



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

Conference Presidents, please forward to your conference members.

SSVDP Calendar

Upcoming Events

4/29 - 5/4 - Move and Open at VFC - limited phone and email access

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

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

5/14 New Vincentian Family Center - Family Fun Day and Community Celebration

Predatory Loan Conversion Program

The Numbers

\$50,136.90 in loans converted

74 high interest loans converted

22 closed loans

7 incentives paid

329% APR for loans converted

2.25% APR for PLCP loans

85.3% repayment rate

15 day without a default

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

Friday, May 6, 2016

Volunteer Help Needed for Blessing Ceremony

We are fast approaching May 10, and **we need your help at the Blessing of the Vincentian Family Center!** We will need four Vincentians to volunteer to **help us with check-in at the beginning of the event and eight additional volunteers to help us host our refreshment table before and after the Blessing.**

For more details, including shift times, please check out the available opportunities and sign up on VolunteerHub: ssvdp.volunteerhub.com

We are grateful for your help with this joyous occasion!

Complimentary valet parking is included for all event registrants.

REGISTRATION EXTENDED FOR VFC BLESSING CEREMONY

Blessing of the Vincentian Family Center
Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

[REGISTER HERE BY SUNDAY, MAY 8TH](#)
Due to increased interest in our event on Tuesday, we've extended the registration and rsvp deadline to Sunday. So leave yourself a moment on Mother's Day to sign up.

Doors open at 1:00 pm, for small group tours of the facility.
Blessing will take place at 2:00 pm.

All guests need to [RSVP](#) by **Sunday, May 8.**

Remember: all names must appear on the guest list to attend. If you aren't sure if you have registered, please try to register with your "regular" email - the system will let you know if you

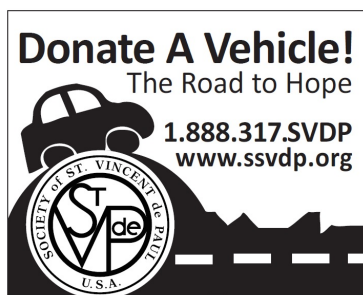
Archived Documents
[Vincentian documents](#)
[Spiritual Reflections](#)

are already on the list.

News From SVdP Denver Metro Council

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!](#)



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Denver Metro Council was nominated and accepted as one of seven charities to participate in the Citywide Bank 2016 Hand-Up Charity contest, running from May 2nd - May 22nd. The Charity with the most votes will win \$7,000! If SVdP Denver Metro Council is able to win we will use these dollars in our Langenderfer Housing Fund which is used to help offset Conference funds for rental, mortgage, and Section 8 housing deposits. You may only vote once. If you'd like to mention this Charity contest to your family, friends, neighbors, or anyone who'd like to help us, we'd be blessed and honored to have your support.

God Bless,
Chris H. Strassburger
Executive Director

For a summary of the contest: www.citywidebanks.com/charity
Vote here: www.citywidebanks.com/contest

After individuals cast their vote, they can enter into a bonus drawing for \$25 Starbucks card if they post contest on their timeline.

Our Society

Pope Francis Quote

"May the challenges in the ecumenical journey encourage us to know each other better, pray together and unite in works of charity."

- Pope Francis, May 4th

The Journey Dreams Do Come True: From the Board President

For many years it has been a dream to have a Vincentian Family Center in the Diocese of Austin. Speaking with past presidents and members of the Council, this has been on the "wish" list for a very long time. As we approach the Blessing of the Vincentian Family Center and the new and improved Thrift Store, we will see a dream come true that will allow us to serve in a more efficient and productive way.

Once the decision was made to sell the jointly owned South Congress Store, the process was started. Proposals were sent out, bids accepted and the sale was finalized in December of 2015. In the meantime, a Store Expansion Committee was established, and weekly meetings began.

Sitting on the sidelines, many of you may wonder how all of this has happened, why we did what we did, and how it will impact you, your conference and the folks we serve. To begin with, our process was to

identify wants and needs, including:

- A much larger Thrift Store with adequate warehouse space & a large receiving and processing department
- Office space for the Diocesan Council Staff
- Computer lab and Education room
- Easy Access and adequate parking
- Client Services (directed to the appropriate conference)
- A "Client Choice" food pantry
- Conference room and office space to lease to entities that serve the same folks we do
- Space - between 20,000-30,000 sq ft.

In order to find a space to accommodate all of this, the Store Expansion Committee began the search. Ironically, the first site we looked at was the one at 901 W. Braker Lane. Even though we all felt this was the best choice, we continued to look for other options. We checked out all available spaces that might have worked, but none addressed the list of needs like the Braker Lane site. None of the buildings were move-in-ready; ALL had been vandalized, (including copper being stripped out) and would require extensive remodeling. It became apparent that we had no option but to begin working on a remodel plan with the Braker Lane site as our best option.

