

2024 Annual Report

We Help People



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL













#### 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 Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.





#### 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:

At St. Vincent de Paul Long Island, our Vincentian mission is at the heart of everything we do. With 1,200 dedicated volunteers, we are committed to building a more just world through personal relationships and direct service to those in need. For over 75 years, our Vincentians have selflessly helped neighbors through challenging times.

While many families on Long Island have been fortunate enough to enjoy the security of a stable shelter, warm meals, and a haven during the chilly winter months, many families find themselves facing foreclosure or eviction. The reality is that homelessness is on the rise; between January 2022 and January 2024, homelessness in New York more than doubled, and nationwide it increased by over 20%. Having a place to feel secure and rest your head should be an achievable goal for everyone.

The Rule of the Society speaks to new challenges, "we constantly strive for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions." In today's economic climate, many who were just managing are now in need of assistance, whether it is help with rent, mortgage, utilities, food, or even car repairs.

In this Annual Report you will read the testimonials from those we have helped and learn about efforts undertaken by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on Long Island.

Thank you to our supporters for trusting us as good stewards of your generosity. It is truly your compassion for people in need of a hand up, and the knowledge that St. Vincent de Paul has been offering that hand up for so many of our neighbors.

Together, we are making a difference.

Yours in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul,

Susta & Selve Gustave Gelardi Diocesan Council President

Thomas J. Abbate CEO & Executive Director

# The Vincentian Way How We Do It

With nearly 1,200 Vincentian volunteers in 68 parish communities across Long Island, St. Vincent de Paul is there to offer a "hand up" to our neighbors in need. Be it a financial shortfall from a medical occurrence or sudden job loss, or assistance with furniture after a house fire, our Vincentians are ready to answer the call for help.

To qualify for assistance, households must apply through their local Vincentian Conference, which is managed by volunteers. These Vincentians undergo extensive preparation to handle a wide range of situations with compassion and professionalism. Vincentians must attend specialized training initially and then avail themselves of formation activities that include interviewing techniques, community resources, and financial literacy, to name a few. Once training is complete, home visits are conducted with two Vincentians, together in Christ.

When a request for aid is received, the process begins with a home visit. These visits provide valuable insights into the family's living conditions and ensure that they can sustain their household after receiving assistance. During the visit, Vincentians assess the situation and often go beyond financial aid by offering clothing, furniture, spiritual guidance, and emotional support. For example, if a single-parent household needs help with rent or a utility bill, Vincentians might also identify additional needs, such as beds, furniture, winter coats and clothes and provide these essentials to restore dignity, respect, and a sense of home pride.







# Love Is An Action Word Neighbor Stories

#### The Perils of Work-Related Injuries

A single woman who is a successful management employee was traveling by bus for a work-related meeting. The bus was in an accident and the woman suffered shoulder and spinal injuries, leaving her temporarily disabled. She had to attend many appointments to see doctors and receive physical therapy.

Her worker's compensation insurance payments were not enough to pay her monthly bills. She was at risk of losing her car and she was behind on her rent.

After exhausting all other options, she reached out to SVDPLI for help. Our Vincentian volunteers made a home visit to see if they could help.

With the guidance of the Vincentians, she went to her parish Outreach for food assistance and other household needs. SVDPLI made one month's car payment and paid back rent. The immediate relief of stress caused by the accident helped her on her road to recovery.

She still faces physical challenges as a result of her injuries and continues to face challenges meeting monthly expenses. Our Vincentians will stay in touch with her to help her through her difficult times.



#### **Domestic Violence Leads to Homelessness**

A desperate mother contacted us about her 24-year-old daughter and 4-year-old granddaughter, who needed to move due to domestic violence. Her daughter had suffered critical wounds after being attacked by her ex-boyfriend. She was hospitalized but needed additional time to recuperate. Her injuries prevented her from working during her recovery.

Traumatized and homeless, as she and her daughter could no longer remain with the grandmother, she was out of options. No one should have to suffer the way this young woman and her young daughter did.

The Vincentians wanted to give them a sense of normalcy and a fresh start to their young lives. Fortunately, the Conference was able to provide the money needed to relocate her and her daughter into a new apartment. They are beginning to heal, both physically and emotionally, in a safe environment.









## Thrift Stores, Trucks and Donation Bins

The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores, located in Huntington and Garden City Park play a vital role in our ability to carry out our mission. Our inventory is a collaboration of the donations collected through our distinctively branded green clothing bins and the generous furniture donations we pick up at your home. Those who donate believe in our mission and want to insure that families throughout Long Island can have access to quality items at affordable prices.



The clothing and furniture donated to the Society, either for distribution or resale, is critical to the success of our mission. When helping our neighbors on a home visit, our Vincentian volunteers will take note of basic needs the family might have. A warm bed, a kitchen table, school clothes or winter coats, basic necessities that most of us take for granted, may be missing from a neighbor's home.

Donations are critical to our success as the revenue from our stores supports all the programs and services we provide. So next time you're cleaning out your closet or you are downsizing, remember that your pre-loved items may make a difference in the life of a neighbor.



Thrift Store Distributions			
Nassau/Suffolk	People	Value	
Furniture	1,580	\$386,721	
Clothing	2,207	\$160,598	
TOTALS	3,787	\$547,319	

### Making A Difference How You Can Have An Impact

Donors are the lifeblood of any nonprofit, enabling us to transform lives and strengthen our community. Their generosity not only funds our vital programs and services but also fuels our mission to create lasting change. Every donation, whether large or small, is a powerful expression of belief in our work and a commitment to making a positive impact. By investing in our mission, donors help us provide essential support, foster hope, and build a better future for those we serve. Their unwavering support inspires our team to strive for excellence and continuously seek innovative ways to uplift the community.

