



# Seeing and Being the Face of *Christ*







## Empowering Neighbors and Transforming Lives

*"The opportunity to walk with neighbors in need as they improve their lives... those transformations are highlights in our lives."*

Jeanne Harper,  
Vincentian Volunteer

Brandon Cacek and his family found themselves homeless, living in tents at a local campground. Through Divine Providence, this Marine Corps veteran found a landlord (also a veteran) willing to give them another chance and a roof over their heads. Facing other challenges, Brandon's family asked the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for help.

"Everyone treated my family and me with respect," Brandon says, "providing us with a list of local resources and the reassurance that we can work towards stability. Knowing how well we were treated, and then learning more about the Vincentian Mission, I began volunteering myself with community events."

As a Vincentian for more than 20 years, Jeanne Harper was among the Conference members who assisted Brandon's family. Along with her Home Visit partner, she began mentoring Brandon, who officially became a Vincentian in April 2021. "It is a joy to see the next generation commit to helping those in need in our community," Jeanne says.

Brandon began working with his Conference's Back2School program, providing supplies and backpacks to area children in need. And this fall, he'll have a new full-time role with the Society, that of Program Coordinator for Getting Ahead, an effort that empowers individuals to plan their personal path out of poverty.

Through his Conference, he helps area veterans who don't qualify for public assistance. "We want to help them to meet their basic needs in hopes that they can gain a little breathing room to move from stability towards success," Brandon notes.

Jeanne's mentorship of Brandon is an offshoot of her work as Chair of the Society's National Growth & Revitalization Committee, where she helps Conferences find new members with enough energy, vision, and zeal to serve their communities.

Jeanne and Brandon are both grateful for the generosity of National Council donors who support their work. Jeanne says, "They're adding services and benefits for Conferences and Councils that allow us to improve the care we provide."

Brandon praises the National Council's help. "I wish I could describe for you the growth in confidence and pride I witness firsthand with every veteran and family our Conference assists. That growth and confidence find their roots in all that donors contribute."







# Your Generosity Mobilizes SVdP's Network of Charity

In supporting the National Council of the U.S., Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you are empowering our volunteers to respond in communities where the need is greatest across the country.

Many charitable organizations are focused in large cities and unable to serve effectively in rural and sparsely populated regions, where poverty is often high and resources are most scarce. SVdP's national network of Vincentian volunteers provides urban, rural, and even suburban communities with resources and compassion. So neighbors living in the foothills of Appalachia or in Florida's Everglades can receive the same level of assistance and care as those living in bigger cities.

**Did you know?** The National Council serves nearly 90,000 Vincentian volunteers representing almost 4,500 parish-based Conferences. Recently, the Do Good Institute and Independent Sector reported that the value of one volunteer hour is estimated to be \$29.95. In 2021, Vincentians around the country contributed a total of more than **7.3 million volunteer hours. Last year, Vincentians served more than 3.3 million neighbors in need across the country.** That puts the total annual value of the Society's in-kind labor at over \$218 million last year alone!



*Live* the Faith.  
*Love* the Service.  
*Lead* the Way.

Are you looking for a dynamic volunteer opportunity where you can find new friends, work alongside like-minded people who value our Catholic beliefs, and care for the poor?

Membership in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul might be what you've been searching for.

We are 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.

Our members, known as Vincentians, are men and women of every age, race, and socioeconomic background. We strive to grow spiritually by sharing our blessings of time, talent, and treasure with neighbors facing hardship.

With almost 90,000 members in nearly 4,500 parishes across the country, no work of charity is foreign to the Society. We run thrift stores and food pantries; provide disaster recovery assistance; empower people returning to freedom after incarceration; advocate for the poor and encourage justice through systemic change. In short, we serve each person in whatever way they need most — literally meeting them wherever they are: in their home, a prison cell, on the street.

Like the Good Samaritan, we're ready to help everyone regardless of religion, age, or background. Join us!



## How Is the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Different From Most Faith-Based Charities Serving the Poor?

	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Typical Faith-Based Social Service Charities
Based on Judeo-Christian values	♥	♥
Provide material & spiritual support	♥	♥
Vast majority of work is carried out by volunteers, not paid staff	♥	Mostly paid staff
Vast majority of assistance provided person-to-person in neighbors' homes	♥	Mostly in-agency offices, email, over the phone
Volunteers unite in ongoing works of faith & friendship at local and national level	♥	Volunteers do not share close network with one another
National organization provides local volunteers with ongoing spiritual formation & servant leadership development	♥	National organization has limited involvement with local volunteers
Volunteers live by spiritual tenets of the organization	♥	No unifying principles for volunteers





# Your *Gifts* Help Neighbors Successfully Return to Society

More than 650,000 ex-offenders are released from prison every year.\* Many leave alone, scared, ill clothed, and without money or a place to stay.

About half of those released will be incarcerated again.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul created Immersion, a national program that fosters citizens' successful reentry into society.

The first few days following a neighbor's return to freedom are crucial. Immersion's goal is to promote self-reliance by providing for someone's most immediate needs — food, safe shelter, transportation vouchers, and cell phone access. Over months, or even years, volunteers provide mentoring, advocacy, and community partnerships aimed at promoting long-term success.

"God is asking us to pay special attention to those least of us," one Vincentian volunteer says.

Immersion has served more than 400 returning citizens (benefiting their families and communities) in its first few years. Donor generosity to the National Council supports the Immersion Task Force, which equips volunteers with resources and best practices.

"We work to help those served to realize their God-given potential and use their present strengths to create their future stability," notes Steve Havemann, National Reentry Task Force Chair.

\* Source: U.S. Department of Justice



## Friends of the Poor® Grants

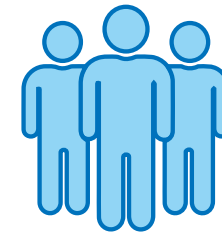
Since 2008, Friends of the Poor® Grants have helped local Councils and Conferences provide direct emergency service funding for the poor. Grants are targeted to specific, current needs and are funded yearly through generosity from charitable individuals and foundations.



FY 2020-2021

49 Grants  
Awarded

\$235,000 total



Impacted Lives

3,672

Individuals

(950 families)

## Your Gifts Helped Feed Neighbors in Need

Recently, Our Lady of Hope Conference in Carle, NY, received a Friends of the Poor® Grant to expand its food voucher program reaching neighbors in need. "Without this grant," wrote Conference president Daniel Minchella, "we would have been forced to turn away new neighbors in need and reduce the dollar amount allotted to current recipients."

"That includes one neighbor who found themselves in urgent need when they had to shut off their water due to a bathroom leak. Unable to pay for a repair, they turned to the Society for help. We were able to hire a local plumber who completed the work at a modest price and got the water back on for this grateful family!"

"The grant has also allowed us to continue to help the 19 neediest families we currently serve through prescription copays, rent, and utility assistance. It will keep us financially solvent for months to come."



## Become a Founding Member of the SVdP Legacy Society

For over 175 years, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has served neighbors in need in the United States through volunteer time, ministry, aid, and faith. We celebrate this legacy of service to others by inviting friends like you to prayerfully consider joining the inaugural class of the SVdP Legacy Society.

By joining our Legacy Society through your will or estate plans, you will join other benefactors in a legacy of faith, helping Vincentian volunteers to continue serving their communities with hope and generosity for another 175 years.

To learn more about accepting a place of honor among the Legacy Society's inaugural patrons, reach out to Dennis Kempf, Director of Philanthropy, at (314) 576-3993 ext. 222 or [dkempf@svdpusa.org](mailto:dkempf@svdpusa.org).



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