

# Serving in Hope

a publication of National Council  
of the United States, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Inc.®



## Your Generosity Reaches Neighbors in Need Across the U.S.

**Gifts provide training and resources to volunteer members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society serving nationwide.**

**R**IGHT NOW, IN EVERY CORNER OF THE COUNTRY, a vast army of Good Samaritans is at work caring for the poor in their communities. These “troops” — known as lay Vincentians — are volunteer members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Organized into local Conferences, they number about 100,000 and annually provide material and spiritual assistance to millions of individuals and families facing hardships of all sorts.

Those crises include joblessness, natural disasters, social isolation, the threat of eviction or homelessness, or the inability to afford meeting their basic needs for food, utilities, or medications.

Through gifts from friends like you, the National Council trains, sustains, and strengthens these Good Samaritans along their journey of serving God's people in need.

In the small Tucson suburb of Vail, Arizona, Maury and Susan Bois are among the Vincentians serving at St. Rita in the Desert Catholic Church. More than 650 Vail residents live below the poverty line. “Helping everyone requesting assistance to get back on their feet wasn’t easy when our own coffers were low,” Maury recalls. “We were down to \$40 when we applied to the National Council for a Friends of the Poor grant. We prayed and waited.”

The National Council was able to award a \$5,000 grant to the St. Rita Vincentians.



*Vincentian volunteers provide direct care for the poor in their homes, as well as in places like Conference-sponsored Thrift Stores, food pantries, and parish soup kitchens.*

“It was an incredible morale booster for us,” Maury says. “It showed in a very big way that we are one Society ... that we were seen, that National was with us.”

Gifts to the National Council strengthen the army of volunteers more than just financially. They also help deepen the faith and spiritual growth of every Vincentian, as was the primary mission of the Society's founder, Frederic Ozanam. Maury points to the difference that makes.

“Being a Vincentian has changed my life. I’ve become closer to God, and certainly more aware of and sympathetic to the suffering of people requesting our assistance. We’ve relied a great deal on the National Council, and I’m especially grateful for the donors who support them. Their generosity makes possible the

# Welcome to SVdP USA's Inaugural Newsletter, "Serving in Hope"

As a donor, friend, or Vincentian member, YOU further the charitable mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. With this first issue of *Serving in Hope*, the National Council is honored to **share inspiring stories of the difference your prayers and generosity are making** in the lives of those we serve.



As you may know, the National Council of the U.S., Society of St. Vincent de Paul "serves the servants" by supporting its 90,000+ volunteers (called Vincentians) caring for the poor in their homes. These Vincentians are organized in 4,500 parish-based Conferences and regional Councils across the U.S.

Gifts to the National Council strengthen our volunteers and aid their direct service to the poor when local funding cannot cover the need.



The Society remains among the world's largest and most trusted charities. Still, there's something even more important than providing material assistance to neighbors in need. It is that through our work, we ourselves grow in faith by drawing closer to the poor, to one another, and to Christ. Thank you for all you do that makes this possible. Together, let us continue serving in hope.

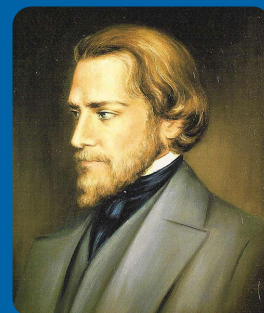
**David Barringer**  
Chief Executive Officer

## VINCENTIAN SERVICE: Growth & Revitalization

Looking for new members? Interested in starting a Conference at your parish?

The National Council is here to help! Let us provide you with creative ways to foster a welcoming culture that attracts people with the vision, heart, and zeal to serve neighbors in need.

Email or call Julie Witzel, National Membership Services and Extension Manager, at [jwitzel@svdpusa.org](mailto:jwitzel@svdpusa.org) or (314) 576-3993 x221.



*"It is our vocation to set people's hearts ablaze, to do what the Son of God did, who came to light a fire on earth in order to set it ablaze with His love."*

~ Frédéric Ozanam,  
founder of the Society  
of St. Vincent de Paul

# Charitable SVdP Pharmacies Help Patients Afford Urgently Needed Medications

*“Seeing their renewed hope makes every day worth it.”*

**L**OW-INCOME NEIGHBORS face difficult choices daily. Some have to decide between necessities like paying rent and feeding their families. Others forego important medications so they can afford that month’s transportation costs or utilities.

