

ANNUAL REPORT | 2023



*Tua*  
**BY**  
*Tua*

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
LONG ISLAND



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LONG ISLAND

## Mission Statement

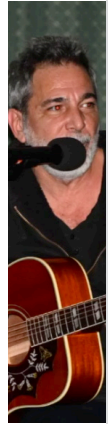
“A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.” The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization that encourages people to join in spiritual growth by offering person-to-person services to the needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

Scan Me



### Monthly Giving

Monthly giving provides the philanthropic consistency we need to sustain our programs. It also helps donors budget their giving and see a greater impact for their support. It is easy, convenient and safe and most importantly it helps us help people!



## *A Note from Our Diocesan Council President and CEO & Executive Director:*

This year's Annual Report highlights the continued great works of our Vincentians, community partners and dedicated staff. Now that we are entering our 76th year on Long Island, we find new challenges. Due to the rising costs for a family to stay sheltered and nourished, living life with dignity is elusive to many.

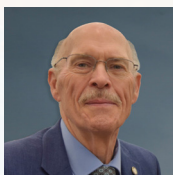
As with the Apostles going out to spread the Good News in pairs, our good works of help are accomplished Two by Two. The Rule specifically mentions that the hallmark of Vincentian home visits is always done in pairs. What our founders highlighted in our Vincentian Rule is very relevant today.

Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. It seeks to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. It gives priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most forgotten by society.

The neighbor's story and Vincentian testimonials bear out our dedication and willingness to adapt. We have all been tasked with this, especially now with a rapidly expanding population needing assistance.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will remain steadfast as we continue our mission of charity for our neighbors...we do not stand alone. Without the support of our long-time donors, new donors and Vincentian volunteers, we would be limited in our ability to help our neighbors restore a sense of stability and pride to their lives. To say that we are extremely grateful for your ongoing support, petitions and love is truly an understatement. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers and helping us stay solvent and strong.

Yours in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul,



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gustave Gelardi".

**Gustave Gelardi**  
Diocesan Council President



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Abbate".

**Thomas J. Abbate**  
CEO & Executive Director



“It is our vocation to set people’s hearts on fire, to do what the Son of God did...to inflame [the world] with His love.”  
 ~St. Vincent de Paul

# Hearts on Fire

Vincentian volunteers take seriously that challenge to offer compassion and mercy to those who have fallen on hard times and grown discouraged. Through the personal encounter of the Home Visit, the hallmark activity of the Society’s ministry, two Vincentians listen to the neighbors’ life stories and approach their circumstances empathetically. It is through this face-to-face interaction, in a place where the neighbors can feel most comfortable, that the Vincentian pair creates a space for hope. Many Vincentians admit that the experience can be transformational for all involved and motivates them to continue with the ministry for years.

MaryJo, a Vincentian from our Nassau South District, expressed the impact of the ministry on her and husband, Neil, in this way: “...unfortunately, there are so many people that are out there struggling on their own...it has made us a lot more grateful for the life that we have, and is teaching us how to help others and be more giving of ourselves.” Neil went on to share enthusiastically, “I think it’s one of the best things we’ve

ever done!” Their hearts are truly on fire to share the love of Christ!

The Diocesan Council of Rockville Centre serves 68 communities across Long Island with over 1100 active Vincentian volunteers like MaryJo and Neil. Our Rule, Part 1, 2.6 states,

*“The Vincentian vocation affects all aspects of members’ daily lives, making them more sensitive and caring in their family, work and leisure activities.”*

Once a member goes through formation, experiences a few home visits, and provides an opportunity for a neighbor to be heard and understood, the Vincentian’s lens in which to view society and its challenges is forever changed. By going in twos, this vocation replicates what Jesus’ disciples did and brings the Good News to others, making a significant difference in the lives of those we serve.

