

The Quarterly Informer

July, 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 3rd Quarter 2017-2018 Financial and Activity Report

The third quarter of 2017-18 began April 1st and ended June 30th. During the quarter, Society members met with 82 clients, helping a total of 170 people. This is comparable to last year's totals.

Revenues for the period totaled \$21,330 (as compared to \$23,975 last year), which included \$11,010 donated by OLM parishioners (\$13,975 last year). The balance of revenue came from the Community Thrift Store and Big Canoe Chapel grants. Existing surplus funds covered the expenses that exceeded receipts for the quarter.

Direct Aid and Family Uplift spending totaled \$29,853, slightly less than last year's \$30,441. Of this amount, \$14,220 (\$14,837 prior year) was for housing/rent, including a few emergency stays at local motels, and meeting mortgage payments. Utility assistance totaled \$10,781 (prior year \$9,206), most of it going to Amicalola EMC, Georgia Power, and ETC, with lesser payments to City of Jasper Water, Pickens County Water and Sewer, and natural gas providers.

The Society purchased Kroger cards at \$25 and \$50 each for a total of \$500, which we use to meet immediate needs for food and/or gas (we always encourage clients to use the CARES Food Pantry and Food Stamps and save any cash they may have to meet utility, rent, and other payments). The Society spent the remainder for transportation-related expenses, including insurance and auto repairs, medical-related expenses, and miscellaneous items.

Many of our clients face obstacles that make it difficult for them to provide for themselves and their families—lack of public transportation, limited affordable housing, the lengthy time it takes to obtain disability assistance, etc. Society volunteers do their best to help clients move in a direction that can help them to self-sufficiency. Sometimes that can only be offering the phone number of the Cartersville Shelter, or providing a means to update a résumé in hopes of finding a better job.

As always, we are grateful to OLM parishioners, Men's Club, and Women's Guild for their generous donations, and 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 SVdP volunteers at OLM who make all of these good works happen.

CHERYL'S PLACE UPDATE A PICKENS COUNTY SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT

The group starting up the Cheryl's Place Project (named in honor of Cheryl Blankinship, a longtime Pickens County resident and advocate for the poor and homeless) continues to work on a solution for homeless families with at least one child under the age of 18. As has been noted before, Pickens County lacks available/affordable rental units. The problem seems to be getting worse; during the past year, the number of homeless seeking SVdP assistance has increased (the wait list for public housing is about two years). But we do have some good news: the Cheryl's Place project has been granted 501c3 status. Your donations are now tax deductible!

The Project has obtained a doublewide trailer that is in need of repairs before it can serve as temporary housing. They need approximately \$10,000 for liability insurance, repair materials, and startup costs (volunteers will provide the labor). If you can help fund this worthy project, please call the St. Vincent de Paul Society helpline, 706-692-7604, and ask that Joe Schroeder return your call. Remember, your donations are tax deductible.

Of course, the success of this community-wide program depends on sufficient volunteers, financial support, and available housing. Volunteers are needed to assist a coordinator dealing with the day-to-day support for clients, including providing food, temporary shelter, job search, and other links to self-sufficiency. Please help us if you can!

UPDATE ON A PREVIOUS CASE

We wrote about this case a year ago. The original write-up is in bold below, followed by what has happened since.

Home Repairs—A young lady recovering from injuries received in a head-on collision caused by a drunk driver sought assistance to renovate her trailer home. She wished to live independently from her parents, complete her Nursing degree, and

become gainfully employed. Up to the time of the accident, she was in the process of buying a home and was renting out the trailer. Due to the accident, she lost out on buying the home and had to stay in the trailer. During her extensive recovery, the trailer fell into disrepair, hence, her request for help to bring the trailer up to living standard.

The young lady came to the Society with a list of materials that totaled approximately \$3,300, explaining that her father, who is a handyman, and another relative, who is in the construction business, would do the work. The materials were provided by Home Depot which gave a discount, bringing the total materials cost to \$2,750. From time to time, a Vincentian drives by the home and has observed that progress is being made.

Now the update: A few months ago, we noticed that progress on the repairs seemed to have stopped, and saw no one at the site. Later, an article appeared in the *Pickens County Progress* reporting a fire had occurred at the residence, and the family listed as living there was *not the same as the individual we had helped!* The trailer has since been demolished and removed from the site.

We have no idea where the original client is, nor how she is faring. It's frustrating to get involved helping someone, watching the progress, and then have the person basically disappear. However, that kind of result will never discourage us from doing the best we can to help people in need.

KROGER REWARDS

If you shop at Kroger's, you can have a portion of what you spend donated to your favorite charity. We hope that favorite charity is the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church! Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and enroll in Community Rewards, specifying the Society. We would so appreciate it!

BIG CANOE MEN'S CHARITY GOLF EVENT

For the second year, the Big Canoe Men's Golf Association has included the Society as one of the beneficiaries of the event's proceeds. We received several \$75 gift certificates to Foothills IGA. This is a significant donation, providing a source of food to needy families that otherwise may not be met. Our thanks to Big Canoe Men's Golf Association for their generosity.



JOIN THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AT OLM

This is an invitation to those whose daily schedule is not flexible enough to commit to various Society matters, for example, participating in Wednesday client intakes or making home visits. There is an area of great need and that is having volunteers who can answer calls to the SVdP helpline.

An experienced phone responder will train new volunteers on how to access the phone line, contact the caller, and respond to the needs of the caller. Volunteers check the SVdP helpline three or four times per day for the week that they are assigned. Most of the time, the volunteer will advise the caller to attend the next Wednesday client intake, where assistance may be provided. However, depending on the situation, the volunteer may determine a home visit is necessary, or that the client should be denied help. Don't worry! New volunteers will be helped by experienced Vincentians, as needed.

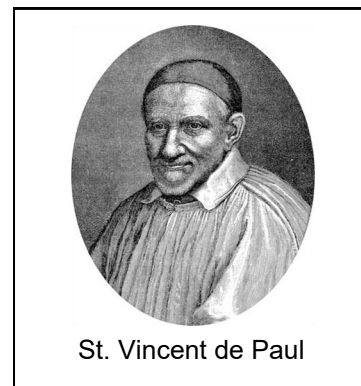
If you are interested in becoming a Vincentian, please attend our monthly meeting held on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall library. Please consider joining—we always need volunteers!

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.