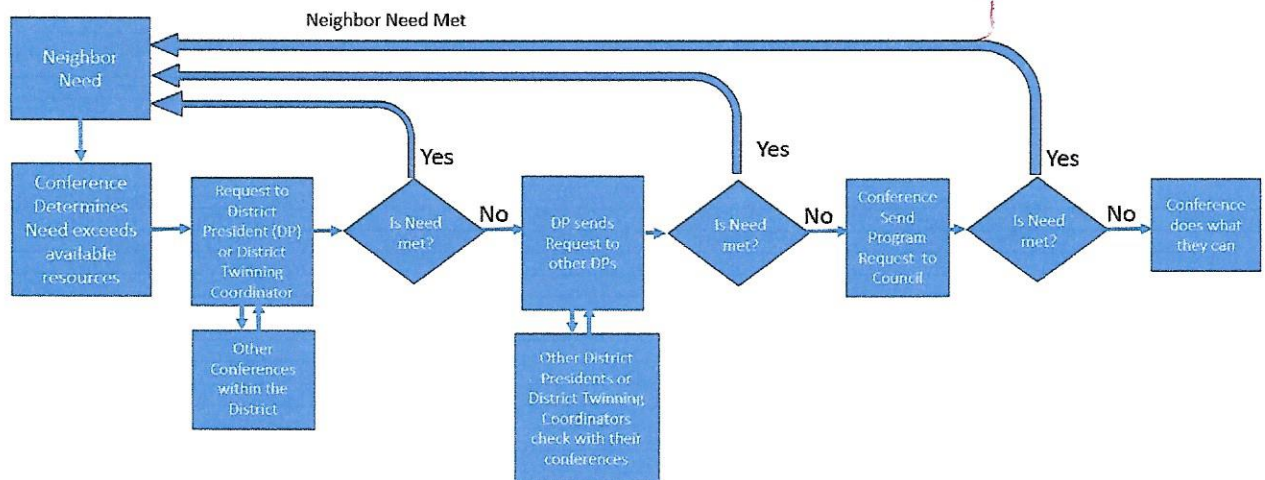
When to Seek Twinning from Other Conferences, Districts, or Council

The SVdP Manual gives guidance:

- Requests for twinning should be based on the inability to help Neighbors due to lack of funds at the Conference level.
- Funds donated to the Conference belong to the poor.
- Donations to Conferences are meant to address today's needs.

How to Seek Financial Twinning from Other Conferences, Districts, or Council

- Step 1: When twinning is needed, Conferences should attempt to twin with other Conferences within their District. To do so, the Conference President should reach out to the District President or the District Twinning Coordinator, and the District President or District Twinning Coordinator will reach out to the other Conferences within the District.
- Step 2: If intra-District twinning does not meet the financial need, the District President will reach out to other District Presidents for assistance. The other District Presidents will then reach out to their Conference Presidents.
- Step 3: If inter-District twinning does not meet the financial need, the District President will allow the Conference to reach out to Council for assistance using a Program Request form. The Conference should refer to the Program Handbook for Program Request procedures and the documentation required for specific programs.
- A flowchart of the twinning process is provided below.



The guidelines clarified and established by this Resolution are to be implemented no later than October 1, 2023.

Julia Belford

Board Secretary

Date: July 27, 2023