# Our Neighbors: A Single Dad's Story

You know that SVDPLI helps thousands of people each year, doing so for over 75 years. Countless tales of adversity exist, often resulting over time, thankfully, in hope and a better life. We could share innumerable stories that are the reason why so many support our good works. With the help of people like our Vincentians and supporters talking about the renewal we provide, we pray even more will join in giving.

This year we have a very poignant neighbor story to share of a single father who, with “divine guidance” in a moment of despair found a local parish and SVDPLI, both of whom embraced him and his family.

Paul is an “older” single father. He has 2 adult children from his first marriage and from his second, 3 beautiful young daughters under the age of 7. When his second wife left, he became the sole caregiver and provider for these children. Paul, a hardworking tradesman, was now faced with many emotional and financial difficulties: ***Who would care for his children while he worked? How would he eventually get them off to school and still be at work on time? How would he provide financially for them and all their needs going forward?*** Taking a circuitous route home from work one day, while reflecting on the challenges ahead of him, Paul turned down a road he had never taken before. As he came to a red light, he saw an unfamiliar Catholic church to his left and felt compelled by the Holy Spirit to pull into the parking lot and seek help. Upon entering the Rectory, he met the parish assistant and basically “let loose” his story to her. In her deep compassion, she listened, offered immediate help and led him to our Parish Conference. Through SVDPLI, Paul received some needed financial support, clothing



for the children and routinely visits the food pantry. While not solving all his problems, pulling into that church lot, meeting parish staff and members of the Conference, Paul told us, has changed his life. He now considers the parish and SVDPLI his family.

Paul started bringing his daughters to mass with plans on baptizing them; Sunday mass he feels is the best preparation for this sacrament. He told us a wonderful story about attending mass on a recent Sunday. Paul's 2-year-old was a typical toddler during the service—she was being antsy, crying, etc. While he was having trouble keeping her from disrupting the service, made more difficult by the fact that they sit in the front of church, the priest giving his homily walked by their pew. As this happened, the child quieted down and reached out her arms to the priest. He took her, held her while offering the rest of the homily and she was quiet and at peace! Once again, Paul felt the Holy Spirit work through his connection to the church and to SVDPLI in keeping his daughter calm. He feels blessed, he tells us, to be part of this new family. We say that we are equally blessed to have him and his daughters as part of ours! See the actual picture above!



## Our Outstanding Thrift Stores: What You Know & What You May Not!

SVDPLI Thrift Stores: have been a well-recognized Long Island shopping staple for decades. Everyone who has graced our stores knows they can get exceptionally high-quality goods at a fraction of the retail cost. Whether it's new or gently used clothing, furniture, bedding, unique decorative items or even jewelry, shopping our stores helps us help suffering neighbors in our local communities. And with the tremendous cost of living increases over the past several years, our stores are a **more** valued shopper's paradise for those staying on a budget as well as bargain hunters who enjoy saving money while helping us at the same time! We think those who know SVDPLI cherish this.

What many may not know is the life cycle of items donated to the stores or through our numerous clothing bins. We accept clothing and furnishings in proper condition to sell to the public in our stores at very

Thrift Store Distributions		
Nassau/Suffolk	People	Value
Furniture	1676	\$407,338.00
Clothing	2621	\$189,092.00
Total	4297	\$596,430.00

**Garden City Thrift Store**  
2160 Jericho Turnpike  
Garden City Park, NY 11040  
516.746.8250

**Huntington Thrift Store**  
1705 Jericho Turnpike  
Huntington, NY 11743  
631.858.0380



affordable prices. That makes for great bargains while still permitting us the opportunity to give the proceeds back to support our Parish Conference programs. Donated clothing is sold in the stores or given to neighbors who, when home visits reveal the need for clothing, receive them from the stores. A great deal of furniture is sold at the stores but is also available at no cost to neighbors who apply for help through our Conferences. Store sales help to sustain the cycle of support needed to fund our programs, while providing exceptional deals for customers. Central Council, our stores and our Conferences work together in beautiful harmony to change and improve lives!

