

# Society of St. Vincent de Paul

## Quarterly Newsletter

January 2026, Issue No. 8



### President's Note

Sara Carriere, SVdP President

Hello Friends,

First, Thank you for your generous support of our mission work during this Advent. Through your prayers and gifts of time and treasure you are the foundation of Christ's work for our brothers and sisters in need. God multiplies your Fishes and Loaves.

Sometimes we members can feel discouraged at the smallness of our help in the face of the great need we see. Frédéric expressed this idea often, especially in defense of the Society's works against those who criticized it as the "charity of a glass of water." In other words, the critics only measured success in worldly terms, by pounds of bread, or vast numbers of people reached. The Society, on the other hand, measures success by the tears we dry, the hands we hold, and the hearts we touch with the love of God. We imitate Christ in celebrating each home visit like the shepherd who leaves his entire flock for the sake of a single lost sheep

God measures us by our love.  
In humility, Sara, Vincentian

### Service to our Neighbors

Our Vincentians paid a visit to Alice and delivered a Blessing Bag to her and her family. They were greeted by Alice's five year old daughter who was happily playing with her dollhouse. Alice was excited about the new large cooking pot and other items from the Blessing Bag. She said it felt like Christmas!



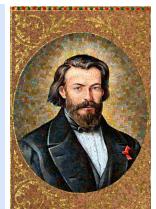
During the visit, our Vincentians noticed the refrigerator door needed a repair and encouraged Alice to ask her apartment maintenance team to repair it - she appreciated the tip!

Unfortunately, Alice's hours were reduced over the holidays by Ford, and she fell behind in her rent. SVDP assisted with the rent payment which allowed her to go to court and make arrangements to avoid the eviction she was facing. She is now back at work with her regular full-time hours and feels confident about her job and her future. The visit ended with a prayer for Alice and her family and for all people who are unemployed.

### Quote of the Quarter

In my life I want to become better and do a little good.

— Frédéric Ozanam



### Spiritual Formation



Congratulations to three members who were commissioned as Full Vincentians: Thomas Mussio, Barbara Persensky, and Linda Westervelt. Thank you for your service!



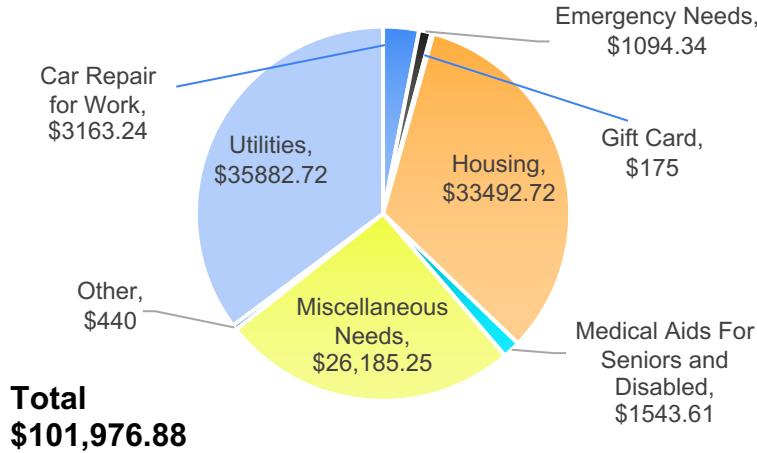
Based in the offices of St. Thomas Church, the Ann Arbor SVdP conference collaborates closely with local social workers to pinpoint individuals and families requiring assistance. Once identified, SVdP members assess the most effective aid, be it financial assistance, home visits, resource referrals, or other forms of support. Our members live out their vocation by providing companionship, encouragement, and prayers during challenging times for those in need.

## OUR LITTLEST DONOR

Mass was over, Deacon Tom Loewe, Chaplain to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, was heading to the sacristy when he was stopped. A parishioner then introduced himself and his little daughter. The man bent down and asked his daughter if she had something to give to Deacon Tom. She bravely held out her little hand and opened it. She said, "This is for St. Vincent." Her tiny palm was filled with pennies and dimes and the smile on her face could've lit up the Church. Great or small, a gift to Saint Vincent de Paul brings joy.



## Total Spent Assisting our Neighbors in 2025



## Fellowship

Dec 13 - Christmas party



February 18 - Lent Begins

March 6 - Hosting Lenten Soup Supper

April 5 - Easter Sunday

April 26 – Ozanam Sunday – Honoring our Founder Blessed Frederick Ozanam



## Be a G.E.M. (Gives Every Month)

Every day families in our area and our Parish need help. Every day families turn to Vincentian volunteers for aid - aid that you can help deliver by giving monthly. When you become a GEM (Gives Every Month) you extend a hand of hope directly into the homes of those in need.

A GEM is committed to helping each and every day by making an online donation once a month. If you'd like to become an SVDP GEM please see the link below:  
[sta2.org/church/.giving](http://sta2.org/church/.giving)

If you'd like to discuss becoming a GEM with a Vincentian, please contact:  
Carol Dick at [tdcd40@comcast.net](mailto:tdcd40@comcast.net)

## By the Numbers

ASSISTED	2 <sup>nd</sup> QTR 2025	3 <sup>rd</sup> QTR 2025	4 <sup>th</sup> QTR 2025
Households	99	126	106
Adults	115	157	131
Children	97	196	141
Home Visits	37	40	37
\$ Provided	\$31,594	\$39,843	\$33,033

We could really use your help:  
**PLEASE DONATE TODAY**

St. Thomas the Apostle Church website:

[www.sta2.org/church/giving](http://www.sta2.org/church/giving)

or by mail:

530 Elizabeth St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104.



Are you being called to serve Christ as a volunteer for St. Vincent DePaul Society?

Contact us at [barbleenorman@gmail.com](mailto:barbleenorman@gmail.com) or 734 761-8606 extension #8."

