A LETTER FROM OUR SERVANT LEADERS

DISASTER UPDATE

Dear Vincentian Friends,

Disasters have made the headlines frequently this year. Fires, floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes have left suffering and damage in their wake in the United States and throughout the world. We are being told that this will be a very intense hurricane season, which is following a very active summer of fires. I ask you, your Conference and Council to consider contributing generously this month to our National Council Annual Disaster Appeal.

This is the best and most effective way to get disaster aid to our members working in the United States, in cooperation with our Disaster Services Corporation and to provide disaster relief throughout the world through our international structure. This appeal allows us to respond quickly to requests. It also provides funds for disasters that may not make the headlines in your local media. Our Conferences in those areas often need our help just as much as those located where a major hurricane strikes.

We all have been saddened by the devastation left by the fire in Maui this month and the earthquakes in Syria earlier this year. Many Vincentians inquired about providing funding for these disasters but we have no Vincentian presence in those locations. However, there was a major hurricane in Florida, record setting floods in Nigeria, and major flooding in eastern parts of the United States. We have Conferences and Councils present in these locations and they did receive our help. This illustrates the reason why we need to have one annual collection that can then be used as we learn the actual needs our Vincentians identify after disasters.

The Society’s Disaster Services Corporation (DSC) gives us excellent capacity to serve after a disaster. DSC constitutes a knowledgeable team to provide training for our members and to secure private and governmental grants that greatly expand the ability of the Society to serve in these situations. The support the National Council provides for DSC’s efforts is largely funded by this Annual Disaster Appeal. In the past year, DSC has helped Councils in every region of the country respond to floods, tornadoes, wildfires, and hurricanes. The success of this appeal last year meant that we did not have to keep sending out fundraising requests for every one of these efforts. I suspect you would become annoyed with the National Office if we did that.

This appeal will also support the international relief provided by the Society through the Commission for International Aid and Development (CIAD). My position as a vice president on the International Board of Directors is responsible for these grants, and I can assure you that this assistance is very
much needed to support the work of our members throughout the world. I also can assure you that the use of the funds is monitored closely, with appropriate reports for accountability. Again, a single appeal allows us to fund response to many disasters you will never hear about. The single appeal also avoids funds being designated to a country without the capacity of members there to use donations that well-meaning Councils might otherwise send.

Before committing funds to a particular disaster, it is important to be certain the local councils have the people and capacity to put our donations to work. When major disasters strike, the need for assistance can last for many years. Long after the reporters have left, our Vincentians will be there helping their neighbors.

Please be generous in supporting this campaign. Frédéric Ozanam saw the Society as a network of charity. The network he envisioned has come to embrace the world. It is at its strongest and most caring when we support the work of Councils and Conferences of our Vincentian sisters and brothers faced with relieving the unforeseen suffering of a natural disaster.

Serviens in spe,

Ralph Middlecamp
National President

If you’d like to support the National Disaster Relief Campaign

CLICK HERE

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

Saturday, September 2 at 10:00 AM CENTRAL
- Hispanic Latino Task Force Hosting Q&A Session / El Grupo de Trabajo Hispano-Latino (HLTF) los está invitando a una sesión de preguntas y respuestas

Wednesday, September 6 – 9
- 2023 National Assembly

Monday, September 18 at 12:00 PM CENTRAL
- Module 8 Getting Ahead Practitioner Call

Every Thursday in September at 3:00 PM CENTRAL
- Four-Part Webinar Series on Financial Empowerment and Consumer Protection Resources

To view the complete calendar, click here.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Does the IRS care if a Conference violates the SVdP Rule and gives to another non-SVdP charity that agrees to spend the money wisely?

A: The IRS indeed cares if a nonprofit violates its own mission, organizational documents, and rules. The Society cares if an SVdP entity violates its Rule. The IRS is not aware of all of SVdP’s prohibitions, but you are. As a holder of an IRS tax-exemption and a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you must honor both. We have tax-exempt status to use funds to fulfill our mission which is stated in our letter of exemption. We are not a pass-through organization. If our donors want to support another organization, they would give the funds to that organization.
Q: Should the minutes of a Conference meeting include specific details of a Home Visit, or is it enough to note what action was decided upon to help a person/family?

A: Conference minutes are the written record of decisions made by the Conference. The details of the Home Visit are not necessary in the minutes; they may be in a separate case record. However, if there is something about the visit that results in a Conference decision, some details might be noted in the minutes.

To view this week's Q&A, including the Spanish Translation, click here. Find the full Q&A Index here, and visit the Svdp Thrift Store website for stores-related Q&As.

Submit your questions to Pam Hudson Johnson at phudson@svdpusa.org.

NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS

Meet Me in St. Louis for the 2023 National Assembly Host City Event
Friday, September 8 from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch — Grand Ballroom. This event costs $35 per person. For all the details, click here.

If you haven't already signed up to attend the Host City Event and would like to add this to your registration, please contact Michele Schurk at mschurk@svdpusa.org.

2023 North American Vincentian Family Gathering
October 26 – 29 at DePaul University in Chicago, IL Register here

The gathering at DePaul University-Lincoln Park Campus, in Chicago will start on Thursday, October 26 at 5 PM (Registration starting at 2 PM) and will conclude with a final Mass on Sunday, October 29 at noon.

The program includes a concert with Gen Verde at the Athenaeum Center on Saturday evening. The principal morning sessions (gathering, prayer, and main talks) will be held in the main hall for all present, but participants can choose between two different tracks for other parts of the program: the Performance Track and the Conference Track. For more information, click here.

Register Now

Hispanic Latino Task Force Hosting Q&A Session / El Grupo de Trabajo Hispano-Latino (HLTF) los está invitando a una sesión de preguntas y respuestas

Saturday, September 2 at 10:00 AM CENTRAL Register here

Sabado, 2 de septiembre a 10:00 AM CENTRAL Registrar aqui

THRIFT STORES UPDATE

Why Thrift Stores?
In this month's Stores Corner, read about why Thrift Stores are a worthwhile investment of time and money for your Conference or Council. Also, see details about the Stores Committee Day at this year's National Assembly! Click here to read more.
FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY UPDATES

Formation Video Library
- Fred Talks — Spirituality & Heritage in small doses
- Servant Leadership — Recorded Workshops
- Spirituality & Formation
- Vincentian Heritage & History

Formation Resources Quick Reference
- Reflections for Conference meetings
- Contemplations for individuals
- Resources for Formation Teams and for Members
- Materials Store to purchase books

Questions Regarding Spirituality and Formation?
Contact Tim Williams, National Formation Director
(314) 576-3993 ext. 207
twilliams@svdpusa.org

ADVANCEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

National Partner Highlight: Servware
Servware is Vincentian-developed client tracking software, customized for SVdP Councils, District Councils, and Conferences. The software is low cost, easy to learn and use, provides 21st Century technology, and is customizable to meet any Vincentian needs. The system reduces client fraud, as it tracks all visits, disbursements, and other activities a client experiences within your Council or Conference. For more information, please contact Mark Stine at mark.stine@servware.org.

Questions Regarding National Partners?
Contact Alyssa Bergman, Director of National Fundraising Programs
(314) 576-3993 ext. 218
abergman@svdpusa.org

GOVERNANCE, GROWTH, & REVITALIZATION UPDATES

Councils and Their Conferences
(Excerpted from Vincentian Life: Council)
This week we begin a series of excerpts from Vincentian Life: Council intended to complement the resources developed by the National Governance Committee posted on the National Council website. The first section of this document about Councils, from which our initial excerpt is drawn, is titled: “Conferences.” Click here to find out why and introduce yourself to the valuable information in the rest of the article.

Questions Regarding Governance and Membership Services?
Contact Pam Hudson Johnson, National Director of Governance & Membership Services
(314) 576-3993 ext. 214
phudson@svdpusa.org

POVERTY PROGRAMS UPDATES

Microloan Programs Help Rescue Neighbors in Need from Predatory Loans
High-interest payday lending can cause serious financial harm to those who have no other options to access funds. Several Conferences and Councils are developing low-interest, alternative lending opportunities for the people we serve. Whether you live in a rural area or a larger city and want to start a loan program, Vincentians already doing the work stand ready to help you. You’ll find great financial literacy resources or information on creating a microloan program here.

Additionally, please attend the Alternative Loan Program workshop at 10 am on Saturday, September 9 during the National Assembly.

August Recess Advocacy Webinar Now Online
Did you miss the August Recess Advocacy webinar last week? The presentation and slides are posted online here. There are great tips for meeting with your legislators while they are back home. You’ll also catch our latest legislative update.

Questions Regarding Poverty Programs?
Contact Steve Uram, National Director of Poverty Programs
314-576-3993 ext. 215
suram@svdpusa.org

VINCENTIAN PRAYER LIST

Are you or another Vincentian in need of prayers from fellow SVdP members? Send the prayer intention to Pam Hudson Johnson at phudson@svdpusa.org and we will add the name to the Vincentian Prayer List. Thank you and God Bless.

SOME VINCENTIANS AREN’T GETTING THE E-GAZETTE!

If you’d like to subscribe to the e-Gazette, email mboyer@svdpusa.org.

If you removed your email address from our system or designated "Do Not Mail," your email address cannot be re-added by the National Council office. Sign up to resume receiving the e-Gazette at http://bit.ly/1GKXYJ6

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!