

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Long Island | 2020 Annual Report



A Note From Our **Board President & CEO / Executive Director**

As Vincentians, we aspire to live the gospel message by selflessly serving the poor with humility, love, respect, and understanding, while instilling a true sense of hope and the knowledge they are not alone. Challenges couldn't have been more significant than they have been throughout 2020. Our world seemed to be confronted by one obstacle after another from the COVID-19 pandemic to the social unrest and the division in our country.

But, like the light at the end of the tunnel we look for when helping a struggling neighbor, we found many rays of light to guide us on our journey this year.

Our Vincentians, unable to conduct the foundational practice of an in person "home visit," improvised through e-mail, FaceTime, front step and parish parking lot chats. You will find examples of their devotion and creativity in the pages of this report.

The temporary closing of our stores and clothing donation bins impacted our ability to financially assist or provide clothing and home furnishings

to neighbors in need. Fortunately, after the pause, financial and in-kind donations were at an alltime high! Our donors have been and continue to be incredibly generous. Without your support our ability to help our neighbors on Long Island would have been drastically limited.

One of our biggest surprises this past year was the success of our annual Friends of the Poor Walk. We went virtual, offering endless ways to participate. Some of the highlights are included for you to read.

Our donors and Vincentian volunteers are the beacon that lights the road we are on to ease the burden poverty causes to so many among us. This year has challenged us, but as you will read in this report, we are strong and continue to help people! Our journey continues in 2021 as we maneuver our way around challenges and obstacles to reunite with each other and to visit our neighbors in their communities.

Please keep our neighbors and Vincentian volunteers in your thoughts and prayers, and thank you again for your unwavering support.

Yours in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul,



CEO & Executive Director



Our Vincentians

Vincentians are the heart and soul of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. They are volunteers who are committed to – "building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need." On Long Island, we have 1,180 Vincentians spread out among 63 conferences in 59 communities. The Home Visit is foundational to the Society, tracing its roots to our founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and his associates who visited the poor of Paris. It is two Vincentians meeting a neighbor in need where they are, in their home, their safe haven. During a home visit, Vincentians are there not only to offer concrete provisions; they also offer a prayer with the family, creating a reminder that we are all children of God, equal in his eyes.

To say COVID-19 turned this practice upside down would be an understatement. But our Vincentians are so completely devoted to our mission and to ensuring they are able to help those seeking help, they would not let COVID stop them. Some

Conferences substituted emails and phone interviews, while others employed the popular Zoom technology. For some it was more basic, a meeting on the front steps or yard, masked and socially distanced of course! Some food pantries served our neighbors safely by providing drive up service. And more than ever there was support from Conference to Conference. Conferences in harder impacted communities received financial assistance from Conferences across the Island where the need was not as substantial.

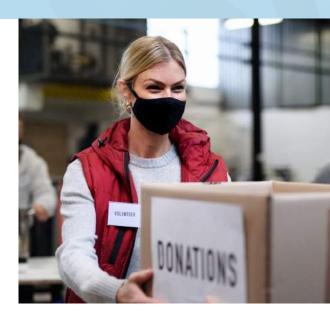
The journey they found themselves on in 2020 was full of detours; it was rocky and steep at times. While this altered path may have challenged them, they stayed the course - a course set years ago by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. One of the quotations of our patron, St. Vincent de Paul, was that "love is inventive to infinity," Vincentians used this call to be creative in the ways they served neighbors in need throughout 2020.

"Be a

where all those who are tired have the right to lay down their load."

- Blessed Rosalie Rendu

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been helping people on Long Island since 1948. Over the last 72 years, we have seen the impact of natural, economic and terrorist disasters on our neighbors. The breadth, across ethnic, socio-economic and religious demographics, of neighbors affected by the COVID-19 epidemic is unprecedented. People who never thought they would be on the receiving end of charity are picking up the phone to ask for help. They are suddenly finding themselves on a very different road than the one they began on in January 2020. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul offered them "a listening ear" without judgement and tried to reassure them and re-establish them on a path to stability.



Our Neighbors



Mr. B

Mr. B, a twenty-year employee at a high-end restaurant was laid off when COVID-19 forced the restaurant to close. He came to us after the stimulus funds were depleted, too proud to go to the food pantry and having difficulty finding new work.



