

For inclusion in the SJN Bulletin and SVdP Website. Date 7-21-2013.

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



2ndnd Quarterly Report Update, - March 31, 2012-June 30, 2013

Perfection consists in a constant perseverance to acquire the virtues and become proficient in their practice, because on God's road, not to advance is to fall back since man never remains in the same condition.

~Saint Vincent de Paul

Hello Fellow Parishioners,

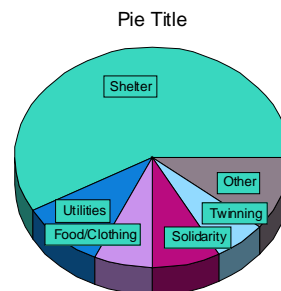
We, the members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Conference are part of the Christian Service efforts at SJN have just finished our second quarter of service in 2013. We have had a very active group expanding to 25 members joining as full or associate members. We are an all volunteer group supported by the church with meeting space and endorsement from the parish priest, Fr. Ron Richards. The committee has been lead since Sept. 2011 by Lorraine and Don Zaksek, (President and Treasure), 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 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 March 31, 2013 we have provided \$13,855 in support to respond to 83 persons receiving assistance from 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.

Don Zaksek reviewed our expenses for the first 9 months of our fiscal year and noted the following breakdown of expense categories, see chart at right. Shelter continues to be a primary need accounting for 58% of our expenses.

New Task force Groups formed in the Metro West

Conference: Transportation access is a major problem to people we support. We participated in a new collaboration with United Way and the Metro West Area SVdP conferences to provide support for auto repair and we are looking for ride share and reduced rate cab fare programs and possible support with public transportation bus services. We are participating with other SVdP conferences to better understand how we can serve the homeless in the area. Our members have attended numerous training



- Shelter
- Food /Clothing
- Twinning
- Utilities
- Solidarity
- Other

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.

FRIENDS OF THE POOR® WALK/RUN: Date: Saturday, September 28th, 2013 . Look for sign-up tables in the church hall the weekends of the 14th and 21st. of September.

The Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run is a National Program coordinated by the Development Team at the National SVDP Office. The inaugural event took place in 2008 with the purpose of providing local Conferences and Councils the framework to host an event that would raise funds to support their local special works projects. Growing every year, the Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run was once again extremely successful in 2012. Attracting over 19,000 walkers, raising over \$1.8M, and having events at 220 different locations in the United States were all measures of success. Thank you to everyone who made this possible! Please register to participate in the 2013 Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run today! Contact Gerry Gutkowski , SVdP Vice President at (734) 455-5910 ext. 17 for information.

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 Seaton 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.

Two portraits of those we serve, their real names were withheld. We continue to work with them, pray for and learn from them how to better serve God through the poor and in the spirit of Christ.



Bill is a man who was fully employed with over-time hours. He is now divorced and has shared custody of two children and was facing eviction. He was behind in rent and we helped him to make payments. We believe he will recover from this setback.



Heather is a woman we first met over a year ago. She called us again and was in need of help. She was living in a local boarding house. We gave her names of two churches in the area that have SVdP conferences- but no help was available. The woman has a business background and lost all her benefits due to an employer bankruptcy. We have a woman who helps us and writes resumes for our persons in need, and she helped her. She is employable in a business setting and is now working we believe now for a former employer. We invited her to our church.

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

Saint Vincent de Paul Conference Members.