Now you can easily find a donation bin by scanning this QR code:



## We Love Our Donors!

YES, WE TRULY LOVE OUR DONORS! Without you, we clearly could not exist. “For-Profit” companies can develop new high profit margin goods or raise capital for product research. At SVDPLI, we can only endure through the generosity of the people who consistently support us and shop our stores. It is just that simple—we have no profit margins, no shares of stock to sell! We assist people struggling financially, we provide clothing, furniture and home goods to those who cannot afford it. And we offer the same hope and love St. Vincent de Paul extended his neighboring poor over 400 years ago.

The struggles of disadvantaged neighbors have skyrocketed in recent years. From a world not fully recovered from the pandemic to global instability, inflation, etc., we need help now more than ever. In 2023, we witnessed a sharp 22% increase in assistance requests, with an unprecedented 56% more coming online, further impacting our ability to help. For this reason, it is imperative for each of us reading this to talk with others about supporting SVDPLI on a regular basis.

The best way to help others is through Monthly Giving. It is the lifeline that sustains SVDPLI with a vital, steady stream of income to foster a closer relationship between donors and those we serve. See the sidebar for more info.

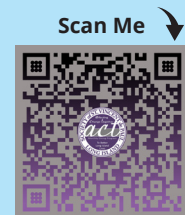
SVDPLI made the difficult decision to close Dismas House, our transitional housing program, late in 2023. Among the outgoing monthly donors to Dismas is Mary Ellen Lyons, a generous benefactor for almost 2 decades. Connecting with her recently, we advised about the closing and thanked her for her sustained support. Upon discussing the status of her monthly gift, without hesitation Mary Ellen said she would continue to support SVDPLI and now direct her recurring gift to our mission. She genuinely believes in what we do and will continue subsidizing our good works wherever they may be. She knows her donations will still go to help people on Long Island and that is part of her philanthropic plan. When asked why she gives recurrently, Mary Ellen said, “I donate monthly because I want to ensure that my charity donations are not a question for me. I set up automated payments just as I pay all my bills. It is so easy and it is part of my budget.” Besides the good that Mary Ellen knows will be done for others, she perfectly explained the dual benefit of monthly giving, the key to our future sustainability.

## Monthly Giving

Among its many benefits:

- You help us better plan & prepare to help others.
- You recognize that each month you help impoverished neighbors just blocks away, readily seeing our impact in your communities. People like single dad Paul & his daughters get by each day because of **YOU**.
- It is a convenient option for busy supporters seeking to donate. You set your recurring gift & nothing else needs to be done. It is now part of your budget!
- Imagine if 500 people gave \$25/ month for a year—that would provide \$150,000 to directly help neighbors. 750 donors would yield \$225,000! Just think of the good we could do in easing people’s hardship with even a modest increase in monthly gifts.
- It is simple, quick & safe to set up online:  
<https://bit.ly/MonthlyGifts-SVDPLI>

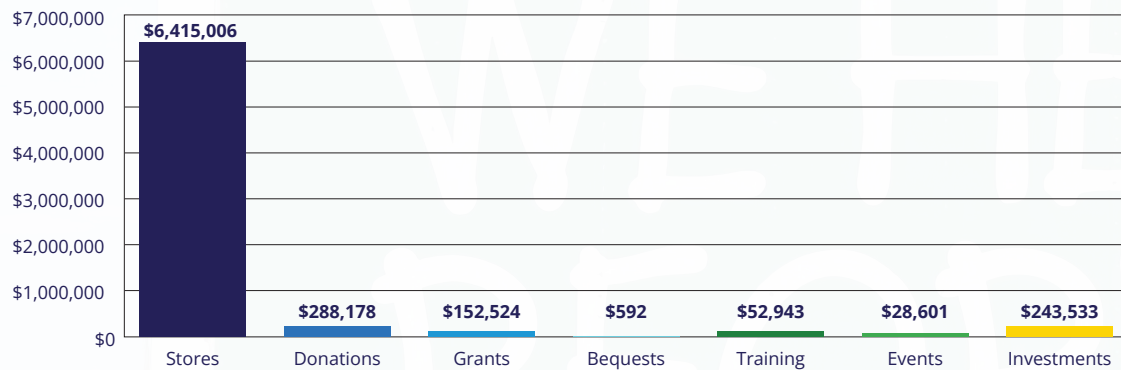
You can easily start monthly giving by scanning this QR code:



