



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter Olm Conference

November 2020

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

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul and COVID19

The outbreak of COVID19 changed the way everyone operates, including The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Society here at Our Lady of the Mountains. Because of the restrictions and the need to keep everyone healthy, we had to stop doing Intake, suspend home visits, and strictly work over the phone for a while. This takes the personal aspect out of what we do, but there were needs that had to be met. With recommended guidelines, we have now resumed Intake twice a month. From October 1st, 2019 to September 30th, 2020 we assisted 746 clients. Revenue collected from October 2019 through September 2020 totaled \$150,549.34. This is a combination of donations from OLM parishioners, \$98,597.22, along with the Community Thrift Store Grant, Big Canoe Benevolence, Hamill Family Foundation Grant, and our anonymous donor match, \$51,952.12. Our Direct-aid expenses totaled \$119,333.04, consisting of \$58,468.23 for housing and \$40,033.60 for utilities. The remaining direct-aid spending went towards transportation-related expenses, food (Kroger cards) and other miscellaneous expenses.

Family Uplift

Our Family Uplift Program has changed the lives of struggling families who need help in improving their job skills or in furthering their education, which provides the skills needed to obtain a job with higher pay. The candidate must be eligible for the Pell Grant and/or HOPE Scholarships, be willing to work at least part-time, and be willing to enroll and complete a course of study at a nearby technical school or college. This program is intended to fill in the financial gap that would prevent someone from improving their job skills because they cannot afford to work while completing further education. Participants meet with a mentor who provides assistance in achieving desired goals. This year we helped four families through this program. Families received assistance with rent, utilities, childcare and/or car insurance which totaled \$24,030.56. One of our participants said, “Family Uplift put my family in a place where we can now take care of ourselves”.

11th Annual Matching Gift Program

We are happy to announce, our anonymous donor has come through again this year. Any donations made to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, OLM Conference, for Direct Aid, from September 28th through Thanksgiving Day will be matched up to \$7,500.00. We have been blessed by the generosity of OLM Parishioners and our anonymous donor and for that, we are thankful.

Fundraising and Related Effort

Bringing joy to the Head Start kids and the older children are not possible without funding. The funds

for the Christmas celebrations are raised and kept separately from all other St. Vincent de Paul funds.

Head Start Christmas Collection

For the 22nd year, SVdP is privileged to provide items at Christmas for 107 children enrolled in the Head Start Pre-K School in Pickens County. With the uncertainty of COVID19, we cannot host a party, but we will still provide each child with a bag filled with books, educational items, crayons, play dough, hat and gloves, hygiene items and a fun boy/girl gift. We will do this with the generous donations from our OLM parishioners, who continue to make this possible year after year.

Christmas for older children in Pickens County

Due to the economic impact of COVID19 on local businesses and individuals, no solicitations were made this year to help fund the other Christmas Programs sponsored by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Through the very generous donations from **Amicalola Electric's "Round-Up Program"** and from the **Walmart Foundation -Jasper location-** SVdP is able to purchase Christmas gifts for 60 "older" children from Pickens County. The children of the fathers at Timothy House and some of the children who were eliminated from Pickens County Programs due to economic cutbacks will receive gifts. The fathers at Timothy House have stated that SVdP is the first organization to remember them! Wish Lists will be obtained from the parents of the 60 Children, and volunteers from SVdP will do the shopping. The gifts will be distributed to the parents two weeks prior to Christmas. A special Thank You is extended to the SVdP Vincentians who have volunteered to shop and to Margy Lohman who coordinates the "wish lists" and helps to distribute the gifts.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Members

Cathy Tucker, Peter Charest, Kathy Crawford, Jeff Deitz, Regis Falinski, Mary Farinholt, Allen Hahn, Pat Kohler, Peggy Lee, Ann Lehr, Pete Lehr, Jack Marcacci, Mike Martin, Walt Morawa, Georgia Dann Neel, Angel Robinson, Larry Sanger, Joe Schroeder, Karen Schroeder, Reg Sisler, Linda Valletti, and Claudette Zauche. We would like to welcome our new members, Linda Hermann, Mary Hutchinson, Cathy Venlos and David Zauche. We are always looking for more volunteers. We are especially in need of phone responders. Generally, this would be one day a week, with enough help, once every couple of weeks. New phone responders will be trained by an experienced phone responder providing all necessary details.

To volunteer or for more information, email Cathy Tucker, cathytucker@etcmail.com.

Please continue to support

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Society here at Our Lady of the Mountains.

You can mail your donations to:

Our Lady of the Mountains

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul,

1908 Waleska Highway 108

Jasper, GA 30143