

SOCIETY NEWS

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL DENVER METRO COUNCIL



Spring 2020



Dr. Seuss

Oh The Places You'll Go (and the things you'll do...as a Vincentian)

It was a cold, snowy morning in Denver. In fact, it was so snowy that all the schools were closed. A trio of septuagenarian Vincentians had made a promise to a neighbor that they would purchase a bed mattress from the thrift store that day. They didn't want the neighbor to sleep on the floor one more night. So shopping they did!

They chugged to the store in their "soccer mom" van, purchased the mattress, lugged it out to the car only to find that it wouldn't fit inside! All the while snow was falling at an alarming rate.

An enterprising younger store employee came up with the idea of wrapping the mattress on the vehicle's roof. He brought out a ginormous roll of Saran Wrap. The third Vincentian had to get inside the van so as to be able to have the doors closed. She chuckled as she was wrapped inside the car.

Around the top, through the inside and around the top went the wrap until the mattress was bonded to the roof. Off they went to the neighbor's apartment. Luckily traffic was driving slowly due to the weather conditions and no one hollered at them for being snails.

The end result of all this work was that the young couple had a bed that night. Oh the places you'll go and the things you'll do...as a Vincentian.

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PHONE

303.960.9163

FAX

303.757.4654

WEBSITE

www.svdpcden.org

E-MAIL

svdpcden@outlook.com

FACEBOOK.COM

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul-
Denver Metro Council

TWITTER

@svdp_Denver

From Our Executive Director



Happy Spring!

It is such a privilege and a blessing to live in the glorious state of Colorado! I hope your Lent is going well and that you are looking forward to the wonderful celebration of Easter.

Not long ago I was able to finish our 2018-2019 annual report. For those of you who might not know, our last fiscal year began October 1, 2018 and ended September 30, 2019. The annual report is a summation of all 33 of our conferences and the Denver Metro Council's outreach to our neighbors in need.

I want to share some of the highlights of this past year's statistics.

First of all, congratulations to our 474 active members and 44 associate members who provided such love and care for our neighbors in need. These 518 Vincentians provided over 51,387 hours of volunteer service to over 22,000 neighbors in need. This included 3,366 home visits and 5,853 other face-to-face visits.

- Food for 3,391 individuals valued at \$169,524
- Assisted 578 neighbors with other in-kind services valued at \$38,671
- Made 728 visits with 1,411 individuals in eldercare facilities and hospitals
- Vincentian volunteers drove over 88,000 miles to assist those in need
- Helped 75 individuals with legal, medical or dental assistance

Our Vincentians certainly live up to the mission of the Society: "A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need."

If anyone would like a copy of the annual report, I will be happy to mail it to you or, if you prefer, email you a copy.

Have a blessed Easter!

Steve Loftis

Jesus said that the poor will always be with us. Ok, we know that. So, what are we doing to ensure that the service to our neighbors continues after we are gone? We want this centuries old Society to continue to meet our neighbors in their suffering and alleviate what we can. That takes our time, our talents and certainly our treasures. Consider leaving your legacy to the Society of St Vincent de Paul. (see "Where There's A Will")

Partnerships That Help Us Help Others



**ENERGY
OUTREACH
COLORADO**
Together We Power Stability

Our wonderful neighbors at Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) allowed us to pay utility bills for **214 families**. They paid **\$90,746!** We would have certainly run out of money without this partnership. Thank you, EOC.

We have another God-sent partnership that is an anonymous foundation. They helped pay **\$9,334, assisting 5 families** in a variety of ways.



Many of the neighbors we serve get themselves into debt and never see the light at the end of the tunnel. We learned recently of a woman who is now 22, a single mom who got a payday loan when she was 18 for \$200. It is not paid off and she owes \$1,700 to date. The Fresh Start Loan Program, in partnership with Fidelis CCC, is set up to assist people such as this woman. In the past fiscal year, we have begun **3 new loans for \$1,000 each**. The money owed was consolidated and the interest is quite low.



We do not have a **thrift store** for SSVdP in Colorado. But we do have ARC gift cards for neighbors. Metro Council purchases the cards, and upon request from conferences, they provide them for neighbors. This is a way we can get new mattresses, clothing and household goods for neighbors. (See "Oh the Places You'll Go.") We assisted **76 adults and 83 children** in purchasing **\$7,700** worth of goods.

Our Langenderfer Housing Fund assisted 411 adults and 362 children avoid homelessness!



This partnership is between Metro Council and the conferences. Metro Council helps

pay for housing and saves conferences that money. Metro spent \$52,303 this past year. This fund was begun through a legacy left by a committed Vincentian, Leonard Langenderfer. Thank you, Mr. Langenderfer. Your service continues on.

From Our Metro Council President

The primary responsibility of our Metro Council is to support our 33 conferences. The support includes financial programs that supplement conference funds, such as grants and foundations, in addition to the housing fund, Energy Outreach Colorado, ARC cards, legal, and loan programs. We help provide programs related to Vincentian spiritual development and we work to expand our conference network to include more parishes. Some of us represent the Council in SSVdP regional and national activities. All of this takes a devoted team with special skills.



