

For inclusion in the SJN Bulletin and SVdP Website.

Date 6-5-2014.



Saint Vincent de Paul Conference, Saint John Neumann Parish, Canton, Michigan.

If you consider the poor in the light of faith, then you will observe that they are taking the place of the son of God, who choose to be poor.

~Saint Vincent DePaul

2st Quarterly Report Update, - Jan. 1, 2014 - April 1, 2014

Hello Fellow Parishioners,

We, the members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Conference are part of the Christian Service efforts at SJN and have just finished our second quarter of service in 2014. We have had a very active group expanding to 32 members joining as full or associate members. **The SVdP Conference of St. John Neumann received a “Dimensions of Excellence Award” from the Archdiocesan Council of Detroit this past April for our conference work.** We are an all-volunteer group supported by the church with meeting space and endorsement from the parish priest, Fr. Ron Richards. The committee is in our third year of service led by Lorraine and Don Zaksek, (President and Treasurer), and Gerry Gutkowski. (Vice President), and Daniel Faoro (Secretary). We have been blessed to be lead in prayer by Deacon Pat (Spiritual advisor) at the start and close of our meetings. We will be having elections for a new executive Board in July.

We were grateful for your response for assistance this quarter and your generous donations. We serve the poor after providing a thorough background check, a review of personal finances and financial budgeting, and assist them in procuring the social service benefits they are entitled to. Since January of 2014 we have provided approx. \$ 34,000 in support to 95 people- both families/individuals- to prevent evictions, termination of utility services, meet medical needs, and provide emergency car repair, and food / household needs. In addition to the clothes and other donations to the SVdP store we receive the generous support from parishioners and outreach efforts, “Top Hat Sundays”, and other parish fund raisers. We received support from local business, Meijers, Family Dollar Stores, and Catholic Vantage Financial. If we have parish members who work at Kohls please let us know, if you volunteer for SVdP we receive community support credit for gift cards.

Saint Vincent DePaul Housing Program Fundraiser- 10/17/2014: Many of our SVdP conference members are active in the new “Pathway to Housing Program” started by the 23 churches of the Metro-West Conferences of SVdP in 2012. We have now received monthly donation pledges from 10 SVdP conferences. We officially became a ‘special project’ of The Saint Vincent dePaul of the Archdiocese of Detroit last month. We currently are supporting two families for housing in this area and are providing housing social service counseling through Catholic Charities. We will have two Fundraisers in October to support this effort, October 10 we will have a sleep out for the homeless and also REMEMBER to SAVE THE DATE for the evening of October 17th. 2014 as the St. John Neumann church in Canton hosts a dinner/auction with the support of a local wine merchant.



The Westland Store has reopened in April the location is 6613 N Wayne Rd, Westland, MI 48185, the cross Streets are Hunter Ave and Westland Estates Dr. the phone number is (734) 729-3088. Store volunteers welcome

Our script program registration information handouts sign-up session went well. If you missed it the information handouts on the tables in the entry hall of the church. We are registered for the Kroger Community Rewards Program, Holiday Market eScript and for the Meijer's scrip program.

Our members have attended numerous training sessions in the Detroit area to become familiar with skills to serve area residents, learn how to help families apply for social service programs, and state and federal assistance programs for the poor. We thank Larry and Debbie Davis and Jodi and Paul Trame for organizing the Kids Play area at the SJN picnic on 6/1/2014, also, many Vincentians came to help. On Thursday **June 5th**, we had our **Home-Visitor Training** session at 7:00 at the church. All were welcome.

We plan to sponsor up to 10 children to send to Camp Ozanam this summer. Dennis Oszust and John Stabnick have done a wonderful job recruiting, interviewing and organizing the entire Camp Ozanam event.

Our information and web site is managed by Matt Dame, it can be found at our web site, http://www.stjohnneumann.us/st_vincent_depaul.html. We meet at 7.00PM on the second Monday evening of the month in the SJN Elizabeth Seton room. We look forward to new members at varying levels and ability, full, associate, and our youth group. Thank you for your continued support. Those interested in being members call the Parish office (734) 455-5910 and leave a message for Lorraine Zaksek with your name and phone number.

Thank you for your support of the poor in the name of Christ,

The members of The Saint Vincent de Paul Conference