



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!

7/2 - 7/5 - Office Closed for 4th  
Weekend

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**

**\$34,056.18** 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

**63 days** without a defaulted loan

**Friday, July 3, 2015**

**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](mailto: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

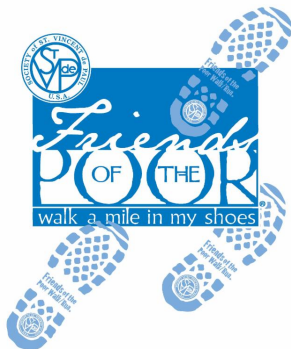
[Link to secure "how to" page - now with client forms in Spanish.](#)

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

**Archived Documents**  
[Vincenian 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

### Disaster Resource Centers

Please note the updated locations of disaster resource centers:

#### Disaster Resource Centers (DRC):

- 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)

#### Mobile Disaster Recovery Center (MDRC):

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

### Our Society

#### Pope Francis Quote

"The Church is a mother with an open heart, ready to help all people, especially those who try the hardest."

- @pontifex June 27

#### Questions and Answers from the National E-Gazette 6.25.15

**Pam Hudson,  
National Director of Governance & Membership Services**

**Q:** I'd like to ask you what is the Society's take on handling the families that have been coming to us for aid over a very long period of time. We have been helping some for 8-10 years or more. What is the best way to assess their situation for the need of continuing aid to them?

**A:** Your question is not an easy one to deal with. But it is a fairly common problem among our Vincentians. To simply cut someone off after a period of time is not the answer. To establish a Conference guideline that limits help to once a year (or some such) is not the answer. I have seen Conferences who have a limit of financial help once in a lifetime. That is one of the worst answers. The fact is that we must ask two questions. One, is anything happening in the family that is improving their situation? And the other, what are we doing to help them improve their situation?

There are rare situations where a person or family is in such a mode of life that it is not likely that things will improve for many years to come; for these, we must be their friend as long as it takes. For the

walk in solidarity with the rest of the nation.

All other walks should be scheduled for Saturday, September 19 or October 3.

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Follow us on 

others, the keyword is "friend." We must be their friends. We must do more than just pay a bill or provide food or clothing. We must walk with them and guide them. We must help them through the process. You ask, "What is the best way to assess their situation for the need of continuing aid to them?" Only a friend can learn the best way. It takes time to get to know people. It's more than simply giving - it's knowing and loving. Our Lord asks us to love those in need in the best way possible. This is part of systemic change that we Vincentians must experience.

### 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.



"Middle-class and wealthy people understand their own circumstances and attribute the causes of their behavior to the situation. However, they tend to attribute the behavior of people in poverty to the personalities of the people rather than the situation. Blaming someone's personality degrades the person and leaves no hope. It is not helpful since most people see personality as an essential, unchangeable quality. Attributing cause to a situation allows the option of identifying solutions to a problem through changing the situation." - p.64

#### [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.

### Community Impact - The Numbers St. Louis King of France Catholic Church

St. Louis King of France is located in Austin. There are 25 active and associate Society members. They reported 4,500 service hours and reported that they drove 7,500 miles. The value of these service hours totaled over \$101,000. The value of those miles driven is nearly \$4,200.

Here's the breakdown of their service: Utilities: 37%, Rent: 48%, Food: 1%, Transportation: 3%, Meeting Other Needs: 11%. For St. Louis, Meeting Other Needs meant helping with medical care, furniture/household goods, and helping in other ways. The devoted folks at St. Louis assisted 1,154 people, performing 400 home visits. When you add money + goods + miles + service hours, their total reported parish impact was \$187,102.00.

### Repeated Important News

#### Mobile Truck Collaboration

Through our growing network of Philanthropitch and Accelerator friends and partners, we have been gifted a retired mobile veterinary clinic to use to pilot (test) the Council's thrift store truck concept.

We will use a small amount of Award funds to convert and repair the very old 29 foot truck for short term use in August and September with the goal of testing our assumptions - market, financial, customer shopping patterns, truck configuration, etc. Lessons learned will be invaluable in finalizing this exciting component of our store expansion plans. We will pitch our final mobile program to over 100 social venture partners on October 5!

Thank you to Amy Mills, ED and the folks at Emancipet for their amazing generosity and enthusiasm for our mobile thrift store project. Emancipet's mission is to make spay/neuter services and preventive veterinary care affordable and accessible to all pet owners. In our Diocese, they have several mobile, pop up and storefront locations across Austin and in Pflugerville and Killeen. They are a great resource for any of our neighbors with pets in need of free/low cost vet services. Check out their [www.emancipet.org](http://www.emancipet.org) for more information.

### **We're Hiring!**

We are currently seeking a new Director of Resource Development. The Director of Resource Development is responsible for the cultivation, solicitation and stewardship of the Council's financial, earned revenue and in-kind resources and those who provide those resources, through strategic and mission-based best practices, relationship building and creative fortitude, within a collaborative and spiritual framework.

Expected Hire Date: August 1, 2015  
Start Date: On or before August 17, 2015  
Accepting Applications through 5:00 p.m. July 15, 2015

Full job description and application instructions are available on our [www.ssvdp.org](http://www.ssvdp.org).

**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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