

A Message From Our Executive Director



As I write this article we are a mere four days away from Thanksgiving. How wise our forefathers were to include this as one of our national holidays. It is truly a time to stop and reflect on all that our Creator has bestowed upon us. I am blessed to not only reflect upon my personal life, but also that of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

During my 21 months as the Executive Director of the Denver Metro Council, I have witnessed so much love and respect shown by our Vincentian volunteers toward those in need. I have not yet tallied the annual statistics for our latest fiscal year (October 2018 through September 2019), but I am certain they will exceed our previous year’s record numbers. Here are some examples of the assistance given during this past fiscal year. This is merely a sample of what we were able to do in our communities, ranging from Loveland in the north to Colorado Springs in the south.

UTILITIES 425 families	Average Household Assist \$459	Total Assistance \$195,000
ANONYMOUS FOUNDATION 50 families	Average Household Assist \$2,205	Total Assistance \$110,238
RENTAL	798 Adults 682 Children	Total Assistance \$102,470
ARC GIFT CARDS	138 Adults 144 Children	Total Assistance \$16,700

It is through partnerships with not only organizations in our communities but, more importantly, through gifts from our donors that make us a strong service community. What a blessing you are to the Society of St Vincent de Paul Denver Metro Council and its 32 conferences! May God bless you during this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Steve Loftis

Turn your **HEAP** Into *Help!*

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has a quick and easy way to turn your unwanted car or boat into cash to help those in need.

Go to **svdpUSAcars.com** or call **1-800-322-8284**

Your donation qualifies as a tax deduction.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul



At our annual business meeting in October, Patrick Hanafée became our new Metro Council President. Don Kany retired from that position after serving his six year term. Don solidified relationships with our regional groups and the National Council. Thank you, Don, for all your tireless efforts, dedication and work.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Denver/Metro Council
558 Castle Pines Pkwy Unit B-4 #107
Castle Pines CO 80108

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SOCIETY NEWS
THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
DENVER METRO COUNCIL

Fall 2019



Colorado Gives Day
December 10

Community First Foundation and FirstBank are presenting Colorado Gives Day on Tuesday, December 10. This annual statewide movement celebrates and increases philanthropy in Colorado through online giving. The \$1 Million Incentive Fund created by the partners is one of the largest giving-day incentive funds in the country.

How to Give

Make a donation to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Denver Metro Council through ColoradoGives.org. To do this:

- Go to www.coloradogives.org
- In the box “the name or key word,” type St. Vincent de Paul Society

Thank you for supporting The Society and our mission to help our neighbors in need!

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Steve Loftis

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PHONE
303.960.9163

FAX
303.757.4654

WEBSITE
www.svdpcden.org

E-MAIL
svdpden@outlook.com

FACEBOOK.COM
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul-
Denver Metro Council

TWITTER
[@svdp_Denver](https://twitter.com/svdp_Denver)

*Where There’s
a Will...
There’s a WAY
for you to help
those in need.*

Consider a Legacy Gift to
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
through our fund at The Catholic Foundation.

Contact Jean Finegan at **303-867-0613**

or go to **CatholicFoundation.com** to find out how
you can plan your Legacy gift to help those in need.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul



From Our Metro Council President



Some conferences serve neighbors in adjacent parishes because we do not have enough conferences. Our goal is to have past and current presidents, along with experienced Vincentians, lead new conference development in each deanery. For example, Lynne Gallagher, Nativity's conference president and the Nativity team is working on new conferences in the Boulder deanery. They think Guardian Angels in Mead is close to making a decision. A considerable amount of our time and effort have gone into establishing conferences at Our Lady Mother of the Church in Commerce City and St. Augustine in Brighton. George Maes (Queen of Peace Conference) will now be helping with conference expansions.

Consistent with SSVdP national guidelines, Chris Strassburger (St. Mary Conference) is working with the SSVdP Midwest Region officers and conferences in the Colorado Springs Diocese to address the issue of establishing a SSVdP Council for Colorado Springs. As discussed at the business meeting last month, the Organization of District Councils can be helpful, particularly for communication. The Southwest and East Deanery Conference presidents already meet once a month to exchange ideas and information. There is a lot of work to do but we are on the right path.

Gayle Hamlett, PhD (St. Ignatius of Loyola Conference) is the new Council Spiritual Advisor and Jennifer Otey (Cathedral Conference) is our new Secretary. Don Kany (MPB Conference) is working with Steve Loftis on relocating our Council office to Denver. Paul Narduzzo (St. Francis of Assisi Conference), our Treasurer, oversees our financial activities and ensures that our Denver Metro Council meets all SSVdP requirements. Sally Wolfe (St. Ignatius of Loyola) represents our Council for all Voice of the Poor programs.

