

The Quarterly Informer

January, 2017
Volume X, Issue 1

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Our Lady of the Mountains Conference

Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY Our Lady of the Mountains Conference Financial and Activity Report 1st Quarter, 2016-2017

The first quarter of 2016-17 began October 1st and ended December 31st, 2016. During this quarter, Society members met with 84 clients, compared to 70 clients the same quarter last year. The Society helped a total of 274 people compared to 201 the same period last year.

Total direct aid revenue for the period was \$40,202 compared to last year's \$38,912. Of this amount, \$29,908 came from Our Lady of the Mountains parishioners, including donations for the matching gift. The balance of revenues came from the Community Thrift Store and Big Canoe Chapel grants.

Total spending for the period was \$26,228 for direct aid and operating expenses, which was comparable to the same period last year. Of this amount, we paid \$14,092 for utilities, primarily Amicalola EMC and Georgia Power, but \$2,669 of this total went to pay for 12 clients who use propane or natural gas. Rent and temporary housing totaled \$6,561, of which \$838 went for temporary housing for clients who were homeless. The Society purchased Kroger gift cards in the amount of \$1,050 to help with immediate needs for clients who had no food or who needed gasoline. The remainder was used for miscellaneous assistance and operational expenses.

As always, we are so grateful for our anonymous matching gift donor, OLM parishioners, the OLM Men's Club and OLM Women's Guild, the Community Thrift Store Grant, the Big Canoe Benevolence and Women's Guild, and so many others who support the good works done by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Finally, we thank our many SVdP volunteers at OLM who make all of these good works happen.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MATCHING GIFT RESULTS ARE IN!

The matching gift program achieved record donations of \$19,915, in addition to the \$7,500 matching challenge. As always, special thanks to our anonymous donor. Without this challenge and everyone's effort to meet it, the works of the Society would be extremely limited.

During the winter months, demand for heating assistance is great. Historically, contributions to make the match have provided significant funding to meet these needs. The generosity of so many truly helps the most needy of Pickens County, providing heating assistance and other necessities. Our thanks also go to parishioners of Our Lady of the Mountains, OLM organizations, and several special donors.

HAPPY TIMES AT THE HEAD START CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The 19th annual Head Start Christmas Party was a HUGE success! Thanks to donations from OLM parishioners and local businesses, the Society was able to provide educational and fun gifts along with hats, gloves, socks, and apples to the 107 children enrolled at the Head Start school. After months of shopping and gathering, SVdP hosted the party on December 15th, 2016 at the Head Start facility in Tate.

Santa talked with each child and they were given a photo taken with him and their gift bags to remember the day. Lots of fun was had by both the children and the Vincen-tians, from packing the bags the day before, to watching the children's eyes light up. Both physical and emotional good was done and God's love and light was truly seen on that day!

Thanks to Cathy Tucker for coordinating all aspects of this event and for all Vincen-tians who helped make this event so memorable for so many.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP AND CHARACTER

Vincen-tians are servant leaders. With a servant leader, the natural feeling that one wants to serve comes first, then, a conscious choice to aspire to lead. The best test to determine whether one is succeeding at being a serv-ant leader is to ask oneself, "Do those served grow as persons; do they become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become serv-ants? What is the effect on the least privileged in society—will they benefit, or at least, not be further deprived?"

As we work with clients, we gain a deepening understanding of the following characteristics and how they contribute to the meaningful practice of servant leadership. These ten characteristics include listening, empathy, healing, awareness, persuasion, conceptualization, foresight, stewardship, commitment to the growth of people, and building community.

Expansion of the first five of these follow, with the last five to be covered in the next Newsletter issue:

- **Listening**—The Vincentian servant leader cultivates a deep commitment to **listening** intently to others and seeks to identify the will of the group and helps to clarify that will in the context of the Vincentian value structure and the Rule.
- **Empathy**—The Vincentian servant leader strives to understand and **empathize** with others, accepting and recognizing people for their special and unique spirit and gifts.
- **Healing**—One of the great strengths of Vincentian servant leadership is the potential for **healing** one's self and one's relationship with others, inspired by the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.
- **Awareness**—General **awareness**, and especially self-awareness supported by prayers and reflection, strengthens the Vincentian servant leader. Awareness helps one to understand issues involving ethics, values, and tensions in the SVdP Society Communities. Awareness helps the servant to be able to view most situations from a more spiritually grounded and integrated, holistic position.
- **Persuasion**—A Vincentian servant leader is reliant on persuasion rather than on one's positional authority. Persuasion, listening, and awareness support the servant leader to sustain decision making processes within a volunteer-driven organization consistent with the value of subsidiarity.

THE SOCIETY SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

We are always in need of volunteers, especially for home visits, but also for data entry, phone responding, and other miscellaneous duties. Our invitation is open to all parishioners, with a special invitation to our Hispanic brothers and sisters. Our business meeting is held on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in the Parish Library. Please come, or contact Joe Schroeder, Conference President, and let us know of your interest.

OLM parishioners who recently joined the Society are Georgia Neel and Jeffrey Dietz. Welcome!

WANTED...CANDIDATES FOR THE FAMILY UPLIFT PROGRAM

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference of OLM provides the head of a household the opportunity to further his/her education or training to improve the family's household income through the Family Uplift Program. The program provides limited financial support while he/she attends an accredited program to improve job skills. The candidate

must have a high school diploma or GED, be eligible for the Hope Scholarship/Grant and the Pell Grant. The program does not pay for books or tuition. A comprehensive application must be completed, reviewed, and approved before candidates are accepted into the program.

An example of a possible candidate for the program is a mother or father of a family with one or more children who has a high school diploma or GED and who wishes to attend Chattahoochee Tech to obtain a job skill such as welding, commercial truck driving, practical nursing, auto repair, etc. However, without some financial help, the candidate could not consider this training, and that is where the OLM program helps. Candidates will be required to enroll in a program, study and maintain grade levels to continue in the program and retain HOPE and Pell Grant. A mentor is assigned to each program participant to provide support and to assure progress is being made according to plan.

To find out more about this program, please call the St. Vincent de Paul line at 706-692-7604, leave a message asking Mike to call you regarding the Family Uplift Program.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE SOCIETY

You can provide the Society significant financial support by remembering us through memorials, gifts, and/or including the Society in your will or trust. As always, your prayers are most welcome, not only for the success of the Society, but for all those we serve.

Mail donations to:

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Our Lady of the Mountains Conference
1908 Waleska Highway 108
Jasper, GA 30143



St. Vincent de Paul

If you or someone you know is in need of emergency financial assistance, please call 706-692-7604. Leave your name, number, and a brief message, and someone from the Society will call you back.