

*St. Vincent de Paul Society
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January, 2009

To the Parishioners of St. Charles, St. John, and St. Paul Churches

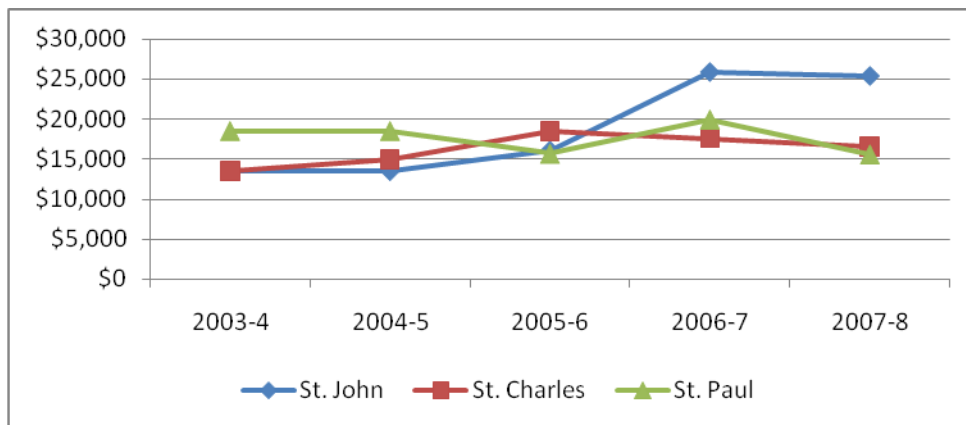
Thanks to the generosity of you parishioners, we have been able to ease the hardships of many people in need throughout Monroe County. The fifty or so lay volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul Society come from all three parishes and from other area churches, especially St. Thomas Lutheran Church. We are the hands that carry out your generous intentions.

What is our role?

We visit people who ask for help with rent, utilities, and the like, we try to assess their situation, and we then offer whatever appropriate help we can—both material and spiritual. We collect donated furniture and distribute it to people who need it. And we do this without regard to religion, race, creed, color, or sexual orientation.

What are our resources?

Our gross income last year was \$93,000, with over 60 percent coming from the three local Catholic parishes, as can be seen in this chart showing annual parish donation trends:



Our main other sources of income came from several large individual donations, much of which was targeted for our only capital expense—a used box truck we purchased for furniture pickups and deliveries.

How do we go about our work and how are people benefited?

When people call us at the number listed above, our Phone Ministers take the calls from an answering machine and forward the information to the appropriate persons: maybe to our Furniture Ministers, to pick up donated furniture, maybe to our Home Visitors (who call on those who ask for financial help), maybe to other agencies.

To provide furniture to those in need, we seek donations from furniture companies, motels, individuals, etc., and then pick up the donations in our personal pickup trucks or our box truck. Then each Saturday morning, clients pick up

(OVER)

the items they need, as authorized in vouchers from local social service agencies and confirmed by our visits to their homes. Last year, our volunteers made about 700 pickups of furniture donations and provided over 500 needy families with 3400 furniture and appliance items worth \$170,000.

Last year, well over 2000 clients requested financial aid. Some clients we refer to other agencies. We try to go in pairs to visit most of the others to see how we can help. The following table gives a good idea of what people needed and how we were able to respond:

<u>Need</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>
Housing (rent, deposits, ...)	460	\$27000	\$59
Utilities	370	\$26000	\$70
Auto/Transportation (fuel, repairs, travel, ...)	540	\$12000	\$22
Other (medical, groceries, clothing, ...)	200	\$6000	\$50
<u>Total</u>	1570	\$71,000	\$45

We did the best we could with our limited resources and we believe we made a difference in the lives of many.

Do we use your donations wisely?

You betcha!!!! We are an all-volunteer organization, so we pay no salaries and take no reimbursements for many of the personal expenses we incur doing society work, such as driving expenses. We try very hard to see that the aid requested is truly needed and that the assistance offered will indeed do some good.. Overall, we provided about \$240,000 of furniture and financial aid to clients, with an overhead expense of about \$22,000 – half of which was for a used truck purchase, and the other half mainly for rent and utilities at our warehouse.

Opportunities for you to share in our work

The St. Vincent de Paul Society provides a blessed opportunity for those of you who want to share your time and talent to help those in need. Our volunteers do various things: go in pairs to visit clients, move furniture, take phone calls, use computer skills to help with our records. Some of these tasks are taken care of without ever leaving home. While we currently have more than 50 very active volunteers, the breadth of our operations sometimes overtaxes these people; we need more volunteers to share the burden! And of course, we always welcome your financial contributions and your prayers.

Here is an opportunity to respond to the message of Jesus, “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matt. 25:40).

If you would like to participate in this work of serving the Lord’s poor, please call us at the number found at the top of this report or send us an email at info@bloomingtonsvdp.org. We’ll reply promptly.

On behalf of all those helped by your generosity, we thank you and ask God’s blessings upon you and yours.