The next newsletter will provide an update of other Council activities focused on conference support.

Patrick Hanafee

“Put your trust in Him and, following His example, always act humbly, graciously and in good faith.”

St. Vincent de Paul

Fresh Start Loans



DID YOU KNOW? Payday lending involves small-dollar, high-interest loans that trap consumers into a long-term cycle of debt and fees. Payday lenders tout themselves as a needed service providing access to emergency credit. However, the payday loan model creates a debt trap that is easy to get into, but it is extremely difficult to escape. The passage of Proposition 111 last year significantly limited payday lenders' ability to charge high fees, but payday loan interest rates can still be as high as 36% under the new law.

Fortunately, the Fresh Start Loan Program offered by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul allows our neighbors to replace high cost payday loans with very low cost loans (less than 5%) from our partner, Fidelis Catholic Credit Union.

If you know of a neighbor who has been caught in the vicious cycle of a payday loan, refer them to your local SVdP conference. Thus far, we have helped several neighbors replace a total of \$5,000 in payday loans with a like amount of low-cost loans from Fidelis, and we have the capacity to help many more!

National Assembly



Queen of Peace Parish African Choir

The Denver Metro Council was honored to be the host city for the 2019 National Assembly that was held August 28-31 at the Gaylord Rockies. Over 750 Vincentians from around the country came to Denver to grow their spirituality, learn new ideas from other Conferences and Councils on how to help our neighbors in need and develop long lasting friendships, all of which are essential elements of being a Vincentian in the Society.

Our local committee met for a year and a half and worked with key employees at the National office in St. Louis to plan this Assembly. We had 84 volunteers who filled 134 positions over the course of the four days of the Assembly.

Highlights from the assembly included daily mass, multiple workshops, youth and young adult activities, and our Host City event, the Wild West Fest, which featured Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill, along with our own Vincentian musician, Jim Wachuta. A great time was had by all.

Those who served on the committee were: Gail Rowe, Grace Leyba, Elaine Murphy, Essy Goffinet, John Kunkel, George Maes, Steve Loftis and Chris Strassburger.

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help make our National Assembly successful and to all of those who made a financial donation to help cover the expenses we incurred.

National Spiritual Adviser Bishop Hying reminded the audience that “everyone has secret sorrows.”

The Madison, Wisconsin Council has a pharmacy for neighbors.

ENERGY OUTREACH COLORADO
Together We Power Stability

We want to again thank Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) for their continued support by giving us another grant to pay utility bills. By making these payments, we have been able to keep people warm in their homes. Many states do not have this type of assistance. We are very lucky to have such an insightful utility company in Colorado.

Who Was Len Langenderfer?

Mr. Leonard Langenderfer was one of those Vincentians who wanted to continue sharing with those living in poverty, even after he died. He left funds to his home Conference at St. Vincent de Paul Parish and to the Metro Council. That is where the Len Langenderfer Housing Fund comes from. It is Council's way of honoring Len's service and Len's way to honor those in need.

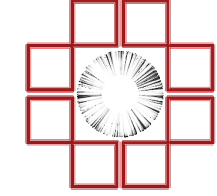
You can encourage all to an active Vincentian lifestyle by leaving something to the Society. Of course, we know that you want to leave a legacy to your children. One aspect of that gift could involve your example of sharing your abundance with those in need.

Welcome Gayle



John Kunkel, Metro Council spiritual advisor, had to relocate to California to be near family. We are blessed with our new spiritual advisor, Dr. Gayle Hamlett. Gayle has been spiritual advisor at St. Ignatius Loyola since its inception as a Conference more than 10 years ago. We look forward to her thoughts and reflections as we all continue this journey together.

Technology at Light of the World Conference

 Light of the World Roman Catholic Church St. Vincent de Paul Conference (LOTW) was established in January 2018. A few months after we started our home visits, it was obvious to many of us that we would be working with many documents such as the intake application, the EOC application, the LEAP application and others. We gathered many training materials as we learned more and more how a conference should run. We accumulated many flyers and pamphlets with numerous resources. The leadership discussed how we could manage this massive amount of information and paperwork. Out of this discussion emerged the idea of creating our own website to house this information and more, such as meeting minutes, current EOC and Langenderfer Fund's status, and upcoming events. We wanted a location where we could easily find all documents, information and resources we might need at any given time for a neighbor in need. We decided on a site separate from that of the parish—a site that would be accessible only to active SVdP members in order to ensure complete privacy.

We were very fortunate to find Greg R., a member of the young adult group at our

Top Hat Award

Noelle Johnson was awarded the Top Hat award this year. This is the recognition for a Vincentian who served in an exemplary manner. Noelle serves our neighbors tirelessly, not only this year, but continuously.

Grace Leyba
LOTW SVdP Secretary