Last fall, I described how some of the Council members focus on specific supportive roles. Other members complete our team. Tom Baldonado, president of the Good Shepherd conference, brings his marketing skills and plays an instrumental role in promoting the car donation program. Michael O'Neil, another Council member, is the Business/Advertising Manager for the Archdiocese and focuses on fund raising and a variety of SSVdP advertising. Blair Ohler is our Lead Formator, organizing the Ozanam training sessions and is the Data Base Administrator for the Midwest Region. Don Kany, past Council president, works with conferences about succession planning and Conference operating guidelines. Corky Thompson is actively engaged in the prison ministry and social justice issues. Together, we make every effort to provide leadership and effectively address conference needs.

Patrick Hanafee

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

Money from donated vehicles goes into the Langenderfer Housing Fund. Please consider us when you want to donate a vehicle. You will be helping to keep people in their homes.

Tidbits

In Denver and the surrounding area, we have 518 volunteer members who work tirelessly every day to help those in need.

Active Members: 474
Associate Members: 44
33 SSVdP Conferences

The Denver Metro Council consists of 33 SSVdP Conferences located in local parishes. If you are interested in finding out how you can become a part of our organization, please contact us at:

303.960.9163 or
ssvdpen@outlook.com

Our goal as Vincentians is to help mentor people on their self-directed journey out of poverty and through advocacy and collaboration. We attempt to remove barriers and create strong, sustainable communities.

Save the Date!

Midwest Region - 2020 Meeting
in Des Moines, Iowa
June 19-20, 2020

Join us for fellowship and workshops

Guest Speaker: Ralph Middlecamp
President, Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA

More details coming soon!



Embassy Suites
101 East Locust
Des Moines, Iowa 50309



The Midwest Regional Meeting is in Des Moines, Iowa June 19 & 20. Load up your car with Vincentians, make the road trip to Des Moines during our lovely summer and meet Vincentians who are working in our area of the country.

SAVE THE DATE

COMING UP

Vincentians are gathering for "Serve in Hope," a spiritual day. Our first tenet of the Society is to grow spiritually. Many will get together at St. Mary's Parish April 18 for uplifting messages and prayer, beginning with Mass at 8:15 a.m. All are welcome. There will be more details from the Metro office as the date get closer.



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

*"May our presence
and care to those
most in need
reflect the
gentleness,
esteem, and
dignity we see
reflected in the life
and work of
Jesus."*

St Vincent de Paul

A Vincentian Has Gone Home



Phillis Harris Brooks was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on November 23, 1951. She juggled life as a full-time mother and full-time student until she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with Cum Laude honors.

Wherever she went she impacted the lives of many, as a friend, mentor, advisor and spiritual sister in Christ. Phillis was tireless in her devotion to helping others. She helped establish a St. Vincent de Paul hotline at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish that provides assistance in various forms to people in times of need, plus she served as Vice President of her conference.

Phillis also volunteered time to the Catholic Charities school supply drive for the St. Ignatius Loyola parish. She was a member of the Cure d'Ars parish's Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of St. Peter Claver. Later, she became a member and Grand Lady of the Ladies Auxiliary at St. Ignatius Loyola.

In addition, Phillis was an instructor for Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). She looked for opportunities to help and to assist others in their growth. In short, Phillis lived her faith. She was clearly a holy woman of God who cared deeply about serving the poor. She died February 23, 2020.



St. Mark Parish in Westminster is starting up a conference. They have scheduled an information meeting April 2, 2020 with over 26 people signed up. We appreciate this new conference as we have little SSVdP coverage in the northeast. Welcome new Vincentians!



SSVDP in the US for 125 Years



In celebration of this anniversary, a mosaic of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, our founder, was placed in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. this past January. The annual Assembly in St. Louis this year will include many remembrances and celebrations of this very important anniversary. St. Louis was the first U.S. conference and is our national headquarters.



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When you shop at www.smile.amazon.com, you can be assisting those who Society members meet. Amazon donates a portion of your shopping payment to a charity of your choice. Just look for the St Vincent de Paul Society, Particular Council of Denver, choose us and you, too, will be helping neighbors.

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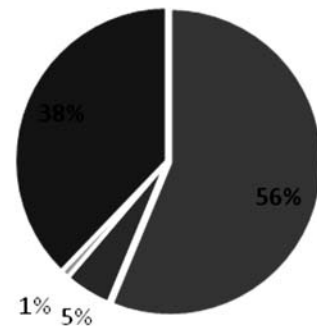


These charts are a quick snapshot of our service to neighbors and the money spent to help them. We cannot do this without you! Thank you for your generous support.

Person-to-Person Contact with the Poor
 22,435



■ In Home Visits ■ Eldercare ■ Other*



56% - Expenditures in Service to those in need
 38% - Estimated Value of Service Hours
 5% - In-kind Value of Food, Clothing, Furniture
 1% - Other In-Kind Value of Services