



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

Conference Presidents, please forward to your conference members.

### SSVDP Calendar

#### Upcoming Events

[3/5 Ozanam Orientation - Santa Cruz, Buda](#)

[3/8-9 Amplify Austin - SoCo Bon Voyage](#)

3/12 Diocesan-wide Day of Spiritual Retreat hosted by Office of Life, Charity & Justice (TBD Austin)

[3/19 Spiritual Advisor Training \(Council Office, ATX\)](#)

3/24 Office Skeleton Staff - Holy Thursday

**3/25 Office and Store Closed - Good Friday**

3/26 Office Skeleton Staff - Easter Monday

[4/9 General Assembly \(VFC\)](#)

[5/10 Blessing of the Vincentian Family Center](#)

[5/14 Ozanam Orientation - St Theresa Conference](#)

5/14 New Vincentian Family Center Carnival and Community Celebration

**Predatory Loan Conversion Program**

## Friday, February 26, 2016

### Your Client Stories Needed

The Diocesan Council staff, inspired by OneVoice Central Texas' efforts, is looking for client stories to help illustrate the challenge of affordability here in Central Texas, as those we serve most surely fall into one or more of the 4 basic issue categories listed below: (from "Tale of Two Austins" campaign running through March 3rd).

- Affordability for Seniors/Housing - 50% of senior renters in Austin have reduced/gone without a basic need to pay for housing
- Homelessness/Youth -30% increase in the number of homeless AISD students in the last two years
- Affordable Housing/Affordable Healthcare -31% of Austin renters have reduced/gone without medication, healthcare, or dental care to afford housing
- Food Deserts -5 zip codes in Austin have no grocery store

We're asking Conference Presidents to submit a brief client success story (no more than 100 words), and email to [info@ssvdp.org](mailto:info@ssvdp.org) by March 2nd.

Thank you for your support!

## SAVE THE DATE - May 10th Blessing of the Vincentian Family Center

**The Numbers**

- \$46,626.72** in loans converted
- 72** high interest loans converted
- 18** closed loans
- 7** incentives paid
- 333%** APR for loans converted
- 2.25%** APR for PLCP loans
- 86%** repayment rate
- 7** days without a default

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



**Schedule your gift now!**

Amplify Austin (March 8-9, 2016) is a great way to support your favorite community nonprofits! You can help the Society launch the Vincentian Family Center with your Amplify gift.

Check out our [page](#) on the Amplify site to schedule a gift now to count toward our total, or you can make your gift during our going away party for the SoCo store on March 9th.

**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](#)



We are honored to announce that on **Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**, the Most Reverend Joe S. Vasquez, Bishop of the Diocese of Austin, and the Most Reverend Daniel Garcia, Auxiliary Bishop, will bless the new Vincentian Family Center facility.

You can check out the website to RSVP or click the calendar link (left column, upcoming events). We invite you to bring friends, family, and guests, but **all names must appear on the guest list to attend.**

Stay tuned throughout the next several weeks for more details to come!

**SVDP THRIFT STORE:  
Celebrating Over 30 Years in South Austin**

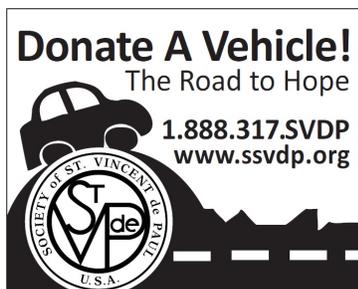


**Join us on March 9th as we celebrate the South Congress Thrift Store location's move to the new Vincentian Family Center.** Coinciding with Amplify Austin's final day of giving, we'll be honoring our beloved store and all the individuals who have been blessed to be a part of it. We invite you and your friends to come by the Congress store location on **March 9 from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm** for breakfast tacos, coffee, mimosas, and more, as we say farewell to SoCo.



Amplify Austin is an annual community-wide day of online giving that supports local nonprofits, including the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Staff will be available to help you make a gift to launch the new Vincentian Family Center, or to help any nonprofit of your choice.

