



National Council of the United States

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Ralph May serves as Co-Chair of the CEO/ED Task Force for SVdP USA's Board of Directors.

After graduating from the University of Idaho, where he met his wife, Theresa, Ralph partnered with his father to build an 1,100-acre farming operation in Jerome, Idaho. He served as managing partner of that farm for most of the next 23 years. Starting in 1990, Ralph became very active in the local Cursillo Movement, eventually serving as Diocesan Lay Director, Region XII English Coordinator and National Secretariat Board Member (1998 – 2002).

Starting in 1997, Ralph co-founded and led a ministry focused primarily on assisting a Catholic orphanage for disabled children. This ministry grew quickly, with Ralph making as many as five weeklong trips each year to Tijuana (for a total of 30 trips over eight years), coordinating groups of college students and other adults from Idaho parishes to remodel facilities and support various Catholic ministries across Tijuana.

In 2004, Ralph and Theresa, along with Ralph's father, sold the farm operation. This allowed Ralph's father to retire and Ralph and Theresa to move on to a new adventure.

In February 2005, Ralph and Theresa, along with their youngest daughter, who was four years old at the time, joined the Comboni Lay Missionaries. After training for three months in the Comboni Mission Center in Chicago and three months of language school in Bolivia, the family joined three Comboni priests at a massive parish in the District of El Povenir on the outskirts of Trujillo, Peru. Ralph and Theresa served as Lay Missionaries in this locale for six years, serving a population that was among the very poorest in the country. During the last three years there, Ralph and a Peruvian partner formed a nonprofit called Catholic Action for Development, working closely with four Trujillo universities and other organizations to bring resources like regular medical and dental clinics into the poorest and most violent barrios of the parish.

After six years, it was time for a new adventure. Ralph and Theresa purchased a 100-acre farm across the Andes near Tarapoto, Peru. In this jungle environment, Ralph worked for four years with the local community to build it into the largest milk-producing dairy farm in the Peruvian jungle. In 2015, Ralph and Theresa sold the farm and moved to Boise, Idaho to be close to family.

In 2016, Ralph joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Southwest Idaho and a year later, he became the first Executive Director for the Southwest Idaho District Council. Under his leadership, the Southwest Idaho Council has grown significantly, with a special emphasis on serving women and men transitioning into the community from prison. It currently is among SVdP's largest Reentry Programs nationwide. In 2022, Ralph joined the CEO/ED Task Force, before being named as its Co-Chair in October 2024.

Ralph and Theresa have been married for 43 years and have three children.



RALPH MAY

Co-Chair,
CEO Task Force

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

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