- According to the 2025 Nonprofit Trends Report, the average person spends 2 hours and 23 minutes on social media each day, making it our most effective channel for reaching a wider audience. With that in mind, we invite you to become a SOCIAL MEDIA AMBASSADOR for SVDPLI—Follow, Like, and Share our content. Every engagement helps extend our reach even further.
- Recurring giving provides a stable, predictable source of revenue, and we encourage you to join our monthly giving program, "NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS MONTHLY GIVING." We're reigniting this program in 2025 and would be honored to have you include us in your financial plans.
- As a valued member of the 1948 LEGACY SOCIETY, you can optimize your tax benefits while ensuring our mission remains steadfast. By utilizing tools such as Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), bequests, life insurance benefits, and gifts of appreciated securities, you empower SVDPLI to continue making a significant impact in our community. We encourage you to consult with your financial advisor, attorney, or tax professional to structure these gifts for maximum benefit, ensuring that your legacy of generosity makes the greatest possible difference.
- Corporate Social Responsibility is increasingly important to companies, especially those attracting younger employees who prioritize well-being. In addition to seeking grants and sponsorships, we plan to partner with local businesses, inviting them to participate in our events and help raise awareness about our mission.

Stay connected with us by joining our email newsletter. Learn how you can help SVDPLI continue providing essential programs and support to the growing number of people in need.

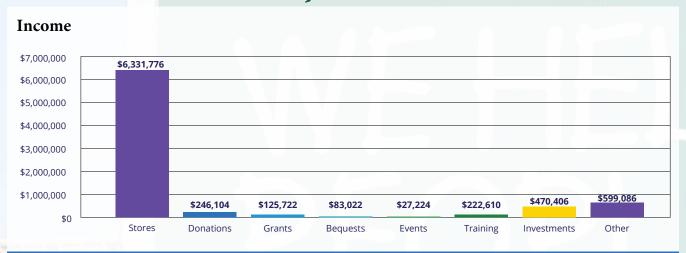
As we face economic uncertainty, more and more of our neighbors need assistance and it is through your donations that we can continue to fulfill our mission.



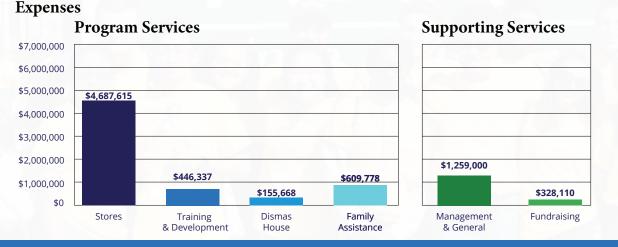




### Financial Summary







Total Programs: \$5,899,398 | Total Supporting Services: \$1,587,110 | Total Expenses: \$7,486,508

**Change in Net Assets** 

\$619,442

Net Assets Beginning of Year \$5,863,086

Net Assets Year End

\$6,482,528

# Financial Summary

**Conferences: 62** 

**Vincentian Volunteers: 1,178** 

Paid Staff: 74

Special Works	People Served	<b>Operational Costs</b>
Transitional Housing for Men	3	\$155,668
Dismas House * Closed 1/24		
Vincentian Programs	241	\$609,778
Family Assistance, EFSP, Dental, Medical Co-Pay		
Vincentian Training and Development	1,178	\$446,337
Stores		
Furniture / Clothing / Household	50,697	\$4,687,615
Clothing / Furniture (no cost)	3,787	\$538,802
Information and Referral Calls	5,351	
Total Special Works	61,257	\$5,899,398
Management and Support Cost		\$1,587,110
Central Council Totals	61,257	\$7,486,508
Conferences		
Neighbor Assisted Financial Aid	44,842	\$2,299,062
In-Kind Assistance (estimated value)	23,823	\$1,649,695
Vincentian Volunteer Hours/Miles (value)		\$3,845,226
Conference Totals	68,665	\$7,793,983
Diocesan Totals	129,922	\$15,280,491

### Looking Ahead Attend Our Events

In 2024, our fundraising efforts not only advanced our mission but also ushered in a year of exciting firsts. We hosted our Golf Outing at a new venue—the Brookville Country Club—held our Concert in Gratitude at the John W. Engeman Theater in Northport, and organized our Walk for the Poor at Heckscher State Park in Islip. These new locations exceeded our expectations, and we are pleased to announce that we will return to the Brookville Country Club for our Golf Outing and to Heckscher State Park for our Walk for the Poor in the upcoming year.

In 2025, we plan to expand our fundraising initiatives by continuing our successful Golf Outing and Walk for the Poor, while also launching exciting new events that will help us build fresh connections in the community. We are actively seeking corporate partners and sponsors to help offset event costs, allowing us to direct more funds toward our vital programs. Additionally, we aim to collaborate with small businesses and schools to organize regular food and clothing drives, ensuring our stores remain well-stocked to serve those in need.



2025 Annual Golf Classic May 19, 2025 Brookville Country Club Registration Open on our website.





A Night at the Ballpark August 15, 2025 Fairfield Properties Ballpark Details coming soon!





2025 Friends of the Poor Walk September 27, 2025 Heckscher State Park, Central Islip Registration opens on May 1



#### **Board** of Directors

Most Rev. Bishop John O. Barres,

Honorary President

Gustave Gelardi,

Diocesan Council President

Neil Lucey,

First 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** 

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

Trish Rongo, Director of Development

Joseph Lazarich, Director of Store Operations

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 www.SVDPLI.org

Donate today









