



"No work of charity is foreign to the Society."

- Founder Bl. Frédéric Ozanam

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul®

As one of the oldest charitable organizations in the world, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) is a Catholic lay organization of about 800,000 men and women throughout the world who voluntarily join together to grow spiritually and offer person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in 153 countries on five continents.

- The services SVdP provides include: home, hospital and prison visits, housing assistance, disaster relief and long-term recovery, education and mentoring, food pantries, dining halls, clothing, help with transportation, prescription medication, and rent and utility costs.
- SVdP provided more than \$3.4 billion in tangible and in-kind services, served more than 5.4 million people in need, performed more than 2.1 million service visits/contacts and delivered more than 12.6 million service hours to those in need in 2017.
- The Society serves people in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender or political opinions.
- The National Council coordinates programs that directly benefit local SVdP Conferences/Councils such as: domestic disaster relief efforts, the Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run and the Friends of the Poor® Grant Program. Other support includes: fundraising and communications resources, the Servant Leadership Program, Vincentian training material and the Serving in Hope Training Program. Financial support is provided to international relief efforts as requested by the SVdP International office in Paris.
- The Society was founded in 1833 in Paris by Frédéric Ozanam. As a college student, Ozanam and his companions were moved by the plight of the poor and challenged to put their Catholic faith into action. They adopted St. Vincent de Paul as the Society's patron because he cared for the poor, forgotten and downtrodden of Paris.
- The first SVdP presence in the U.S. was established in 1845 in St. Louis, Mo., where the headquarters remains. U.S. membership totals nearly 100,000 in 4,400 communities.
- To learn more about SVdP, please visit www.svdpusa.org.