



# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE U.S. SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

## The largest lay

Catholic organization in the world, operating in over 150 countries, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is best known for its thrift stores and food pantries, and for the personal visits of its members to the homes of the poor and needy.

The Society was established in France in 1833 by a group of college students, including principal founder Frédéric Ozanam. The Society began its existence in the United States 12 years later, in 1845, in St. Louis, MO, where the headquarters remain. U.S. membership totals nearly 100,000 in 4,428 communities.

- Services provided by SVdP include: home, hospital, and prison visits; housing assistance; disaster relief and long-term recovery; education and mentoring; food pantries; dining halls; clothing; help with transportation, prescription medication, and rent and utility costs.
- SVdP provided nearly \$1.3 billion in tangible and in-kind services, served over 5.2 million people in need, performed more than two million service visits/contacts, and delivered almost 14 million service hours to those in need in 2019.
- The Society serves people in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions.
- The National Council coordinates programs that directly benefit local SVdP Conferences/Councils, such as: domestic disaster relief efforts, the Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run and the Friends of the Poor® Grant Program. Other support includes: fundraising and communications resources, the Servant Leadership Program, Vincentian training material and the Serving in Hope Training Program. Financial support is provided to international relief efforts as requested by the SVdP International office in Paris.
- The Society was founded in 1833 in Paris by a group of college students who were moved by the plight of the poor and challenged to put their Catholic faith into action. They adopted St. Vincent de Paul as the Society's patron because he cared for the poor, forgotten, and downtrodden, and his name had become synonymous with charity.
- To learn more about SVdP, please visit [www.svdpusa.org](http://www.svdpusa.org)

**“No form of charity is foreign to the Society.”**

**– Founder Blessed Frédéric Ozanam**

**National Council of the United States, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Inc.**

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# The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Directly Responds to Needs Created by the COVID-19 Pandemic

The individuals and families served by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul have been hit hard by the pandemic and subsequent recession, increasing the need for assistance.

At the local level, we have seen a 400% increase in demand for food pantry services. Requests for support from the National Council for local services increased by 326%, with a \$452,870 gap in July alone. We know this staggering increased need is only the beginning...

We found new ways to get food to people, to pay rent and utility payments to suppliers, all with little or no contact beyond the telephone. "Curbside" has become an everyday word. Our Conference meetings re-started with Zoom calls. Our stores (many of them anyway) re-opened with fresh coats of paint, Plexi-glass screens at the cashier stations, and social distancing stripes on the floor.

As needs change, so does the Society.  
As needs grow, so must the Society. Help us grow.

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE SOCIETY

- **Make a gift!** Support the Most Urgent Need fund so we can respond to increasing requests from local Councils.
- **Volunteer!** Help us meet the increased demand for help. Your local Council knows what is most needed in your community.

## WAYS YOU CAN GIVE TO THE SOCIETY

- **By Mail:** Make checks payable to Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
National Council Advancement Office  
66 Progress Parkway  
Maryland Heights, MO 63043
- **Online:** Go to <http://www.svdpusa.org/donate> to make an online gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Most Urgent Need fund.
- **Leave a Legacy:** Through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you can continue your Legacy of Faith.  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA, Maryland Heights, MO  
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