Raul, a married father of four, supports his family by working at a pizza restaurant. Unfortunately, his salary isn’t enough for the family to afford health insurance. When his doctor prescribed a new medication that would cost over \$20,000 a year, Raul turned to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s North Texas pharmacy for assistance.

This charitable pharmacy is one of six across the U.S. operated by Councils of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul **to provide free and deeply discounted medications so that vulnerable patients can live their healthiest life.**

At the Dallas location, Vincentian volunteers and pharmacist Carlos Irula worked to help Raul with documents and other resources he needed to access coverage for his expensive prescriptions. “I was having trouble, but they showed me options and helped me along the way,” Raul said. “They were very patient, and we were able to get qualified.”

Irula says this SVdP pharmacy is busier than ever. “Since the start of the pandemic, we’ve been filling over 400 prescriptions per week. There is definitely a greater need for assistance and medication during these unprecedented times.”

The volunteers, staff, and pharmacists dispense much more than just medicine. They offer peace of mind and a generous dose of hope as each neighbor feels welcomed and cared for.

“Hearing from patients how we’ve made a difference in their lives and their family’s lives — and seeing their renewed hope — makes every day worth it,” adds Irula.

“I cannot imagine what I would have done without the pharmacy’s help,” said Raul. “I can now worry about paying my bills on time and providing more groceries to my family. Everyone working there [is] a blessing and I cannot thank them enough.” ●



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## Lawn Visits Go a Long Way During COVID

**D**URING THE FIRST SEASONS of the pandemic, local Conferences found creative ways to safely connect with neighbors in need when Home Visits weren’t possible.

In at least one location, Vincentian volunteers gathered information over the phone about families’ needs, then set up a time to meet outdoors. Loading lawn chairs into their vehicle, they set up socially-distanced visits in front yards and back lawns. Food and other material help

was left at the door. Elbow bumps replaced heartfelt hugs, and plentiful were the prayers offered both silently and aloud.

“Phone, Zoom, and lawn visits are just a few of the countless innovative ways volunteers have managed to serve God’s people continuously throughout the pandemic,” says Dave Barringer, National Council CEO. “We are immensely humbled and grateful for so many dedicated donors and Vincentians who have made it possible.” ●



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Friends of the Poor grants and other resources that are helping us support Vincentians and reach more people in need."

*Gifts to the National Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul help provide Friends of the Poor grants that empower local Vincentian volunteers to serve needs that go beyond what their usual resources can meet. ●*

### Help support our mission by *Donating A Vehicle*

The proceeds from your vehicle donation will help support local programs such as housing, utilities, food, disaster relief, job training, and more for neighbors in need.

Call (800) 322-8284 or visit [svdpusa.careasy.org](http://svdpusa.careasy.org) for more information.

## Contribute from your IRA to help us serve in hope.

### You benefit, too!

Donors age 70½ or older can make a charitable contribution directly from an individual retirement account and get some great benefits in return.



#### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your gift supports 90,000+ Vincentians as they serve the poorest among us.



#### SAVE ON TAXES

Transfer up to \$100,000 from a tax-deferred IRA and you won't owe income taxes on the gift.



#### FULFILL MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION

Your donation can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution.

To learn more, contact your financial advisor or Dennis Kempf at (314) 576-3993 x218.



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### OUR MISSION

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

In the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul, we are a Catholic lay organization inspired by Gospel values. The Society leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering.

The National Council of the United States, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Inc. is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Donations to the National Council are deductible. The Council's tax identification number is 13-5562362.



To make a gift online, please visit [www.svdpusa.org/donate](http://www.svdpusa.org/donate)

**YES, I want to help SVdP USA continue serving in hope!  
Here's my fall gift to support the Society's volunteer  
members caring for the poor across the country.**

☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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- ☐ My employer has a matching gift program. My form is enclosed.  
☐ Please send me information on including The National Council of the U.S., Society of St. Vincent de Paul in my Will.  
☐ Please send me information on becoming a Vincentian.

My email is \_\_\_\_\_

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