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## ABOUT THE SOCIETY

We are an independent, international organization helping the needy of all faiths, creeds, and races. We are affiliated with the Catholic Church; however, we are not a part of the Church hierarchy. We are unpaid volunteers dedicating our time and talent to help others in need. We work to fulfill the desire of St. Vincent de Paul, the patron of the poor, to improve the human condition. We are a tax exempt 501 (c) organization. • We help the needy by providing direct aid to those in immediate crisis. We help families through a temporary crisis by meeting short-term financial needs until the family can return to being self-sufficient. We help by assisting families improve job skills and enhance their education so they can provide for the long term success of their families. • We solicit funds from parishioners of Our Lady of the Mountains Church, from other local churches, civic groups and local agencies, foundations and charities. We screen applicants to be sure they qualify for assistance. We have lay volunteers who are committed to improving the lives of the less fortunate of Pickens County. • The Society's founder, Frederic Ozanam, began his charitable works in Paris in 1833. The works of the Society are found throughout the world. Its presence in Georgia dates to 1903 with the formation of a Conference at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Church in Atlanta. Our Lady of the Mountains Conference began in 1997. Volunteers are active providing client intake and home visits that support Pickens County families.

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## AN INVITATION TO SERVE

The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVdP)  
is so easy to join.

All you need is the desire to join with others for  
the love of God, to serve those in need.

The work of SVdP  
is the Gospel message in action:

*I was hungry, I was thirsty,  
I was a stranger, I was naked,  
I was sick, I was in prison,  
and you cared!*

Come see the face of Christ in your neighbor.

Christians have an obligation to serve others.

This service can be done as an individual,  
but is often better accomplished by being  
a member of a worldwide Society.

As a member of SVdP,  
you will be helping those in need  
through friendship and personal encounters.

There are a number of ways you can help  
to serve others as an SVdP member.

No matter how much or how little time  
you have, if you have the desire,  
we can find a way for you to help others.

**For more information, call 706-692-7604.**

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# OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

**CHANGING LIVES ONE AT A TIME**



“The most powerful weapon to conquer the  
devil is humility. For, as he does not know  
at all how to employ it, neither does he  
know how to defend himself from it.”

St. Vincent de Paul

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**SAINT VINCENT de PAUL at OLM**

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DIRECT AID We provide Direct Aid to families in immediate financial crisis. Usually, the head of household is unemployed or is not making sufficient income to cover living expenses. The problems caused by job loss or a cut back in hours may be compounded by extraordinary expenses, creating a situation where the client cannot pay the power bill or rent. Clients will call the St. Vincent de Paul Society phone line and a Vincentian volunteer will return the call, notifying them of the next intake session or scheduling a home visit. Volunteers will interview clients seeking help and determine how much help the Society can provide. Volunteers conduct intake sessions and home visits in pairs, the same way the founder of the Society, Frederic Ozanam, and his group, worked with the poor of Paris over 150 years ago. We are the only charitable organization that makes house calls!

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“LET US LOVE GOD, MY BROTHERS.  
LET US LOVE GOD.  
BUT LET IT BE WITH  
THE STRENGTH OF OUR ARMS  
AND THE SWEAT OF OUR BROW.”

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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Direct Aid assistance is only limited by the availability of funds. The need in Pickens County is far greater than the available resources.

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FAMILY ASSIST The Family Assist program is for families in temporary financial crisis. Usually, the wage earner is disabled due to injury, temporary lay-off, or other temporary loss of wages. Without financial assistance, the family is in jeopardy of losing their home, auto, etc. This program assists the family in paying the mortgage or the car payment and other monthly household expenses until the wage earner is back to work. Generally, this is no longer than three to six months. The program is intended to help families remain self-sufficient and maintain their dignity and self esteem, and not become dependent upon aid.

FAMILY UPLIFT The purpose of the Family Uplift Program is to provide financial assistance to eligible families who are committed to improving their job opportunities by furthering their education or job skills. Eligible participants must have a GED or high school diploma and be eligible for HOPE scholarship and PELL grants, as well as provide minimal financial assistance. They must choose a course of study at an accredited educational institution that will provide reasonable assurance of improving their lives. Family Uplift mentors are in contact with clients on a weekly basis providing advice, counsel, and support. The objective of the program is to truly change lives so that participants will be financially self-sufficient.



PRE-K HEAD START CHRISTMAS PARTY Each year, the Society sponsors a Christmas Party for the Pickens County Pre-K Head Start students. With the support of businesses, charitable groups, and parishioners, we provide about 180 boys and girls a Christmas they will never forget (complete with Santa and his elf, and a backpack or grocery bag full of educational items, caps, gloves, and a toy or two). The children leave this event knowing Christmas is a special time. In addition, we make a donation to the school for special supply needs.

QUARTERLY FOOD DRIVE Each quarter, the Society holds a Food Drive at OLM to benefit the CARES Food Pantry.

HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM We completed the first Annual Community Heating Assistance Program the winter of 2008-09. In 2010-11, combined efforts of parishioners, private donors, and civic groups provided donations exceeding \$21,000 (our goal was \$16,000). Government programs cannot keep up with the demand, so requests for heating assistance are always high.

SPECIAL WORKS These are one-time projects to help families that suffer a devastating loss and where the community wants to give financial help. We provide a clearing house whereby contributions can be made to us as a single source. We can then make authorized distributions.

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