

The Quarterly Informer

April, 2018
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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 2nd Quarter 2017-2018 Financial and Activity Report

The second quarter of 2017-18 began January 1st and ended March 31st. During the quarter, Society members met with 106 clients, helping a total of 214 people. This compares with 92 clients for a total of 190 people for the same period last year.

Revenues for the period totaled \$37,822, which included \$24,359 donated by OLM parishioners. The balance of revenue came from the Community Thrift Store and Big Canoe Chapel grants. Revenues were up about \$2500 from the same quarter for last year.

Direct Aid and Family Uplift spending totaled \$42,260, an increase of nearly \$7,000 over this same time last year. Of this amount, we paid \$19,122 for utilities (primarily Amicalola EMC and Georgia Power); last year for the same period, we paid \$16,741. Rent, mortgage payments, and temporary lodging totaled \$17,226 compared to \$10,907 last year, reflecting increasing rents, possibly resulting from the shortage of affordable housing, the effect of low supply and high demand. Spending for transportation-related needs amounted to \$2,200, primarily for auto insurance and fuel, the main purpose of which is to keep clients gainfully employed by enabling them to get to and from work. We spent \$1,350 on Kroger cards for clients to use for food and gas.

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

CHERYL'S PLACE UPDATE A PICKENS COUNTY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT

A small group of volunteers, including three members of OLM's St. Vincent de Paul Society, continue to seek a solution for homeless families in Pickens County. For the past two years, the Cheryl's Place Project Team has been developing a program that would assist families,

with at least one child under the age of 18, to become self-sufficient. As has been noted before, Pickens County lacks available/affordable rental units. The wait list for public housing is about two years. Until now, there has been no place to put a family on a temporary basis while that family works towards a more permanent solution.

Recently, the double-wide trailer near the Community Thrift Store, which has been used as a shelter in the past, has again become available. The unit is 50 years old, and for its age, is in good condition, but it does have some problems that need to be addressed. It will cost about \$15,000 to bring the unit up to code and permit a homeless family to live there. Cheryl Blankinship, for whom Cheryl's Place is named, ran the first shelter in this double-wide trailer.

The Project Team has begun the process of getting Cheryl's Place designated as a 501(c)3 charitable organization. They are seeking initial funds to get this project off the ground. As with any charitable group, seed money is needed that is not generally provided through grants. Once Cheryl's Place is up and running, we envision that grants will provide the required continuing funding.

Stay tuned for on-going reports on the progress of Cheryl's Place.

PICKENS COUNTY COMMUNITY THRIFT STORE

Most Pickens County residents know about the Community Thrift Store and how much money it raises and distributes to various charitable organizations in the County. In each Society *Quarterly Informer*, we mention our thanks to the Thrift Store for its grants that help make the Society so effective in carrying out its mission in Pickens County. Last year, the Society received \$20,000 from Thrift Store grants!

Through the generosity of so many, the Thrift Store receives numerous donations that are sorted, priced, and put in the store for sale. Society members routinely refer clients to the Thrift Store. No one is turned away; if a family cannot pay, the Thrift Store will give the family what is needed. There have been cases where a family has lost everything due to a house fire, and the Thrift Store has come to the rescue by providing furniture, kitchen supplies, clothing, and other items to help the family through the crisis.

When the Society provides financial assistance to a client, we often ask the client to volunteer some time at the Thrift Store, not only as a way for the client to feel that he/she is doing something valuable for the assistance received, but also to help the Thrift Store personnel with the work of sorting through and tagging the many donations they receive. Most clients are more than willing to help.

So, if you have items that can be used by others and have outlived their usefulness to you, please consider donating them to the Pickens County Community Thrift Store. When you do, you help the needy of Pickens County.

VINCENTIAN SPIRITUALITY

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been rooted in the following Essential Elements, or fundamental principles, established by the founding members:

- **Spirituality** — To bear witness to Christ and to His Church by showing that the faith of Christians inspires them to work for the good of humanity;
- **Friendship** — To bring together people of good will and to assist them by mutual example and true friendship in drawing nearer to the Divine Model by fulfilling His essential precept, namely the love of God in the person of others; and
- **Service** — To establish a personal contact between its members and those who suffer, and to bring to the latter the most efficacious and charitable aid possible.

The Mission Statement of the Society answers the who and what of an organization. It states in precise and concise language the composition and chief purposes of a group. The following is the Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the United States:

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul, to those who are needy and suffering. As a reflection of the whole family of God, members, who are known as Vincentians, are drawn from every ethnic and cultural background, age group, and economic level. Vincentians are united in an international society of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility, and sharing, which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings, and adherence to a basic Rule. Organized locally, Vincentians witness to God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served because, in them, Vincentians see the face of Christ.

The vision of Blessed Frederic Ozanam was "To establish a network of charity and social justice to encircle the world."

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul adheres to a group of Core Values which are the principles central to its creed and ministry. These values are:

- Holiness of Life,
- Service of the Poor,
- Humility,
- Simplicity,
- Charity, and
- Community of Faith.

We members of the Society at Our Lady of the Mountains try our best to live up to the principles of Vincentian spirituality. Pray for us!



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.