[here in our diocese!](#)



Like us on Facebook 

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During the event, Thrift Store shoppers will be treated to 30% off all items in the store. Shoppers will also receive coupons for the new Thrift Store, and donors to SVDP and other local non-profits through the Amplify portal will receive an additional 10% off coupon to use at the new store.

We hope you'll come celebrate with us! There is still time to RSVP [here](#).

Don't think you can come on the 9th? You can still schedule your Amplify gift to the Society now through March 9 at the Amplify [website](#). Scheduled gifts also qualify for a new store coupon (sent in late March via email).

## Growing the Team: VFC Manager Position

We're still looking for a great candidate to be the new Vincentian Family Center Manager! Please share this posting with anyone who might be a good fit for this amazing job opportunity!

**Expected Hire Date: on or before March 30, 2016**

**Start Date: April 6, 2016**

**Accepting Applications through March 14, 2016**

The VFC Manager will be responsible for the efficient and effective coordination and management of the office and service aspects of the Center, including coordination of scheduling, property management of offices, shared spaces, and food pantry. This position is a front-line greeter to those we serve, our volunteers, employees and contractors, and collaborative partners. This is a full time, professional position with work hours in the afternoon and early evening Tuesday - Friday, and Saturdays mornings through early afternoons.

Please submit resume, cover letter and references to [info@ssvdp.org](mailto:info@ssvdp.org). For the full job description, please visit our [website](#).

## Food Truck Grand Opening A Celebration of Food and Spirit

One of our former SVDP clients, Sheelan Othman, mother of three, is celebrating food, freedom, and the power of spirit with the grand opening of her family's food truck called Baba Ghannouj this Saturday, February 27th, at 5000 Burnet Road in north Austin.

Sheelan Othman came with her husband and family to the US about two years ago. Sheelan was born in Iraq into a Christian family, adopted by a Muslim family when she was 1, and raised in the Islamic faith. About four years ago Sheelan's in-laws found out she had been born as a Christian, and literally dragged her through the streets, beating and burning her. Sheelan still has burn scars on her legs. She and her family escaped to Turkey and then came to the US about 2 years ago. Sheelan and her husband have worked hard to keep their family together, and the food truck is their

moonshot.

We're hoping those of you who enjoy middle eastern food or are looking for a new taste treat, will please stop by and support Sheelan as she and her family undertake this big step. If you like what you eat, please tell your friends!

Here are the particulars of the Grand Opening:

Food Truck Name: Baba Ghannouj (the food truck is light blue)  
Address: 5000 Burnet Road, Austin, TX  
Hours: 11am to 9pm daily

If you miss the Grand Opening, feel free to stop by another time to enjoy their tasty fare.

## Our Society

### Pope Francis Quote

"... prayer, in the face of a problem, a difficult situation, a calamity, is opening the door to the Lord, so that he will come."

- Pope Francis, Daily Mass Vatican City

### 3rd Sunday Lenten Prayer

Healer of body and soul,  
You call us to service,  
to be your eyes and ears,  
Your hands and voice in this world.  
Open our eyes to injustice,  
hate and suffering.  
Open our ears to the questions and  
fears of those we serve.  
Open our mouths to speak Your word.  
May our hands welcome in love  
and fellowship all who you draw near.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord,  
Amen

### APRIL 9TH:

### General Assembly hosted at the New Vincentian Family Center

Mark you calendars! We're looking forward to this year's General Assembly taking place at the new Vincentian Family Center, **April 9, 2016 from 9:30 am - 2:00 pm!** All Vincentians, both active and associate, are invited to join us for what promises to be a great opportunity for fellowship and networking.

The agenda will be published in the e-News on March 19 so that everyone will have ample opportunity to review.

**Please RSVP by April 6, 2016.** We hope to see you there!

## Ozanam Orientation - Santa Cruz, Buda Still Time to Sign Up

Next week's orientation is fast approaching, but there's still time to register. Please keep in mind these events start promptly at **9:00 am** and end at **2:00 pm**. Orientations are *required* for new Vincentians and recommended for current Vincentians looking for a refresher. If you haven't attended in the last few years, please consider joining us. We look forward to seeing you. (Breakfast and lunch is provided.)

