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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

8/15 -FOP Grant due to Council Office for Revisions

8/25 - Completed FOP Grants due to Council Office

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

\$36,417.54 in loans converted

55 high interest loans converted

9 closed loans

3 incentives paid

319% APR for loans converted

2.2% APR for PLCP loans

Friday, August 7, 2015

Systemic Change Weekend Hotel Block

We will be releasing rooms from our hotel block on **Monday, August 10**. If you are interested in booking a room for Systemic Change Weekend, please [book your room](#) this weekend to ensure that you get our \$169 rate. After rooms are released, standard rates of \$219 - \$239 per night will apply.

We're Hiring!

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is looking for a new Executive Office Manager. Successful candidate will be responsible for the efficient and effective coordination and management of the executive office (Council), and providing administrative support to the other three professional team members including Assistant Development and Conference Support Directors, and the Executive Director. This work will be done through highly multiple organizational systems and processes, effective communication, strategic alignment of best practices and goals, and overall support of volunteer and professional leadership within a collaborative and spiritual framework.

Expected Hire Date: September 1, 2015

Start Date: On or before September 8, 2015

Accepting Applications through August 20, 2015

For more details, including full job posting and application instructions, please visit our [website](#).

PLCP Financial Literacy Class

The next PLCP Financial Literacy Class is scheduled for **Saturday, August 22 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** at the Diocesan Council Office. Please remind clients that this is a required component of their participation in the PLC program and a requirement to receive the end-of-program financial incentive.

Although this session is designed to provide valuable financial

89% repayment rate

25 days without a default

[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)



Donate to House in a Box®

[Give to Bastrop County](#)

[Give to Williamson County](#)

[Give to Hays County](#)

Archived Documents

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

Links

[Bulletin Announcements](#)
[Ethics & Integrity in Ministry](#)

education to our neighbors enrolled in PLCP, Vincentians are welcome to attend and may RSVP by sending an email to [Katie](#).

For any additional questions or to register a client, please contact [Katie](#).

Catholic Spirit highlights disaster efforts

This month's Catholic Spirit front page article features the Society's ongoing disaster response efforts, including House in a Box, the McComb Charba Carey Schultz fund, and the Vehicle Replacement Program. Along with our partners at Catholic Charities, we have addressed critical needs and will continue to provide stability and resources long after the flood waters have subsided.

Check out the full [article](#) for more.

One Voice featured in Statesman

The Society is a proud member of One Voice Central Texas, a coalition of more than 80 nonprofit health and human service organizations that focus on providing assistance to marginalized populations. In this insightful op-ed, One Voice Central Texas Chair Tod Marvin provides One Voice's recommendations for increasing the city's Health and Human Services funding and reflections on the homestead exemption tax cut's long-term impact on low-income families.

One Voice encourages the City Council to prove that Austin can both remain affordable for everyone and invest in ongoing social services to those who are experiencing poverty. For One Voice, cutting taxes and preserving Health and Human Services do not have to be mutually exclusive.

Read the full op-ed [here!](#)

Our Society

Pope Francis Quote

"Let us allow the love of God to take deep root within us. In so doing, we will be able to give ourselves to others."

-@pontifex, August 4

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.



"People in poverty have much to tell us about the struggles and challenges they face on a daily basis, and we often ignore their voices, assuming that we will be better experts in figuring out how we can help them. Alleviating the impact of living in poverty and making a difference in the lives of those in poverty need to be part of a comprehensive, collective effort that takes into account the perspective, worldview, and recommendations of people who are experiencing and have experienced poverty." - p.136

[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 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 twitter

[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.

Prayer Request

We continue to ask for your prayers for Julia Benkoski, a Vincentian from St. John Neumann Conference and Council Board member. She is currently hospitalized in very serious condition.

We ask every Vincentian to please add her to your prayer list, for healing and that the doctors can give her relief from her ailment. In addition to your regular intentions, please consider praying a rosary with us at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. each day this week.

She would appreciate cards and emails but requesting very limited visitors at this time.

Cards and well wishes may be sent here:
2300 Barton Creek Blvd. #3
Austin, TX 78735
julia@jgblegal.com

Community Impact - The Stories Predatory Loan Conversion Program

Our PLCP is more than just a reduction of loan payments. The program gives our neighbors the resources and opportunities to be successful after their loans are closed. Through the collaboration of our conferences, the City of Austin, and RBFCU, one of our neighbors has begun her journey out of debt. Matt Pogor, a Vincentian at St. William in Round Rock and Board Secretary, helped facilitate the conversion of our friend's 270% predatory loan to a 2.2% PLCP loan with RBFCU, reducing monthly payments from \$112.37 to \$54.01. In addition, our Vincentians helped our neighbor change her AT&T phone to a free phone, saving her \$87.00 per month. The Society also provided her with a bus pass for one month that will help her look for a job to support her family.

Community Impact - The Numbers St. Helen Catholic Church

The St. Helen Conference pursues its mission to provide assistance to those in need with the help of 42 active and associate Society members. Last year, those Vincentians helped 1,707 neighbors. Their service is comprised of the following: Rent: 46%, Utilities: 34%, Food: 11%, Meeting Other Needs: 9%. For these Vincentians, holiday meals and medical care/medicines. St. Helen's total reported impact was \$216,794.15.

Repeated Important News

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.

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.

For more information, including application instructions and samples, please visit their [website](#). Please direct any FOP grant questions to katie@ssvdp.org

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.

Register [here!](#)

Please direct any questions to Katie Conyers at katie@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
Roz Gutierrez Conference Support Director roz@ssvdp.org
Katie Conyers Assistant Director of Development katie@ssvdp.org

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