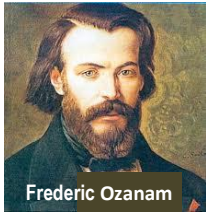




SOCIETY NEWS

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT De PAUL
Denver Metro Council
May 2024



Frederic Ozanam

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP), a charitable organization dedicated to the service of the poor was established by French university students in Paris in 1833, led by the Blessed Frederic Ozanam. SVdP is active in 151 countries with 800,000 members. The first SVdP chapter in the United States was established in 1845 in St. Louis, MO.

Membership in the United States totals more than 98,000 in 4,400 conferences. The national headquarters is in St. Louis. Members of the Society are known as "Vincentians," after St. Vincent de Paul, the patron of the organization. Vincentians are organized into conferences, a group of volunteers who gather together to grow spiritually and offer person-to-person service to those in need or living in poverty. SVdP activities in Denver began in 1876. Today, the Denver Metro Council includes 29 conferences with 443 members who last year served 27,385 people living in six counties. The conferences provided \$2,355,670 in a wide variety of financial aid to households.



St. Vincent de Paul

Your donations help to fund three important Denver Metro Council conference assistance programs. These programs involve housing, auto repair and household goods.



Ozanam Housing Fund Using your donations enables the Council to provide one-half of the amount used by a conference to assist a household with a mortgage, rent or motel payment, up to \$300. For example, if a conference pays \$600 to a landlord on behalf of a neighbor-in-need (NIN), the Council would reimburse the conference \$300. The cost of rent in Colorado has increased over 5% faster than average weekly earnings.

Our **Saint Rose of Lima** conference is incredibly grateful for the Ozanam Housing Fund. Because of this reimbursement program, we can assist our neighbors-in-need who have high-rent expenses. Families like Richard who suffered a stroke and could not pay his rent . . . Ozanam made it possible. Or Maria, whose husband was in home-hospice, had to leave work to be at his side and could not pay the rent . . . Ozanam made it possible, again. There are many families who we serve that benefit from this Fund who, otherwise, would face eviction. Every dollar that has been reimbursed by Ozanam has helped both our neighbor and our conference in the time of need. We truly value the Ozanam Housing Fund.

Stable and affordable housing is a basic requirement to establish a sustainable pathway for life. Many receive approval from our local housing agencies for a voucher, but are unable to meet the deposit requirements to enter the program. The **All Souls** Conference has combined with the Ozanam Housing Fund to raise the required deposit. This partnership has assisted individuals and families that were homeless, residing in a shelter or other marginal housing, to be placed in a secure housing arrangement. The availability of Ozanam Housing Funds allows our Conference to stretch its resources and maximize the impact we make within the All Souls community.

Amanda's \$1,750 deposit and rent was paid by our **St. Louis** conference using Ozanam funds. Amanda is a single mother of three and faced a serious problem when the rent was raised. The Ozanam funds were also used when Luis got behind on rent when he had knee surgery and his employer did not offer sick days. The funds were used again for another working, single mother who was not receiving enough financial support from her former husband and fell short on a month's rent.



Vehicle Repair Program Auto repair costs are rising over 50% faster than earnings, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The program reimburses conferences up to \$750 or one-half of the total repair bill paid by the conference.

Vincentians at the **St. Gianna Molla** conference helped a disabled single woman with a \$693 car repair. The car had been just sitting idle for three months. The NIN just did not have the funds so the conference paid half and the Denver Metro Council paid half of the total bill.

Tasha, a single mom with a 24 year-old disabled son and 17 year-old daughter needed her car repaired so she could get to her full time job. When she went to **St. Pius X** Vincentians, they accompanied her to a car repair shop where the mechanic detailed the needed repairs. Vincentians used the vehicle repair program to help pay the repair bill. In another situation, Larry had a starter but needed financial help in getting the starter installed in his car. Again, the vehicle repair program was used to get the job done. Utilizing the program enables the conference to help more people with a variety of aid.

Light of the World Vincentians partnered with our St. Louis Conference, the Englewood School District and Christian Brothers Automotive Ken Caryl in helping a single mother with two children. She lives in a shelter and like so many others, needs a car in order to get to her workplace. The starter was broken and it was necessary to have her car towed to the repair shop as well as replace the starter.