# Financial Summary

Year Ending 09/30/2023

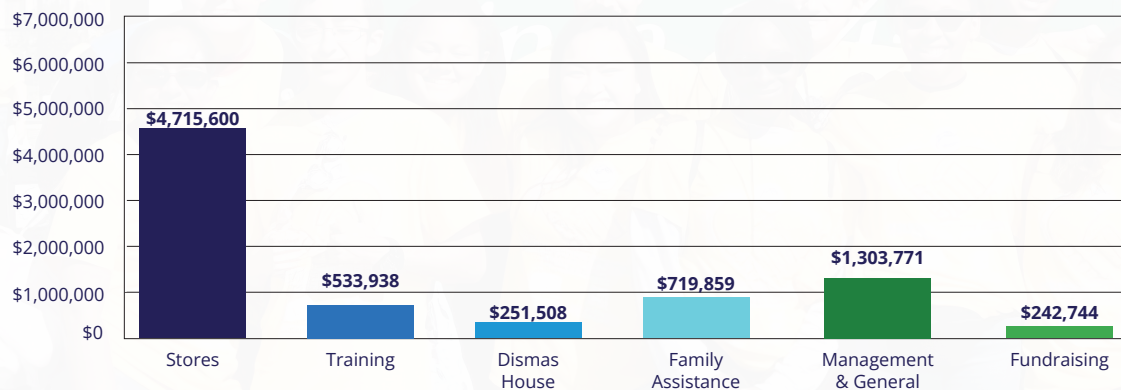
## Income:



## Total Income

**\$7,181,377**

## Total Expenses:



## Total Expenses

**\$7,767,420**

Change in Net Assets

**<\$586,043>**

Net Assets Beginning  
of Year

**\$6,449,127**

Net Assets Year End

**\$5,863,084**



# Financial Summary

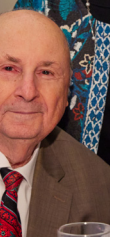
Year Ending 09/30/2023

**Conferences: 62**

**Vincentian Volunteers: 1,176**

**Paid Staff: 72**

Special Works	People Served	Operational Costs
<b>Transitional Housing for Men</b>	8	\$251,508
Dismas House		
Home Residence & Counseling Returning Citizens		
<b>Vincentian Programs</b>	377	\$123,429
Family Assistance, Uplift, Welcome Home, Dental		
Assistance, Community Grants, Medical Co-Pay		
<b>Vincentian Training and Development</b>	1,176	\$533,938
<b>Stores</b>		
Furniture / Clothing / Household	54,896	\$4,715,600
Neighbor's Clothing / Furniture (no cost)	4,297	\$596,430
<b>Information and Referral Calls</b>	4,071	
<b>Total Special Works</b>	<b>64,825</b>	<b>\$6,220,905</b>
<b>Management and Support Cost</b>		<b>\$1,546,515</b>
<b>Central Council Totals</b>	<b>64,825</b>	<b>\$7,767,420</b>
<b>Conferences</b>		
Neighbor Assisted Financial Aid	46,236	\$2,162,724
In-Kind Assistance (estimated value)	23,885	\$1,634,329
Vincentian Volunteer Hours/Miles (value)		\$3,845,226
<b>Conference Totals</b>	<b>70,121</b>	<b>\$7,642,279</b>
<b>Diocesan Totals</b>	<b>134,946</b>	<b>\$15,409,699</b>



