



**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF ST. LOUIS**

... NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ...

**When Vincentians are Neighbors:  
Guidance for Conferences When a Member Seeks Material Support**

Most often Vincentians provide material help to Neighbors in Need who are not members of their Conference. By way of exception, Conferences may have a member or associate member in need of assistance.

When this situation arises:

1. The Conference should help the member in the same manner it would help any other person seeking assistance, which may include a Home Visit out of respect for the Vincentian with the need.
2. The decision to help should be made by consensus of the members after the necessary prayer, reflection and any additional needed consultation, as required by The Rule. The member in need should recuse themselves from this part of the meeting, and all members should keep the confidentiality of the member with the need.
3. The Rule further instructs that no act of charity is foreign to the Society and that the Society serves anyone in need.
4. This guidance applies to all members, including those in leadership positions.
5. Conferences should keep complete records of all served.

If the Conference needs twinning for a member, they must receive the approval of the District President prior to soliciting twinning from other Conferences or Council. If the member is a District President, the Conference must receive the approval of the Council President.