And so the fun part started. Meeting weekly, the committee hired professionals to begin the remodeling process; a project manager, architect for the design of the building, getting permits, contractors, etc.. Very quickly we recognized that patience would be the key denominator to learn and accept.

Looking back, it seems like yesterday that we started this process. Looking forward, we see a beautiful facility that will not only address all wants and needs, but will create multiple income streams to help support the whole. Added bonuses are the inclusion of a healthy choice deli/coffee shop and a small, but beautiful prayer room for silent reflection.

The future is bright in the Diocese of Austin as we move forward to assist you, your conferences and those we serve. Thank you for going on this journey with us. We pray that you are as proud of the dream and vision of a new Vincentian Family Center as we are.

We hope you will join us on Tuesday, May 10th for the Blessing .

~ Joleen Boyer

In Case You Missed It

Austin Diocesan Council Extension and Revitalization

The Austin Diocesan Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul currently has 41 conferences representing 49 parishes. The Diocese of Austin has 127 faith communities so we are now covering 39% of the potential parish communities. We have adopted an aggressive growth plan with a goal of adding 5 parishes over the next 2 years - and adding a total of 14 conferences through 2020.

A committee is being formed consisting of at least one person from each District area, the Conference Support Director, and the

Diocesan Council Extension Committee Chair. This committee of a minimum of five people will be responsible for recruiting and developing the new conferences. Another group will be responsible for the Revitalization of Existing Conferences.

The revitalization of existing Conferences effort has already begun in the form of initiating an Invitation to Serve at many parishes, adopting Systemic Change best practices, and with outreach to many of the Offices of the Diocese of Austin.

After visiting with Bishop Vasquez in January for our Annual report to the Diocese, Bishop Joe encouraged us to reach out to other parishes and groups in the Diocese. To date, we have met with the Superintendent of Catholic Schools, the Secretariat of Spirituality and Formation which includes the Evangelization, Catechetical and Family Services, Cedar Brake Retreat Center, and Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries. We have also met with the Director of Hispanic Ministries and the Director of Life, Charity and Justice. Upcoming meetings will be held with the Director of Black Catholics and the Director of Pro Life. In a few weeks we will also be making a brief presentation to the Presbyterial Council.

If you are feeling called to be a part of the effort to revitalize and expand our outreach to the Diocese of Austin, please contact Roz Gutierrez roz@ssvdp.org at the Diocesan Council Office or Ray DuPont - Diocesan Council Extension Chair.

United Way Austin for Greater Austin

UWATX Releases 2015 Community Needs & Trends Report Each year. They analyze every 2-1-1 call the Navigation Center received and compile the data into a Community Needs & Trends Report. This report allows them to see what the biggest needs are in our communities and to share the information with other stakeholders to better serve residents.

The Navigation Center answers calls from residents in need of health and human services, ranging from shelter, food, clothing, childcare, health insurance and much more. In 2015, the Navigation Center answered 261,504 calls from people in need of help who did not know where else to turn.

Usually the top need each year is for food stamps/SNAP; however, that changed in 2015. [Click here](#) to see what the biggest needs in our communities are now and learn who in our community is calling 2-1-1.

Kudos to Our Collaborating Partners: Ascendant Award Honoree - Yvette Ruiz

On May 6th, Yvette Ruiz of Emerge 2011, and one of our Accelerator Team Members, will receive the Ascendant Award. The Ascendant Award is earned by a recent Leadership Austin graduate (five years or less) that has demonstrated community leadership in a manner that exhibits the honoree's commitment to the core values of Leadership Austin.

Yvette may live 300 miles away from the small South Texas town where she grew up, but her home is never far from her heart. In fact, it is this anchor to her childhood community that gives Ruiz perspective in her growing career, which now focuses on supporting underserved communities. [Read her interview.](#)

Diocesan Council Staff - Phone: 512-251-6995

NEW: PO Box 81511, Austin Texas 78708-1511

Stacy Ehrlich Executive Director stacy@ssvdp.org
Roz Gutierrez Conference Support Director roz@ssvdp.org
Katie Conyers Assistant Director of Development katie@ssvdp.org
Midge Beard Executive Office Manager midge@ssvdp.org
Paula Pompa Vincentian Family Center Manager
paula@ssvdp.org
Paul Kleypas Store Director 512-442-5652
svdpstoreaustin@sbcglobal.net

Prayer Requests: pray@ssvdp.org

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