



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul
St Michael Conference
2018 Report to St Michael Catholic Community**

The Society of St Vincent de Paul, St Michael Conference, was established 25 years ago, in January 1994.

The Mission of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is to live the Gospel message by serving disadvantaged individuals within our parish boundaries with respect, justice, and joy ... regardless of creed, ethnicity, or point of view. Members meet regularly to pray, deepen their understanding of the Society, share ideas, discuss challenges encountered in serving the poor, and develop fellowship. Our funding is entirely derived from the parishioners of St Michael Catholic Community who donate with great generosity, kindness, and thoughtfulness, for which we are eternally grateful.

We currently have 40 active members serving in various capacities (e.g., home visitor, food purchaser, phone coordinator, banking director, or special advisor). Our executive team is comprised of the President, two vice-presidents, a treasurer, and a secretary. In the past year, our dedicated team of volunteers has contributed about 2700 hours in serving the needs of the less fortunate in our community. Two of our current members, **Paulette Crawford** and **Paula Smith** were *founding* members of the St Michael SSVP conference 25 years ago. They enthusiastically continue to donate their time and talent in serving the poor and providing guidance, support, and mentorship to those of us who gratefully benefit from their experience and expertise.

We are also blessed to have Heather Schilling as co-Spiritual Advisor (along with Fr. John Nemanic), ably fostering the spiritual development of our members.

Home visits

In the past year, volunteers visited **209** homes, providing support to **595** adults and **464** children (including Christmas Hampers). Members always conduct visits in pairs, reaching out to individuals where they live ... listening, encouraging, and hopefully being a friend. We provide food hampers, and/or assist with rent, utilities, or other urgent needs as feasible. We refer individuals or families to other community agencies better equipped to meet ongoing needs when the situation is beyond our ability to manage.

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, 175 hampers were prepared and delivered, serving 650 individuals, of whom 321 were children. This represented a slight increase (3%) compared to the number of individuals served last year. Ninety-three (93) hampers contained gifts for children, including 229 gifts provided by individual parishioners through the Angel Tree program. SSVP referred 122 individuals/families to the Christmas Hamper program, and 22 families were referred from parish schools and/or parishioners directly. Thirty-one (31) hampers were prepared for Saint Bernard parish, as has been our practice for many years.

The total value of the Christmas Hamper program this year was estimated at \$49,311, which comprised cash directly expended, as well as donated food and gifts. The value of each hamper is consistently estimated at about \$76 per person. About half of the needed items are donated and the remainder is funded through contributions directed to SSVP throughout the year.

More than 360 parish volunteers participated in Hamper Day, which was held on December 17th. Parish schools supported the program with food drives and student volunteers. This year, new Diocesan policies required all individuals involved in hamper deliveries to undergo police checks and complete an online course on abuse prevention. This consumed a great deal of time and effort on the part of Darlene Saltesz who organizes volunteers for the Christmas Hamper program, and Marvin Matthews, St Michael volunteer coordinator. Their support and that of parish administration and office staff in the success of the program is gratefully acknowledged.

Finances

	2018	2017	2016	2015
Total Revenue	\$100,743.38	\$79,897.41	\$88,574.82	\$96,211.36
Total Expenses	\$75,572.11	\$96,010.48	\$101,576.71	\$88,655.15
Deficit/Surplus	\$25,171.07	(\$16,113.07)	(\$13,001.89)	\$7,556.21

Disbursements

Bank Service Charges	222.33
Bus Tickets	993.00
Christmas Hampers/Gift Cert.	22,910.50
Client Clothing	36.74
Client Household Items	1,305.50
Client Medical	2,544.00
Client Other	1,163.82
Client Rent	19,317.75
Client Utility	4,160.40
Food Purchases for Larder	14,281.34
Gift card expenses	340.00
Insurance	116.07
Member Training	46.51
Paid to West Particular	5,000.00
SSVP Supplies	1,14.15
Twining (Conferencia Reina de la Paz, Guatemala)	<u>2,020.00</u>
	75,572.11

Please look for more information about the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in church bulletins throughout this 25th Anniversary year, as we highlight activities of the St Michael SSVP Conference past and present!

“Help honours when, to the bread that nourishes, it adds the visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, the friendly shake of the hand that lifts up sinking courage; when it treats the poor man with respect, not only as an equal but as a superior, since he is suffering that which we would perhaps not be able to bear ourselves; since he is among us as the messenger of God, sent to put our justice and charity to the test, and to save us by our works.”

(Frederic Ozanam, from an article in l'Ère nouvelle, October 21, 1848)

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.