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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!

8/1 - Decision deadline for current presidents to serve in FY 2016

8/17 - Council Board Meeting

8/22 - [Ozanam Orientation \(St. Patrick, Hutto\)](#)

8/25 - 8/30 - National Assembly (Providence, RI)

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

### Predatory Loan Conversion Program

#### The Numbers

**\$34,777.54** in loans converted to date

**52** high interest loans converted

**7** closed loans

**3** incentives paid

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

**89.4%** repayment rate

**4 days** without a defaulted loan

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

## Friday, July 17, 2015

### 2015 Affordable Energy Policy Summit

Society staff members and a number of dedicated Vincentians attended Austin Energy's 2015 Affordable Energy Policy Summit on July 16 to get crucial updates on Austin Energy's ongoing measures to serve our low-income community. Austin Energy staff provided insights into programmatic changes, an update on community impact through the Plus 1 Program, and a primer on their educational programs for K-12 students. During a series of breakout sessions, attendees learned about revisions to payment arrangements and pledges, the customer service experience, and Austin Energy's Low Income Advisory Task Force, which is charged with determining how to implement weatherization for low-income and low-moderate income households in Austin.

For more information on Plus 1 and how your conference can get involved in FY 2016, please contact Katie Conyers at [katie@ssvdp.org](mailto:katie@ssvdp.org).

### Ozanam Orientation at St. Patrick in Hutto

Online registration is now open for our upcoming Ozanam Orientation at St. Patrick in Hutto. This session will take place on **August 22, 2015 from 9:30 am until 2:00 pm.**

Ozanam Orientation is a great opportunity for new Vincentians to learn about the Rule, the guidelines of conference activities, how to do home visit, and much more. Current Vincentians may also attend for a refresher.

To register online, please visit this link and fill out the form: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eb9vz3njea434030&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Please direct any questions to Katie Conyers at [katie@ssvdp.org](mailto:katie@ssvdp.org).

### VOAD Disaster Updates

[Spanish.](#)**Disaster Resource Centers****Current Locations**

Danforth Junior High School, 200 Texan Blvd, Wimberley, TX (Hays County)

ROTC Building/Bastrop High School, 1200 Cedar Street, Bastrop, TX (Bastrop County)

San Marcos Crossroads Building (17 & 18), 501 S LBJ Dr., San Marcos, TX (Hays County)

City Hall, 400 Porter St, Taylor, TX (Williamson County)

Rutherford Lane Campus Bldg #1, 1520 Rutherford Lane, Austin, TX (Travis County)

Martindale Baptist Church, 12351 Highway 142, Martindale, TX (Caldwell County)

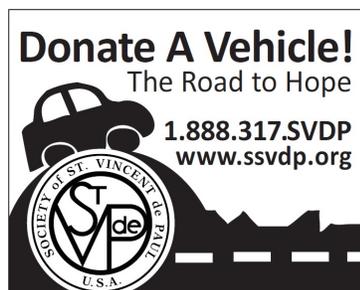
Hundreds of volunteers are still needed in Hays and Bastrop counties to assist those affected by flooding. To sign up, please visit one of the following volunteer reception centers:

- **Bastrop:** 1106 College St., Bastrop, TX, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, (512) 521-3001
- **San Marcos:** 126 W. Hopkins St., San Marcos, TX, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, (512)753-2320
- **Wimberley:** 200 Stillwater Dr., Suite 2, Wimberley, TX, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, (512) 715-4134

For more information, please visit <http://go.usa.gov/3fzBJ>.

Unemployment assistance is also available for those affected by the disaster. Those in need should call 800-939-6631 Monday through Friday between 8:00 am until 5:00 pm to register. Please be aware of the following registration deadlines:

- 07/17/15: Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Liberty, Nueces, and Walker Counties
- 07/27/15: Fayette County
- 08/05/15: Brazoria, Bowie, Cherokee, Ellis and Harrison Counties
- 08/12/15: Erath, Jim Wells, Montgomery, Angelina, Frio, and Trinity Counties

**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!](#)**Our Society****Pope Francis Quote**

"Now is the time for a change in mindset and to stop pretending that our actions do not affect those who suffer from hunger."

-@pontifex, July 15

**Dr. Donna Beegle's Corner**

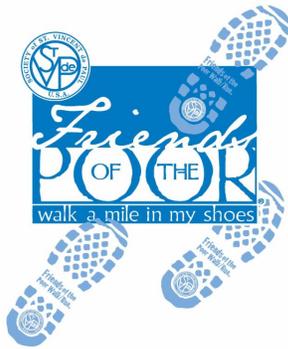
In anticipation of Dr. Beegle's visit to Austin in late September, we are going to regularly print excerpts from her book *See Poverty... Be the Difference* and videos of some of her presentations.



