



Society of St. Vincent de Paul St Michael Conference 2017 Summary of Activities

Basic Principles of the Society

- The Society is a lay Catholic organization that is open to all who wish to live their faith by loving and serving Christ in the poor, the lonely, and the disadvantaged.
- It serves all those in need, regardless of creed, ethnicity, origin, or point of view.
- All funds donated to the Society belong to the poor wherever they are found, in Calgary and beyond.

Membership

Number of active members:	41
Number of auxiliary members:	4
Number of volunteer hours:	~ 1131
Monthly meetings:	4th Tuesdays of the month

Home Visits

Number of Homes visited:	475
Number of Adults served:	698 (including Christmas Hampers)
Number of Children served:	664 (including Christmas Hampers)

Throughout the year, a dedicated group of approximately 30 volunteers respond to an average of 30 to 40 calls received monthly from individuals requesting food hampers and/or assistance with rent, utilities, furniture, clothing, and so on. A considerable number of the individuals served are referred to SSVP by other community agencies, schools, women's shelters, or the City of Calgary. We in turn refer people to Alberta Works, Calgary Housing, and other appropriate agencies when they require more resources or professional help than we can provide.

Christmas Hamper Program

The *Christmas Hamper* program, made possible through numerous volunteer hours devoted by members of the Christmas Hamper Committee, is funded by the St Vincent de Paul Society. This year's Hamper Day occurred on December 18th and involved more than 360 parish volunteers. Students from Saint Joan of Arc, John Costello, Guardian Angels, and St Michael schools participated in food drives, helped with food sorting, and volunteered on Hamper Day. Seventy-two parish families were involved in delivering hampers on December 18th.

The number of individuals served this year was the largest ever, representing an increase of 41 persons compared to 2016. A total of 173 hampers were prepared and delivered, assisting 632 individuals, including 331 children. Parishioners provided gifts for 229 children through the Angel Tree Program. Most hamper recipients (120) were referred to the program by members of the St Vincent de Paul Society, with an additional 23 families identified by parish schools and parishioners. As has been our practice for several years, 30 food hampers (without gifts) were provided to support the work of SSVP in Saint Bernard parish, which traditionally experiences a very high demand for Christmas Hampers but has far fewer resources than St Michael's.

Compared to 2016, fewer items overall and more items of lower cost were donated through school and Share Sunday food drives, but cash donations by generous parishioners allowed us to respond to demand. The total *estimated* value of the program – in food donations and actual cash expenditures – is about \$50,000, half of which (\$26,332) is directly funded by donations made to SSVP by parishioners not only at Christmas, but throughout the year.

Despite claims that the Alberta economy is showing signs of recovery, the demand for assistance from individuals and families facing foreclosure and/or eviction and disconnection of utilities underlines the fact that Calgary is far from being in the clear as far as the economy is concerned. Expenses for the St Vincent de Paul Society consistently exceed revenues,

but thanks to the kindness of the St Michael Catholic Community, we continue to meet demand for food and other forms of assistance. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of donors who support us in serving the less fortunate members of our community.

Finances

Total Donations: \$ 79,897.41
Total Expenses: \$ 96,010.48
(Deficit) / Surplus: \$ 16,113.07**

** The deficit was offset by a positive bank balance at the beginning of 2017.

Disbursements / Expense Breakdown

Bank Service Charges	306.56
Bus Tickets	2,272.50
Christmas Hampers & Gift Certificates.	26,332.15
Client Household items	609.00
Client Medical	554.67
Client Other	1,134.93
Refugee Settling expense	141.27
Client Rent	21,753.68
Client Transportation	100.00
Client Utility	11,685.11
Food Purchases for Larder	21,051.11
Client Moving expenses	345.54
Insurance (mandatory for SSVP volunteers)	379.04
Member Training (e.g., Development, SSVP Annual General Assembly)	1399.95
Miscellaneous Expenses (e.g., stamps, office supplies)	144.25
Tithe to Calgary Diocesan Central Council	5,000.00
SSVP Supplies	783.72
Twinning (support for Twin Conference in Guatemala)	<u>2,020.00</u>
TOTAL:	96,010.48

*Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God
and persons to one another ...*

~ Vincent de Paul

Please contact *the Society of St Vincent de Paul* at (403) 240-0423, extension 122 if you have questions or would like to join our Ministry.