# 75th Anniversary & Our Events

In 2023, SVDPLI celebrated its 75th Anniversary as a Central Council on Long Island. Although our history dates to 1901, our Council was officially incorporated in 1948. True to our humble roots, we celebrated the year by continuing to perform good works and serving others in our local communities. All our advertising materials did include our commemorative 75th Anniversary logo, but it was business as usual in our office and our Conferences! Also in 2023, we had a rewarding and fun-filled Golf Outing and our most successful Friends of the Poor Walk ever. With over 900 registered walkers, we thankfully raised over \$250,000. A special Gala event in November culminated the Diamond Anniversary year. You will see photos of our celebrations throughout the report. Please keep us in your prayers for another 75 years of selflessly helping neighbors!



## Upcoming Events

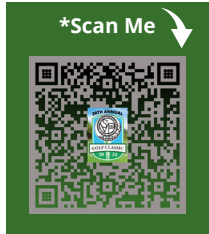
### SVDPLI 20th Annual Golf Classic

Monday, May 20th, 2024

Brookville Country Club,  
210 Chicken Valley Road  
Old Brookville, NY 11545

10am Registration/Noon Start

Visit this link to register today:  
<https://svdpli.org/annual-golf-classic/>  
or \*Scan this QR code:



### SVDPLI 16th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Heckscher State Park  
Heckscher Parkway Field 1  
East Islip, NY 11730

More Details To Come.

### Mass of Thanksgiving & Reception

Sunday, November 3, 2024

St. Agnes Cathedral,  
29 Quealy Place  
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

3:30PM Mass    Cocktail Reception Immediately Following



# *Board of Directors*

**Most Rev. Bishop John O. Barres,**  
Honorary President

**Gustave Gelardi,**  
Diocesan Council President

**Neil Lucey,**  
1st Vice President

**William Jennings,**  
Diocesan Council Treasurer

**Dr. John Franco,**  
Diocesan Council Secretary

**Rev. Msgr. Gerard Ringenback,**  
(Non-Voting Member) Spiritual Advisor

**Thomas Abbate,**  
(Non-Voting Member) CEO & Executive Director

**Jennifer Bello**  
**Maureen Cleary**

**Robert Ellis**  
**Michelle Fiore**

**William Imbesi**  
**David Lynch**

**Robert Meekins**  
**James O'Connor**

**Patricia Ryan**  
**Carole Stuchbury**

**Jennifer Tuschong**  
**Michele Walters**

## *Board Committees*

### *Executive*

**Gustave Gelardi, Chair**

**Thomas Abbate**

**Rev. Msgr. Gerard Ringenback**

**Maureen Cleary**

**Michelle Fiore**

**Dr. John Franco**

**William Imbesi**

**William Jennings**

**Neil Lucey**

**Robert Meekins**

**Patricia Ryan**

**Carole Stuchbury**

### *Finance/Audit*

**James O'Connor, Chair**

**Gustave Gelardi**

**Thomas Abbate**

**Robert Ellis**

**Barry Giaquinto**

**Douglas Pi**

**William Jennings**

### *Governance*

**Robert Ellis, Chair**

**Gustave Gelardi**

**Thomas Abbate**

**Jennifer Bello**

**Barry Giaquinto**

**William Jennings**

## *Leadership Staff*

**Thomas Abbate, CEO & Executive Director**

**Barry Giaquinto, Chief Financial Officer**

**Joseph J. Geraci, Director of Development**

**Joseph Lazarich, Director of Store Operations**

**Paula Migliore, Director of Transitional Housing**

**Karen Werner, Director of Human Resources**

**Terri Zenobio, Director of Vincentian Services**



**WE HELP  
PEOPLE**

THE SOCIETY OF  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
LONG ISLAND

249 Broadway  
Bethpage, New York 11714  
516.822.3132 | Fax: 516.822.2728  
[svdpli.org](http://svdpli.org)