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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!

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

8/17 - Council Board Meeting

8/22 - Financial Literacy Class

8/22 - [Ozanam Orientation \(St. Patrick, Hutto\)](#)

8/25 - Completed FOP grants due to Council Office

8/25 - 8/30 - National Assembly (Providence, RI)

8/26 - 8/27 - Council Office Closed

[9/25 - 9/28 - South Central Regional Meeting - Austin, with Donna Beegle](#)

### Predatory Loan Conversion Program

#### The Numbers

**\$38,069.49** in loans converted

**58** high interest loans converted

**9** closed loans

**3** incentives paid

**333%** APR for loans converted

**2.2%** APR for PLCP loans

## Friday, August 14, 2015

### St. John the Evangelist Twinning Request

St. John the Evangelist in San Marcos is one of the Conferences deeply impacted by the Memorial Day Floods. To date, the Conference has provided an incredible \$12,422 in direct assistance to flood victims.

The Diocesan Council will reimburse St John the Evangelist Conference \$12,422 from the Disaster Relief Fund.

However, as St. John the Evangelist continues to provide assistance through the always difficult summer, the Conference anticipates a shortfall of \$4,019 for each of the next three months. In July, this shortfall was covered by the balance from the previous month.

As the Conference anticipates the same donation figures from the parish and Our Lady of Wisdom for the months of August, September and October, St. John the Evangelist is seeking twinning assistance from any conference or district that may be able to help. The Conference anticipates a 10% increase in regular bill requests due to higher than normal utility usage.

Please contact [Roz Gutierrez](#) for more information on how your conference can provide twinning assistance.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

### Friends of the Poor Grant Applications Due

If you need revisions and edits from the Diocesan Council Office, please forward your applications to [Katie](#) by tomorrow, **August 15, 2015**.

**Note that all applications** will need to be submitted to the Diocesan Council for signature. All completed applications must be received by the Diocesan Council Office by **August 25, 2015**. Please send applications to [katie@ssvdp.org](mailto:katie@ssvdp.org).

**87.5%** repayment rate

**4** 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](#)

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

## Ozanam Orientation Reminder

Our next Ozanam Orientation is scheduled for August 22, 2015 from 9:00 am - 2:30 pm at St. Patrick in Hutto.

Ozanam Orientation is required for new Vincentians and provides insight into the home visit, Vincentian history, and the Rule. As Orientation content was updated in January 2013, current Vincentians may also benefit from a refresher.

We will not be offering another session until October 2015, so [register](#) now!

Please direct any questions to Katie Conyers at [katie@ssvdp.org](mailto:katie@ssvdp.org).

## PLCP Financial Literacy Class

As predatory loan interest rates continue to rise, with averages steadily climbing from 310% in May to 333% this week, PLCP provides an incredible opportunity to help our neighbors escape crushing debt. A crucial component of that program is the Financial Literacy class, which provides valuable tools and know-how for our neighbors.

Our next Financial Literacy class is scheduled for August 22, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Diocesan Council office. Please contact [Katie](#) to RSVP for yourself or a client. If you have a PLCP client attending, please be sure to remind him or her this week.

## Our Society

### Pope Francis Quote

"The globalization of indifference, which today burdens the lives of so many of our brothers and sisters, requires all of us to forge a new worldwide solidarity and fraternity capable of giving them new hope and helping them to advance with courage amid the problems of our time and the new horizons which they disclose and which God places in our hands."

*-No Longer Slaves, but Brothers and Sisters, January 1, 2015*

## Dr. Donna Beegle's Corner

Dr. Donna Beegle's visit is fast approaching! Systemic Change weekend is just over a month away. We are thrilled to have Dr. Beegle join us for what is sure to be an eye-opening weekend for all our Vincentians.

[Donate your vehicle to our Vehicle Donation Program - the proceeds from the sale of your vehicle will stay right here in our diocese!](#)



Dr. Beegle discusses her experience of poverty

[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.



### 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

### A Reflection from our Board President

Summer always proves to be a challenging time for most conferences. The demand for food goes up significantly, electric and water bills are at their peak, and the need for rent never seems to go away. To top all this off, collections are often lower than normal because families are traveling, school is out, and back to school expenses are on the horizon.

I am reading Pope Francis' book *The Joy of the Gospel*, and there is a quote I read recently that I want to share. I couldn't help think about the hundreds of people we serve daily and the amount of money we have been blessed with to give away. It is always a challenge to know how much to help? Are we doing the right thing? Is this really going to make a difference? Or are we just putting a band-aid on the situation?

In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis says, "Not to share one's wealth with the poor is to steal from them and to take away their livelihood. It is not our own goods which we hold, but theirs. Money must serve, not rule!"

Listening to Relevant radio, I heard two things that stuck with me that also relate to the ministry of serving those in need:

- To be a saint, we have to do ordinary things in an extraordinary way
- Listen with the ear of the heart

I don't think we can be good Vincentians without either of these, and we do a very good job at both. Remember this the next time you question yourself: listen with your heart, do the extraordinary and never forget money must serve, not rule!

## Repeated Important News

### 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.

### 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](#).

### 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.

**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** Assistant Director of Development [katie@ssvdp.org](mailto:katie@ssvdp.org)

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