ARC Gift Cards The Council, using donations, purchases ARC gift cards at a 50% discount through a partnership arrangement with ARC. The Council then provides the gift

cards to conferences seeking to help NIN purchase household goods including mattresses, bed frames, tables, chairs, other furniture, dishes, and clothes.

This past year, with the influx of newly arrived persons into Denver, a group of Venezuela parents found their way to **Annunciation** School to enroll their children. At that time, these parents were being housed in two city shelters. While the children were in a safe and secure environment after an arduous journey, the parents were able to continue their quest for employment and to find housing apart from the shelters. Having travelled with a few meager possessions, they now were housed but had no furnishings for their small kitchens, living rooms and bedrooms. They were all committed to keeping their children at the school, recognizing the children could once again have some normalcy restored to their lives and be happy learning and playing with their new friends.

A variety of resources were scoured to secure needed items. The most generous offering came from the Denver Metro St. Vincent de Paul Society. Because of the urgent nature, Metro was able to donate ARC cards and enabled us to expedite their arrival and the necessary paperwork.

A member of Annunciation's St. Vincent De Paul Conference was able to accompany mothers to ARC stores as they selected kitchenware, furniture and beds as well as clothing items. It is difficult to imagine the length of time and who would facilitate acquiring these items if it had not been for the Metro Council.

One of the volunteers accompanying the women shared two consistent themes throughout this process: the first was the gratitude that people expressed for the assistance they were given and secondly, no one took more than what they thought was essential and sufficient. Welcoming the stranger entails more than the initial greeting. It is accompanying people and enabling them as they struggle to be "at home" in a new and foreign land. The Metro Council of St. Vincent de Paul has been present throughout this journey.

St. Michael the Archangel Vincentians used ARC gift cards to purchase two mattresses for an immigrant family. The parents and two children had been sleeping four across on one mattress. Sheets and pillows were purchased at the same time. Two, donated hand-crafted quilts were provided for the children.



Welcoming new conferences

Christ the King

Roman Catholic Church

830 Elm St. Denver, CO 80220



Rev. Rocco Porter
Pastor

Christ the King conference was originally founded on October 1, 1951, and aggregated on November 24, 1952. After a relatively brief absence, the conference was renewed on August 16, 2023. This new beginning has recaptured the strengths of the Christ the King community as we work together to build our spirituality, friendship, and service. Inspired by a verse from Matthew, *No act of charity is foreign to the Society. We aspire to follow in the footsteps of Jesus with humility and kindness.*

Over the past year, we have felt truly blessed by the support of our Pastor, Rev. Rocco Porter. He has provided leadership in spirit and action, especially his call to parishioners to participate in the goals of SVdP. Father Rocco instituted a *Society of St. Vincent de Paul Sunday* when new volunteers and donors found a spiritual and meaningful way to contribute to this parish outreach program. We remain encouraged and grateful for the generous support of our parish members.

Most rewarding has been the relationships established with neighbors in need. The comfort level and candid dialogues that have been established proved to not only serve typical assistance needs (e.g., rent, utilities, vehicle repair), but also our neighbors have benefited from other resources in the community. In one special case, the neighbor began participating in our church masses in gratitude for the help provided.

We hope that other parishes will soon consider adding a St. Vincent de Paul conference to their community. The blessings are abundant!

St. Augustine CATHOLIC CHURCH

178 S. 6th Ave. Brighton, CO 80601

Help line: 720-230-1892



My name is Father Julio Amezcua and I arrived as the Pastor of St. Augustine Catholic Church in Brighton in April 22nd 2023. The Church has a beautiful community of people who want to serve the Lord and help those in need. As soon as I arrived, I went to visit the

neighbors and went around the city to see the place where the Lord had assigned me to be. Even though the city is well; it is indeed clear that it needs the announcement of the Gospel to reach all. It was soon after April that I was approached by St. Vincent de Paul Society to ask me to open a conference in the Parish of St. Augustine. We decided to begin organically and grow little by little. Since then, many beautiful stories of helping people in need have become true in our Parish. I am very happy that St. Vincent de Paul is in the city of Brighton. I continue to pray that we may help more and more people as we grow and that the announcement of the Gospel reaches those who are most in need.