If you haven't signed up for the March 5th session, you can [register here](#). If you have questions, feel free to contact [Midge Beard](#).

*(The next Ozanam Orientation is scheduled for May 14, at St Theresa Conference. If you can't make it March 5th, see the signup link for May in our sidebar.)*

## In Case You Missed It

### SVDP USA Announces Systemic Change Grant Opportunity

With our newly established Systemic Change Committee, Diocesan Council of Austin conferences are uniquely poised to take advantage of a new grant opportunity: SVDP USA has issued a request for proposals to support Systemic Change Projects, with an individual maximum grant award of \$5,000. Any conference is eligible (and highly encouraged) to apply for grant funding.

**All proposals must comply with SVDP USA's outline requirements and be signed by the Society's Executive Director.** All applications must include a project description, why your conference has chosen to implement the project, projected number of people helped, and a schedule. Complete details are available [here](#)!

We are more than happy to assist with grant proposals! Please submit drafts to [Katie](#) by end of business on Wednesday, March 16 for review and edits. Your application must be reviewed, approved, and signed to be submitted. **Your application will be considered incomplete if you do not have Stacy's signature and could be rejected by the National office.**

Please feel free to direct any questions regarding Systemic Change grants or any other grant opportunities to [Katie](#).

## Spiritual Advisor's Update

As we learn in Ozanam Orientation the primary purpose of the SVDP Ministry is spiritual growth. Becoming a Vincentian is a wonderful way to engage the spiritual journey seeking to imitate the Love of Jesus Christ! As our Mission states: **"Inspired by Gospel**

values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul." We are called to the virtues of simplicity, humility, gentleness, selflessness and zeal on our journey which reflects a long tradition of a way to serve the neighbor in a loving and compassionate way. This is the journey to holiness as a sacred and aspirational pathway made possible by our conference communities through support and friendship. AND, as St. Vincent said: "Let us love God, let us love God. But let it be with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brows." So we as Vincentians are called to the spirituality of contemplation AND action in our ministry.

It has been my experience that the Vincentian vocation attracts those that are willing to roll up their sleeves and to..." **follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. Members show their commitment through person-to-person contact. (1.2).** We are doers! The challenge is balancing the doing with the being in Christ, staying on the spiritual pathway while doing. This is why one of the most important roles in a Conference is the Spiritual Advisor

"The Spiritual Advisor's task is that of spiritual animator. The Spiritual Advisor enables members to better understand the meaning of charity and its practical application toward those in need, and assists with the development of their Vincentian spiritual life." (The Manual). In the midst of the work of managing all the parts of our ministry, the Spiritual Advisor keeps an eye on "the Prize" the sacred balancing of "both the internal movement of faith and the external action of charity and justice". We are not a social service agency or even a traditional "charitable organization". We were founded to leverage the love available in the breaking open of the heart in service to our brothers and sisters and the pouring out of that love in imitation of the Charity of Jesus Christ. The Spiritual Advisor reminds us in word and deed and focus of the "Why" we do this and the "How" we do it. All Vincentians are called to the spirit and "qualify" for the role. Who accepts the call? Who seeks preparation?

**On March 19th those who have been called and seek preparation will gather for a Spiritual Advisor Formation and Training session** from 9a-2p at the Diocesan Council Offices 7801 N Lamar Blvd Austin, TX 78752. RSVP using the calendar link in the left column.

### **Diocesan Council Staff - Phone: 512-251-6995**

PO Box 9070, Austin Texas 78766

Office Hours M-TH 9:00 - 4:00 and F 9:00 - 2:00 ---

see calendar above for office holiday closings.

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**Midge Beard** Executive Office Manager [midge@ssvdp.org](mailto:midge@ssvdp.org)

**Paul Kleypas** Store Director **512-442-5652**  
[svdpstoreaustin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:svdpstoreaustin@sbcglobal.net)

Prayer Requests: [pray@ssvdp.org](mailto:pray@ssvdp.org)

Physical Address of New Vincentian Family Center:  
901 W. Braker Austin, TX 78758