Ms. C

The plight of Ms. C and her children was heartbreaking. When they contacted us, all three family members were existing on the two free lunches per day that the children were entitled to! They were quickly provided food, supermarket gift cards and some of their overdue bills were paid. Ms. C has since been hired back at her job.

"Go then, courageously advancing moment by moment along

on which God has placed you in order to reach him."

- St. Louise de Marillac



Ms. S

Similarly, Ms. S, a single mother of four, lost her restaurant job and was left without the means to feed her children. She did not qualify for unemployment benefits or government relief. In this case, and hundreds more, we helped with rent payments, food and hope.

Ms. T

Ms. T, a flight attendant and single mother of two (including an infant), had been managing on her salary of \$70,000 a year. Because she was on an extended medical leave due to medical complications when the pandemic hit, she was ineligible to be furloughed and was laid off. She quickly fell behind on rent and other monthly obligations. Our Vincentians helped her apply for government benefits, provided her with funds to pay her back rent and provided food and supermarket gift cards. As she works on her financial situation, she may seek additional assistance from her parents.



Burial Program

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Indigent Burial Program is a commitment to help make sure everyone has a final resting place at the end of their earthly journey. Last year, the program helped 63 souls to be interred. This service would not be possible without the generous assistance of these funeral homes: Fives Smithtown, Fredrick J. Chapey & Sons, Hale & Lynch, Nolan and Robertaccio. Burials took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Holy Rood Cemetery and Queen of All Saints Cemetery, and with the cooperation of the Catholic Cemetaries of Long Island.

2020 Annual Report Financial Summary

Income



Stores \$4,293,924



Donations \$329,235



Grants \$1,066,976



Bequests \$137,164



Training & Dev. \$59.732



Events \$26,155



Other \$366,911



Investment \$218,566

Total Income: \$6,498,663

Program Expenses



Stores \$4,062,161



Training & Dev. \$356,628



Dismas House

\$217,071



Family Assistance

\$508,319

Total Program Expenses: \$5,144,179

Supporting Services Expenses



Management & General \$1,148,096



Fundraising \$226,799

Total Supporting Services Expenses: \$1,374,895

Total Expenses:

\$6,519,074

Change in Net Assets:

<\$20,411>

Net Assets Beginning of Year \$4,962,817

Net Assets Year End

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is committed to practicing good stewardship of all funds entrusted to its mission of helping the poor of Long Island. All contributions are monitored to ensure compliance with donor intent. As a Catholic lay organization, the Society operates out of the Diocese of Rockville Centre; however, we are an independent 501(c)(3) organization and do not receive funding from the Diocese. Individual Conferences are provided contributions from their parish.

Statistical Summary: Year Ending September 30, 2020

The 2020 statistical report shows the outcomes of the Society's efforts across Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The financial and material support of SVDPLI and its Conferences help families avoid hunger, homelessness, and additional hardship.

SPECIAL WORKS

CENTRAL COUNCIL

Conferences: 63

Vincentian Volunteers: 1,180

Paid Staff: 72

OPERATIONAL COST

SPECIAL WORKS	PEOPLE SERVED	OPERATIONAL COST
Transitional House for Men Dismas House	44	\$217,071
Home Residence and Counseling Returning	Citizens	
Vincentian Programs	2,178	\$241,574
Family Assistance, Uplift, Welcome Home, De Assistance, Community Grants, Medical Co-		
Vincentian Training and Development	1,180	\$356,628
Stores		
Furniture / Clothing / Household	39,499	\$4,062,161
Neighbor's Clothing / Furniture (no cost)	724	\$266,745
Information and Referral Calls	5,320	
Total Special Works	48,945	\$5,144,179
Management and Support Cost		\$1,374,895
Central Council Totals	48,945	\$6,519,074
Conferences		
Neighbor Assisted Financial Aid	44,400	\$1,632,443
In-Kind Assistance (estimated value)	20,655	\$166,350
Vincentian Volunteer Hours/Miles (value)	\$2,529,310
CONFERENCE TOTALS	65,055	\$4,328,103
DIOCESAN TOTALS	114,000	\$10,847,177

PEOPLE SERVED

"To this end, we should help and support one another to strive for

Peace & Union

among ourselves. This is the wine that cheers and strengthens travelers along the narrow path of Jesus Christ."