"Poverty forces people to deal with the many barriers that emanate from the structure of our social system. Many of these barriers are the result of the way institutions are currently organized, and stem from the values and perspectives that people in poverty adopt from the daily conditions they experience. These structures put people from generational poverty in many challenging positions where they see no levels of support or avenues of opportunity. In most cases, the fact that many of the barriers have systemic roots is invisible, even to people in poverty." - p.55

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

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.



### 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 scheduled for Saturday, September 19 or October 3.

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on 

## Community Impact - The Stories CenTex North District

The commonality of conferences is our desire as individuals to join with each other and grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those in need. Nowhere can this be more evident than at a District meeting.

The officers and representatives of the Central Texas North District held a collaborative meeting on June 16, discussing events happening within their individual conferences, items of concerns, and most importantly, fellowship and issues of spirituality.

Those represented were from Round Rock, Georgetown, Andice, Hutto, Copperas Cove, Killeen, and West. The spiritual reflection emphasized the importance of listening. Parallels were drawn between one's ability to listen with ears of faith and decisions made by conferences.

Deacon Paul offers the following insights:

The decisions we make as Vincentians need time and prayer to discern that love is the end result of the decision. So before making a decision at a conference or council meeting, try to give everyone some time for silence.

Prior to making a decision at your meetings, ask the following questions:

1. Is this decision going to help those in poverty?
2. Are we making decisions to bring love to those in need?
3. Will we make a difference in someone's life because of this decision?

Remember that St. Vincent told us, "There is nothing good that does not meet with opposition, and it should not be valued any less because it encounters objections." We cannot make wise decisions unless we pray and listen to God. ("To Love as God has Loved Us," <http://www.ssvdp.org/spirituality/>)

Service to others with dignity and compassion is one of the pillars of The Society. This involves listening with ears of faith and acting with hands of faith. It is a primary way we grow our own faith. When we apply this to our everyday lives, we truly deepen our own spirituality and allow ourselves to see the face of Christ in our loved ones, our families and in ourselves.

## Community Impact - The Numbers Queen of Angels

Queen of Angels Chapel is located in Spicewood, TX. Currently, 10 active and associate Society members serve the conference in their mission to provide assistance for those in need. Those 10 Vincentians drove a total of 13,149 miles (a value of over \$7,000) to conduct 171 home visits. The breakdown of their service: Utilities: 32%, Rent: 28%, Food: 12%, Transportation: 4%, Meeting Other Needs: 24%. For these Vincentians, Meeting Other Needs entailed helping with medical care and furniture/household goods. In total, this conference assisted 675 neighbors. Their total reported

parish impact was \$87,529.64.

## Repeated Important News

### Request for Disaster Relief

Central Texas VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) Partners sent out this request. If you or anyone in your Conference or parish would like to help, please contact the Megan Helton directly at the address given below.

There is an urgent need for volunteers who can assist with mold remediation efforts in Wimberley. Please contact Megan Helton (mhelton@americanyouthworks.org or 512.438.9972) if your organization is able to offer assistance. There are currently 8 homes requiring assistance, however this number is expected to increase as more cases are referred.

Moreover, there continues to be a need for general volunteers as well. Under the coordination of AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams, thousands of volunteers have assisted residents with home clean-up and debris clearing from the devastating floods. But the work is not finished and there are many residents that still need help. Whether you can donate a few hours or several days of your time, your effort will help multiply effect and speed the recovery for disaster survivors. Volunteers can register at the below locations:

#### Volunteer Reception Centers

Wimberley Volunteer Reception Center  
200 Stillwater Dr, Suite 2  
Wimberley, TX  
(512) 715-4234  
Monday - Saturday, 8 am - 4 pm.

San Marcos Volunteer Reception Center  
126 W. Hopkins St.  
San Marcos, TX  
(522) 753-2320  
Monday - Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm

Bastrop Volunteer Reception Center  
1106 College St.  
Bastrop, TX 78602  
(512) 521-3001  
Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm

#### 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](mailto:stacy@ssvdp.org)  
**Roz Gutierrez** Conference Support Director [roz@ssvdp.org](mailto:roz@ssvdp.org)  
**Katie Conyers** Executive Office Manager [katie@ssvdp.org](mailto:katie@ssvdp.org)

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