



ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CATHOLIC CHURCH

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S Tenth Anniversary

July 11, 2004 was the tenth anniversary of our Vincentian Conference at St Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church. Our ministry was established to provide person-to-person contact with those who suffer and to perform a personal gift of the heart. It is an activity of laypersons – of men and women who are trying in accord with their beliefs as followers of Christ, to become human beings who care and share. We are men and women who know the local conditions and who seek with others who possess greater means to apply the most effective solutions to the needs of the poor not by words but by acts.

The Society is traditionally poor, believes administrative expenses should be reduced to a minimum, and embraces both those who help and those who are helped. The members of the St. Vincent de Paul appreciate that Christ identified Himself with the poor: "Whatever you did to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matt. 25,40).

Although our Conference is united with those of the rest of the world, this universality should not be confused with uniformity. We direct our service to the prevailing needs of the Aiken community. Currently we offer various forms of assistance: food, medicine, financial aid, furniture and household goods, referral services, and some counseling. We need additional volunteers who can supplement our present activities and help expand our services to include home visits.


Our financial aid comes primarily from our parishioners through the monthly "I CARE, I SHARE" collection envelopes and our annual Trash and Treasure Sale. Even more important and in need of constant expansion is our resource of volunteer workers. While our ranks have increased during the past year, we still need parishioners to join us in this service to the poor of our community. We need help in the following areas:

HELP WANTED:

President – After three years of meritorious and dedicated service, Dennis Simmons is concluding his three-year presidential term of office next month. He will be hard to replace. We need a forward thinking, hard working individual who will continue to advance the work already begun in many areas of our ministry.

Several of the President's Long Term Goals that are in various levels of development:

- Involve the pastor and or parochial vicar in monthly meetings
- Develop plans for the establishment of a "Youth Conference"
- Develop close relationship with leaders within the Hispanic community
- Move our conference operations to a suitable location as soon as possible
- Develop a Home Visit Program
 - Identify volunteers
 - Program/guidelines
 - Follow-up routines

<p>Fundamental principle of the Vincentian apostolate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-to-person contact • Personal gift of the heart • Participation in a fraternal community of lay people animated by the same vocation. 	<p>HELP!</p>  <p>The St. Vincent De Paul Society Needs <u>Volunteers.....Young and Old!</u></p>	<p>Source of our successes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christ, who identified himself with the poor • Monthly collection envelopes – "I Care – I Share" • Volunteer workers
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- Case Workers – handles client calls and responds to their requests. Some computer experience is helpful but not necessary to administer our weekly program, computer training will be available to any/all caseworkers.
- Shoppers – shops the grocery chains for bargains and delivers food to pantry
- Pantry Coordinator – places food order with Golden Harvest and transports food to the pantry. (Our present pantry situation requires some heavy lifting to move food between first and second floor storage areas.)
- Two Men (or Women) and a Truck – need one or two teams available Monday through Friday of most weeks to pick up/deliver donated furniture and other household goods. Each team needs one member with a truck and ability to lift heavy objects.
- Space Needed – With our ever-growing client base, we need larger facilities on one floor to better service our clients and reduce the heavy lifting

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

Financial Aid

For the six months ending June 30, 2004, financial aid totaling more than \$35,000 was provided to 436 families for food, utility (gas, electric and water) services, medications, transportation and rental for abused families. The source of the funds provided came from:

- Monthly "I Care – I Share" Collections \$29,333
- Our Fourth Annual Trash And Treasures Sale \$3,742
- Private and Anonymous donations

Food

Food was given to 968 families for the first six months of 2004, an increase of 328 families. These families were comprised of 3,137 individuals including 1,712 children, an increase 1,049 and 559 respectively.

When possible, Vincentian volunteers delivered food to many clients who do not have transportation. This opportunity allowed our volunteers to meet and interrelate with clients in their homes.

Our ministry actively participates with St. Mary's school in its Food Certificate Program. It is mutually beneficial to both us and to St. Mary's school.

New Clients

Volunteers responded to an ever-increasing number of client calls, 318 new clients were registered during the past six months. Our client base is now over 2,400.

Client Information System

We have launched a new computer system to help track and administer our program. A Vincentian family member donated the computer equipment and program development (approximately \$12,000)

Trash And Treasure Sale

In June 2004, we held our 4TH annual sale generating over \$3,700.

Summary

Our Vincentian ministry would not be complete without a big "Thank You" to all parishioners and volunteers who support our ministry and to our outgoing President, Dennis Simmons. We simply could not function without your help.

Your continued support in our monthly "I Care, I Share" collection will go a long way in helping us fulfill our objective to serve the poor and needy of the Aiken Community.