- St. Vincent de Paul



Our Donors

Donors are all different in what they can give, how they give and even in why they give. Some of our donors give a small steady amount month after month, appeal after appeal. There are those that give every year at Easter, Christmas or year end. Some have a long history with us giving for twenty or more years. We receive support through donor advised funds, foundations and bequests. Many more people donate clothing, furnishings and other items to our thrift stores. What they have in common is empathy for people in need.

One of the heartwarming outcomes of the COVID-19 epidemic has been the wealth of stories about the generosity of the American people. From youth led food collections, to teenagers and seniors making masks, to neighborhood free food stands and impacted restaurants serving meals to first responders, the spirit of putting others before self has blossomed.

While we saw the number of calls for assistance

increase, we also saw our donors step up. One donor gave two and half times more than she has in recent years, while another established a family foundation, dedicating the funds to helping neighbors pay medical co-pays. Giving Now, a spinoff of the popular Giving Tuesday, raised \$21,000 in 24 hours.

We are so thankful for all our supporters. It is not important the size of your gift. What's important is the size of your intention, the love and compassion in your heart. The financial effects of this pandemic are still with us. Even after most of our neighbors have reached that light at the end of the tunnel, there will be those still struggling to provide the basic necessities of shelter and food for their families.

Please consider a gift to support the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul by using the enclosed envelope or visiting our website www.svdpli.org/donate.

Donors 10/1/19 - 9/30/20

\$25,000 and over

Estate of Mr. James A. DeRespiris The SAR Family Fund of the Long Island Community Foundation The H. W. Wilson Foundation **Newsday Charities**

\$24,999 - \$10,000

Anonymous United Way of Long Island The Gloria Grafer Fund Mutual of America* Slater Charitable Foundation The George M. Link Jr. Trust

\$9,999 - \$5,000

Anonymous Mr. Thomas Albanese The Howard and Barbara Farkas Foundation Estate of Margaret M. Duggan Our Lady of Lourdes Conference Mr. and Mrs. William Jennings Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. DeMarco BNB Bank New York Community Bank Foundation The Family of Phillip J. Messina

\$4,999 - \$2,500

Mr. James Logsdon St. Anthony's Conference Mr. William L. Burke DeMarco & Nesi LLC* St. Gertrude's Conference Mr. and Mrs. James J. Bell. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Meekins Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Jansen Mr. and Mrs. Fred Koehler Mary T. Sottong Trust Mr. and Mrs. John J. Howard Ms. Jane M. Mulvey Mr. Roger E. Podesta Mr. and Mrs. Brian T. Rooney

\$2,499 - \$1,000

Anonymous Mr. Joseph S. Berg Mr. and Mrs. John B. Zurell Mrs. Helen Campa St. Boniface Conference Mr. Marc Hiatrides* Mr. Al Messina Mr. Louis G. Sollecito Ms. Jennifer Tuschong Ms. Pat Ryan King Kullen Grocery Co., Inc.* People's United Bank* Cellini Charitable Foundation

St. Pius X Conference Our Lady of Victory Conference Mrs. Dorothy A. Furlong Mr. Gus Gelardi Mr. James Miley Jr. St. Ignatius Loyola Conference Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Bagnasco Holy Spirit Conference Mr & Mrs. Willam Korchak Ms. Joan F. Gredys Mr. and Mrs. John Corrigan Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Lonergan Mr. Michael Kmeth, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Helen Secreti Notre Dame Conference St. Bernard's Conference St. Edward Conference Al & Peggy DeMatteis Family Foundation St. Francis of Assisi Church HUB Truck Rental Corp. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Carter Mr. and Mrs. James Delaney Dr. John and Mrs. Joan Franco Mr. and Mrs. Jack McCaffery Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rerecich Mr. Ken Schurr Mr. and Mrs. John Sweeney

