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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 - Financial Literacy Class

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

53 high interest loans converted

7 closed loans

3 incentives paid

321% average APR of loans
converted; our APR is **2.2%**

88.5% repayment rate

18 days without a defaulted loan

Friday, July 31, 2015

Vincentian Family Center Announcement

Coming in early 2016 - the New
Vincentian Family Center,
located at 901 W. Braker Lane,
Austin TX!

The Council is excited to
announce we are under
contract to purchase the
Monterrey Market property in
North Austin on Braker Lane,
just west of Lamar Boulevard.

Built in 2007 with 26,000 square feet of space, the VFC will triple our retail floor space, give us ample donation processing and storage, house the Council executive offices and provide multiple additional sources of earned revenue... and has tons of parking!



Over the next several months we will post updates on our progress, including the sale of the South Congress property, construction plans and move-in timelines. Thank you to the store expansion committee for its ongoing hard work to make a Center a reality!

Friends of the Poor Grant Opportunity

The Diocesan Council encourages our conferences to apply for Friends of the Poor grants! This SVdPUSA program provides to support direct service to the poor.

All applications will need to be submitted to the Diocesan Council for signature. If your conference would like edits and revisions from the Diocesan Council, please submit your grant application to our office by **August 15, 2015**. All completed applications must be received by the Diocesan Council Office by **August 25, 2015**. Please send applications to katie@ssvdp.org.

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

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!](#)



For more information, including application instructions and samples, please visit <http://www.ssvdpusa.com/developertools/FOP-Grant>. Please direct any FOP grant questions to katie@ssvdp.org

House in a Box ®

As part of our ongoing disaster response to the Memorial Day Floods, we invite you to make a contribution to our House in a Box program through our recently launched [121giving](#) campaign.

Through our House in a Box program, we are able to provide new items so that our neighbors can make their houses their homes once again. We will continue to add to this campaign based upon the community's need, so please give generously in supporting SSVdP to raise funds to support these families.

Please visit the Diocesan Council's page on the [121giving website](#) for more information about needs and details on how to donate.

Assistant Director of Development Update

Please join us in congratulating Katie Conyers on her new promotion at the Council office. In her short 90 day tenure, Katie more than proved herself capable of handling the responsibilities and work involved in the development office. She handled many aspects of the job after Amelia's departure. We are thrilled to be able to give her this opportunity and know she will thrive.

Next week we will have a revised job posting for Katie's old position as Executive Office Manager and hope to fill that vacancy post haste.

Our Society

Pope Francis Quote

"Christian witness is concrete: words without actions are empty."
-@pontifex, July 25

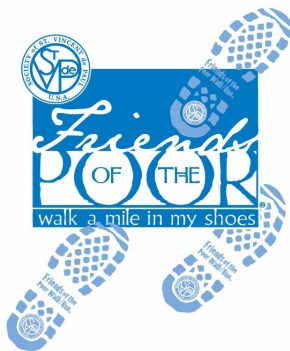
Dr. Donna Beegle's Corner

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.



"The dominant culture trains helping professionals to maintain a clinical distance from people living in poverty as proof of their professionalism. They are taught not to get too close to the people they are working with—not to get personal or share personal stories. As a result, the only well-educated, professionally successful role models that a person from poverty comes into meaningful contact with are staying disconnected from them. This imposed isolation maintains stereotypes and prevents meaningful cross-class connections from occurring, connections that could truly impact their poverty experiences." - p.59

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



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 

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 Bryan-College Station

The Bryan-College Station Conference pursues its mission to provide assistance to those in need with the help of 52 active and associate Society members. Last year, those 52 Vincentians drove a total of 10,500 miles (a value of nearly \$6,000) to conduct 760 home visits. Their service is comprised of the following: Utilities: 32%, Rent: 20%, Food: 20%, Transportation: 1%, Meeting Other Needs: 27%. For these Vincentians, Meeting Other Needs entailed helping with medical care, assisting with funeral expenses, providing furniture/household goods, and maintaining the store. In total, this conference assisted 7,021 neighbors. Bryan-College Station's total reported impact was \$515,503.95.

Repeated Important News

Ozanam Orientation at St. Patrick in Hutto

We invite you to join us for our upcoming Ozanam Orientation session! 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 required for new Vincentians and is a great opportunity to learn about the Rule, the guidelines of conference activities, how to do home visit, and much more.

Please note that Ozanam Orientation content was updated in January 2013. Vincentians in need of a refresher will greatly benefit from the revised material.

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.

VOAD Disaster Updates

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

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
Roz Gutierrez Conference Support Director roz@ssvdp.org
Katie Conyers Executive Office Manager katie@ssvdp.org

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