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DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF AUSTIN
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, INC.

Conference Presidents, please forward to your conference members.

Calendar of Events

Blue events need your
RSVP!

[6/13 - Vincentian Spiritual
Reflection Retreat: St Austin](#)

6/15 - Early registration for
Donna Beegle Closes

6/15 - Council Board Meeting

[6/27 - Vincentian Spiritual
Reflection Retreat: St Paul,
Smithville](#)

July 2-5 - Office Closed for 4th
Weekend

[9/25 - 9/28 - South Central
Regional Meeting - Austin, with
Donna Beegle](#)

**Predatory Loan Conversion
Program**

The Numbers

\$34,056.18 in loans converted
to date

52 high interest loans converted

310% average APR of loans
converted: our APR is **2.2%**

89.4% repayment rate

35 days without a defaulted loan

[Link to secure "how to" page -
now with client forms in
Spanish.](#)

Friday, June 5, 2015



**"Together in Christ, we Vincentians
make a difference"**

Year of Vincentian Collaboration

Each year, Fr. Gregory Gay, CM, Superior General, invites the international Vincentian Family to focus on a special theme which allows us to deepen our understanding of our shared Vincentian charism. Therefore, a "Year of Vincentian Collaboration" will be celebrated from the Feast of Pentecost - May 24, 2015 to the Feast of Pentecost on May 15, 2016.

This year's theme is "Together in Christ we Vincentians make a Difference." Indeed, collaboration is rooted in our Vincentian charism. We know in our hearts that we will most effectively serve those who live in poverty only as we collaborate with them and with one another in our ministry.

Find out more at [Vincentian Family - famvin](#)

House in a Box® (HIB ®)

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to respond to our neighbors and friends who have been affected by the Memorial Day

Archived Documents
[Vincentian documents](#)
[Spiritual Reflections](#)

Links

[Bulletin Announcements](#)
[Ethics & Integrity in Ministry](#)

[Donate your vehicle to our Vehicle Donation Program - the proceeds from the sale of your vehicle will stay right here in our diocese!](#)



Friends of the Poor Walk 2015

We will be hosting the South Central Region and Dr. Donna Beegle, so we ask that you walk with us! **We will be having a small Walk on 9/26 at 8 a.m. at the Systemic Change Weekend.** This will give us the opportunity to physically walk with Vincentians from the South Central Region, but we will also walk in solidarity with the rest of the nation.

All other walks should be

floods. Our SVdP House in a Box® (HIB ®) program, a national disaster response program through which families are given a collection of brand new, packaged furniture and household goods, is gearing up. Families typically receive HIB ® items valued at \$2000 - \$2800 at a cost of \$1200 - \$1500 per household, which is covered by SSVDP.

Our goal is to serve at least 500 families and will serve as many as we can fund. Cash donations are currently being solicited to support HIB ® for Central Texas families with the expectation to launch in late June/early July to serve Hays, Caldwell, Bastrop, Travis and Williamson Counties. Our goal is to raise \$1,000,000 by June 20. If you are interested in donating, please use this link [SSVDP Giving](#) and chose "Disaster Relief Fund" as your donation type.

Disaster Response Centers

Taylor MARC (Facilitated by Red Cross)

Taylor City Hall
400 Porter Street
Taylor, TX 76574

Friday, June 5th, 5 PM - 9 PM
Saturday, June 6th, 9 AM - 3 PM

FEMA

Texans who sustained property damage as a result of the ongoing severe storms and flooding are urged to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as they may be eligible for federal and state disaster assistance.

The presidential disaster declaration of May 29 makes disaster aid available to eligible families, individuals and business owners in Hays, Harris and Van Zandt counties.

People who had storm damage in Harris, Hays and Van Zandt counties can register for FEMA assistance online at [Disaster Relief](#) or via smartphone or web-enabled device at [FEMA](#)

Applicants may also call 800-621-3362 or (TTY) 1-800-462-7585 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Flood survivors statewide can call and report their damage to give the state and FEMA a better idea of the assistance that is needed in undesignated counties.

[Read More](#)

Our Society

Pope Francis Quote

"We need to build up society in the light of the Beatitudes, walking towards the Kingdom with the least among us."

- @pontifex, June 4, 2015

scheduled for Saturday,
September 19 or October 3.

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on 

Dr. Donna Beegle's Corner

In anticipation of Dr. Beegle's visit to Austin in late September, we are going to regularly print excerpts from her book: *See Poverty... Be the Difference* and videos of some of her presentations.



"Shattering the myths about poverty and about those who are poor and understanding the harsh reality of their lives are fundamental steps toward changing attitudes toward people in poverty. Historically and currently, the dominant views about poverty's causes and the people who live in poverty lead us toward "blaming" people for their conditions. We keep asking people to change, work harder, and succeed without any genuine attempt on our part to understand the nature of the barriers they face." - p. 77

[Registration is now open for the Systemic Change Weekend!](#)

Early registration closes **June 15, 2015**.

We encourage you to follow [Donna Beegle on Facebook](#), and follow the [Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Diocesan Council of Austin on Facebook](#) to get to know her and this topic more intimately over the next few months.

Community Impact - The Numbers St. Paul, Austin

St. Paul is located in southeast Austin, an area of need. There are 25 active and associate Society members. They reported 4,707 service hours and reported that they drove 11,165 miles. The value of these service hours totaled more than \$106,000. The value of those miles driven is more than \$6,200.

Here's the breakdown of St. Paul's service: Utilities: 64%, Rent: 31%, Food: 3%, Meeting Other Needs: 2%. For St. Paul, Meeting Other Needs meant helping with clothing and holiday meals. The devoted folks at St. Paul assisted 1,759 people, performing 464 home visits. When you add money + goods + miles + service hours, their total reported parish impact was \$239,887.25.

Repeated Important News

Our Corpus Christi Neighbors

The Council office is humbled and honored to be the non-profit financial agent for the McComb Carey Charba Schultz Rescue and Relief Fund. This fund is supporting the three generations of families from Corpus Christi who continue to search for their loved ones who were swept away in Wimberley during the Memorial Day Floods. We will be accepting charitable donations for the fund and granting 100% to the families during their time of need and healing. A Corpus native, Stacy Ehrlich's immediate and extended circles of family and friends are intricately connected to these families.

Society's Disaster Response

We continue to pray for the communities affected by the Memorial Day Floods. We are grateful for the outpouring of support from our Vincentians, the Diocese, and from across the country.

As we strive to serve our neighbors during this crisis, we are asking our Vincentians to help us identify their communities' needs. The insights from our volunteers will be crucial in our efforts to coordinate resources and plan for long-term assistance. To better serve in our role as second responders, we ask that conference presidents connect with their fellow Vincentians to determine those needs as soon as possible. Conference presidents should submit those assessments to **Roz Gutierrez** by **June 10, 2015**.

We encourage Vincentians to make any monetary donations to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Diocesan Council. In our Diocese, Bishop Vazquez has designated the next two weekends' second collections for disaster relief. Bishop Wm. Michael Mulvey of Corpus Christi has also pledged second collection funds for Central Texas relief efforts. The Diocesan Council is also applying for funds from SVDP USA. These Catholic Response funds will be directed toward long-term assistance and our House in a Box® program.

Diocesan Council Staff - Phone: 512-251-6995
Office Hours M-TH 9:00 - 4:00 and F 9:00 - 2:00 ---
see calendar above for office holiday closings.

Stacy Ehrlich Executive Director stacy@ssvdp.org
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