Mr. Andrew J. Turro

Steel Equities*

Donors 10/1/19 - 9/30/20 continued

\$999 - \$500

Anonymous

Father Lawrence A. Chadwick

St. Ignatius Loyola Conference

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fisenne

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Gunther

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Rinn

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Vitale

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Abbate

Mr. Bob Horvath

Ms. Mary Ellen Lyons

Ms. Maureen Meekins

Ms. Margaret O'Mara

Ms. Carole Stuchbury

Ms. Florence Grimm

Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Marchello

Mr. John Martuge

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Polucci

Mr. John Gatto

Ms. Natalie Lapp

Mr. and Mrs. John P. Mohlin

Mr. Kenneth Disibio

Mr. Anthony Tabone

St. William the Abbot Conference

Columbian Home Association

Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Gartland

Mr. and Mrs. James Healy

Mr. Edward I. McLaren

Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Pettei

Rev. Msgr. Gerard Ringenback

Mr. and Mrs. Martin G. Tall

Mr. Robert Moran

Mr. Joseph Lazarich

Mrs. Rosemary Schweitzer

Ms. Anastasia M. Weilandt

Notre Dame R.C. Church

Nolan Funeral Home, Inc.* Evan Thomas Financial LLC

Sheehan & Company, C.P.A., P.C.

Gente Services LLC

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bukowski

Mr. Roger Cozzi

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Croasdale

The Family of Albert and Dolores

Filippone

Mr. Daniel Finch

Ms. Ann Marie Fitzpatrick

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hogan

Mr. Raymond Hulbert

Mrs. Dianne Jackman

Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Madden Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Manley

Mr. and Mrs. John M. McCaffery Jr.

Ms. Loretta E. McHugh

Ms. Jennifer Mone

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mullan

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rerecich

Mr. Leo F. Rerek

Ms. Claudia Saitta

Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Scacco

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schiller

Mr. Brian Tighe

Ms. Jennifer Tuskegee

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wall

Mr. and Mrs. Werner Zumbrunn

\$499 - \$250

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony D. Perri

Mrs. Saveria Pugni

Mr. William Fowler

Mr. Phillip Gribbins

Mr. and Mrs. John K. Mulvey

Mr. Tom Murphy

Mrs. Barbara O'Connor

Ms. Alice Wolfteich

Mr. Thomas M. Egan

Carpenter-Wolfteich Family Fund

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Deacon and Mrs. Gene Bormann

Mr. and Mrs. Cono Cimino

Mr. and Mrs. George T. Dreher

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dunphy

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen W. Gillen

Ms. Elinor Josenhans

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Lapczynski

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Mr. Daniel J. McCloy

Mr. Michael Minutaglio

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mullen

Mr. John Petitto

Mr. and Mrs. William Sasso

Mr. Waldemar Schlosberg

Mr. and Mrs. Barrett J. Wilson

Mrs. Joanne Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Lynch

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Mr. and Mrs. James O'Connor Mr. and Mrs. William T. Havden

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Mrs. Lois McCarthy

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Caruso

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Conference

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Rev. Msgr. Joseph W. Staudt

Mr. Charles Vallone Mrs. Mary B. Watts

ACT
Offecting Change Together

The following individuals have made a commitment to give a scheduled amount to the Society monthly.

Joseph Berg

Christopher Donnellan

Daniel Finch Billy Fowler

Anthony Gervasi

Dianne Jackman

Daniel & Melissa Jansen

Kevin J. Kenny

Fred and Sue Kohler

William and Anne Korchak

Thomas McCoy

Paul and Emilie McSloy

Robert and Denise Meekins

Brenda Molin

John K. and Jean Mulvey

Carole Stuchbury

Martin G. Tull

Glenn Tyranski



Our Stores

The St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores and clothing donation bins provide a steady stream of clothing and furniture for the thousands of people who turn to us each year for assistance. Time and time again, when our Vincentians visit a family struggling financially, they find a home absent of basic furnishings and children in need of clothing. The revenue from sales at our stores supports our mission.

The temporary closure of the stores and the donation bins created an enormous challenge. Fortunately, since reopening in July, our donors and customers came back enthusiastically. Many people had spent time in quarantine cleaning out closets and attics or on home redecorating projects. We were happy to be the recipient of their efforts and able to put their belongings to good use for Long Islanders in need.