May God bless you,

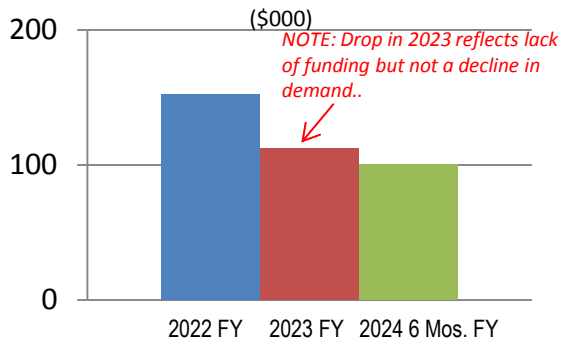
Fr. Julio Amezcua



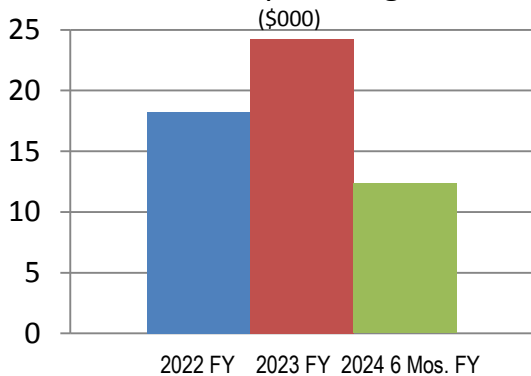
St. Augustine Vincentians helped this neighbor-in-need (center) with rent assistance, food from the church pantry and a warm, winter coat.

The SVdP conference was founded on November 8, 2023.

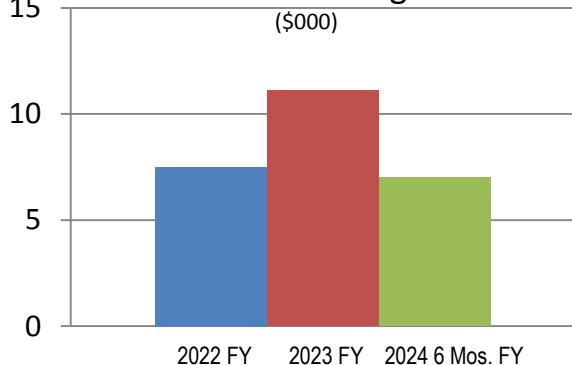
Ozanam Housing Program



Vehicle Repair Program



ARC Gift Card Program



When you send a contribution to our SVdP Denver Metro Council, you are helping fund our three, primary conference support programs. The support is made available to all 29 conferences that are spread around the Denver metro area. Our parish conferences are located in Aurora, Brighton, Broomfield, Centennial, Commerce City, Denver, Englewood, Foxfield, Littleton, Loveland, Mead, and Sheridan.

During the 2022-23 fiscal year (Oct 2022-Sept, 2023) 443 Vincentians assisted 27,385 adults and children while providing many with a sense of hope and encouragement. While most of the in-person visits focus on rent, utilities and other financial assistance, over 160 Vincentian visits were made to jails and nursing centers. Our Vincentians spent 39,850 hours assisting neighbors-in-need (NIN), drove 68,584 miles and provided \$2,355,670 in a variety of assistance.

We are registered with the IRS and Colorado Secretary of State as a 501(c)(3) organization and our accounting records are reviewed regularly by a CPA firm.

Our overhead is low because our Council administrative staff is part-time and our office is located in a Denver Archdiocese building with very reasonable rent. Our Vincentians, of course, are volunteers. We work closely with the Archdiocese and meet regularly with Archbishop Samuel J. Aquilla.

In addition to the Denver Metro Council-funded programs shown above, the Council utilized \$771,213 in Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) funds to help pay Xcel and other utility bills for over 500 households recommended by SVDP conferences in the 2022-23 fiscal year and \$328,639 during the first six months of the current fiscal year.

Patrick L. Hanafee, President Erin Hice, Executive Director

Please help us help others by donating!

Give online: <https://www.coloradogives.org/donate/SVDP-co>

or mail a check to:

Denver Metro Council

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

2830 Lawrence St.

Denver, CO 80205

