



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
St Michael Conference  
2020 Report to St Michael Catholic Community**

**The Society of St Vincent de Paul, St Michael Conference, was established 27 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 35 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, one vice-president, a treasurer, and a secretary. In the past year, our dedicated team of volunteers has contributed about 1550 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 27 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 Father Poul as Spiritual Advisor, ably fostering the spiritual development of our members.

#### **Home visits**

In the past year, volunteers visited **268** homes, providing support to **358** adults and **295** 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, 61 hampers were prepared and delivered, serving 269 individuals, of whom 159 were children. Due to COVID-19 challenges the Christmas hamper program was scaled back in comparison to previous years. Hampers consisted only of nonperishable foods and gift cards.

The total value of the Christmas Hamper program this year was estimated at \$20,000, which comprised cash directly expended, as well as donated food and gifts.

Parish schools supported the program with food drives and student volunteers. Thank you to Collen Fitzpatrick and her Christmas Hamper team, Jeanne Besner and the SSVP members, the volunteers and the support of parish administration and staff in the success of this year's program.

## Finances

	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total Revenue	\$146,193.77	\$113,839.78	\$100,743.38	\$79,897.41
Total Expenses	\$98,488.45	\$87,089.89	\$75,572.11	\$96,010.48
Deficit/Surplus	\$47,705.32	\$26,749.89	\$25,171.07	(\$16,113.0)

## **Disbursements**

Bank Service Charges	\$171.48
Transportation	\$1,266.58
Christmas Hampers/Gift Cert.	\$20,639.11
Client Clothing	\$94.47
Client Other	\$846.60
Client Rent	\$42,308.74
Client Utility	\$1,408.22
Food Purchases for Larder	\$17,757.68
Gift card expenses	\$50
Paid to West Particular	\$10,000
SSVP Supplies	\$425.57
Twinning (Conferencia Reina de la Paz, Guatemala)	<u>\$3,520.00</u>
	<b>\$98,488.45</b>

Please look for more information about the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in church bulletins throughout this 25<sup>th</sup> 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.