Clothing drives are a popular way we collect







large amounts of clothing. The pandemic caused closures of businesses and schools and the restrictions in the ones that remained opened presented another challenge. Working with the local team at Cox Media (WBAB & WBLI radio) we developed an Island-wide drive led by our friends at BNB Bank with additional support from Lorraine Gregory Communications and Blue Point Brewery. "Vote with a Coat," a coat drive to keep Long Islanders warm, was a huge success.

Many of our customers have been on the journey with us for generations. Some days they donate to us and some days they buy from us and some days they do both! Opened since 1956, the Garden City Park store's roots go deep in the community.

After their mother died from complications of COVID-19, Rose and her sister began the difficult process of going through her belongings. Among the memories that came flooding back, were trips to the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Garden City Park. Mom had an eye for a bargain on quality items and a talent for giving furniture new life. It seemed natural to the sisters to donate clothing and furnishings to the Society.

"So many pieces of furniture we grew up with came from the thrift store", said Rose, "I think it would make my Mom happy to know her belongings will find a new home and at the same time support the work St. Vincent de Paul does helping Long Islanders."



directed to one's neighbor are the most perfect external manifestation of the interior grace of the Spirit. "



Dismas House

Named for the thief that sought Jesus's forgiveness on the cross, Dismas House is the site of our program for returning citizens. These are individuals who have recently been released from prison and are committed to rebuilding their lives. We provide a safe, supportive place for men ready to begin the next step of their journey.

The pandemic brought unique challenges to Dismas House. Our mission of over 30 years of mentoring men to adjust to post prison life while providing safe housing for multiple men took a pause in accepting new residents. Recently, our first new residents have been welcomed.

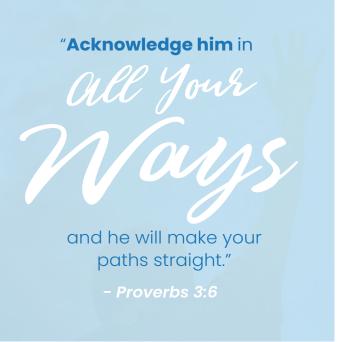
Despite the impact of COVID-19 on our operations,

a culture of restorative justice thrived at Dismas House under the new program director, Tyrone Rhabb.

"I want to introduce them back into the world on an incremental level. This requires time and patience and Dismas House alone cannot fill in certain pieces of their "social puzzle" that have been absent for so many years. They need real life experience in the surrounding community for that to happen," explains Rhabb.

Restorative justice is about creating a culture of forgiveness and reconciliation. Taking an active part in making the community a better place. Working together for the common good is

one of the pillars of restorative justice. Encouraging the residents of Dismas House to be contributing members of the community at large is part of their journey. Whether helping elderly neighbors with snow removal and yard work, or helping out at the local parish, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, the men are given a sense of purpose beyond themselves. Mike P. and George G. our program aides and alumni of Dismas House, thrive on being good neighbors. They are humbled by what the Dismas House experience has afforded them and truly embraced the Society's mission: "We Help People." In their role at the House, they have had an impact by encouraging residents, on their own re-entry journey, that will one day allow them to pay it forward by taking an active role in making their communities a better place to live.















Events

Special Events are an important component of fundraising for Long Island nonprofits and we are no exception. When the difficult decision to cancel our annual golf outing was made, our committee, under the direction of chairman Marc Hiatrides, was not dissuaded. They appealed to our would-be golfers and sponsors to maintain their support in the spirit that "the golf outing isn't really about playing golf," it's about supporting our mission. Many donors and golfers, including our major sponsor Mutual of America, stepped up.

We pivoted the Friends of the Poor Walk to a virtual event. Conference members were encouraged to invite family, friends and colleagues from far and wide to sign up, donate and participate where ever they live. We had registered supporters from as far away as California. And participants weren't limited to walking or running; any physical activity could be counted. We even had a group of women paddleboard! Some Conferences held small in-person socially distanced walks at their parish. St. John's University included us as one event for the University Day of Service, where 366 students and alumni participated. The Friends of the Poor Walk was a great success raising \$145,106 for our conferences.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul Long Island

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