

St. Vincent de Paul Society Annual Report to You



St. Vincent de Paul was called the Apostle of Charity for his service to the poor. At St. Mary's, his inspirational work continues every day. Unique among all charity providers in Alexandria, we follow the words of Our Lord to go out in twos, visiting the needy in their homes, listening to their concerns, offering respect, dignity and hope as we seek to address their corporal and spiritual needs.

Over the years, our volunteers have touched the lives of many families and individuals who live so close to us. Our database of over 4000 names represents many more than this number who have been helped. We do so with your financial support and your prayers. During the last fiscal year, we provided \$103,945.46 of assistance to keep families in their homes, their electricity on, their water flowing, their children fed and many other services.

This year, the local sewage utility, Alex Renew, moved to cut off water to those in arrears. We worked closely with Alex Renew leadership to arrange a pledge system and remove the threat of cutoff for those we seek to help. Pam, with three kids, was in tears when we told her the good news. Lisa, a grandmother taking responsibility for two little ones, promised to pray every day for us and our benefactors (that's you!). Tom, a recovering alcoholic whose life as a banker, husband and father of three was destroyed by this insidious curse, told us he had new hope. With God's help, our assistance, and the wonderful program run at Robinson House, he would succeed. Pray for these three and so many others we help.

Our Sustainment Fund goes even further, assisting families to get on the path to self-sufficiency and stay there. We are helping a man who was injured badly while putting his life in danger to save lives when the Navy Yard was attacked. He never received any compensation since he was working for a contractor. Most recently we helped a man with a grown son who is autistic. They are both working and are determined to never accept government aid. With our support, partnering with Catholic Charities and ALIVE, he has cleared his bills, giving him and his son new hope. Please drop a check at the Parish Office or the Poor Box in the name SVDP Sustainment Fund to help those who help themselves.

As we Vincentians celebrate the feast of St. Vincent on September 27, keep our work in mind every time you hear a lector say, "Please remember the poor as you leave the church by contributing to the Poor Box." And say a prayer before the inspirational stained glass window of St. Vincent de Paul near the left front of the church. Look closely for the special prayer cards we occasionally leave there.

We also ask that you consider joining us as a volunteer, sharing our fellowship as we carry out the work Our Lord commanded us to do. We are hosting a wine and cheese orientation in the Lyceum Auditorium at 7:30pm on Wednesday, October 18. Please answer Christ's call and come join us. For more information, contact: Jim Larocco at rocca-rocco@usa.net.



May the blessings of St. Vincent de Paul be upon you, your families and your loved ones.