



St. Vincent de Paul of Los Angeles

2018 Annual Report



Homeless in SoCal

St. Vincent de Paul Stands in the Gap



Ray Sweet, President



David Garcia, Acting Executive Director

Message from the President & Acting Executive Director

Some of us have received a letter from the electric or water company stating we are overdue on our monthly payment. In the middle-class world many of us reside in, this is upsetting but not a crises. We are able to get on the phone and resolve the issue.

But for many of our clients at St. Vincent de Paul, letters of this sort – especially from the landlord – can be terrifying. The funds simply are not there to pay all the bills, perhaps due to an illness, unemployment or other crises. Imagine wondering where you and your children are to go if eviction threatens, or how you will get to work on time with the car repossessed, or water or electric shut off?

Our Vincentian volunteers stand in the gap, writing checks from your donations or bake sales and other fundraisers at parishes to prevent homelessness in Southern California and cover so many basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. We spent over three million dollars last year on direct financial assistance to those in crisis. This provides life and hope to the suffering on a daily basis.

Here is our 2017-18 Annual Report so you can see how those in need were served by your generous donations in Southern California in the past fiscal year. On behalf of so many who struggle we thank you for your generosity to the poor.

In the spirit of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic,

Ray Sweet
President

David Garcia
Acting Executive Director

2017–2018 Stats

St. Vincent de Paul of Los Angeles’ 2,286 volunteers devoted 226,030 hours to calls for help from the needy last year, assisting more than 176,852 people through 137 volunteer groups known as Conferences of Charity.

The Cardinal Manning Center on Skid Row placed 48 homeless men in permanent housing.

Thrift Stores in LA and Long Beach gave \$151,949 worth of free merchandise to the poor.



SVdPLA's Board of Directors.



SVdPLA's Leadership Team.

Vincentian Services

Kat, who is blind, managed to conquer daily living on her own, but rising rent on her apartment made it hard to survive on a fixed income. St. Vincent de Paul's Conference of Charity members at Incarnation Catholic Church in Glendale helped Kat with her rent every month, preventing her from becoming homeless. The conference also provided Kat with food certificates. Kat said, "It was a hard way to live. St. Vincent de Paul helped me, and that was a blessing." Kat smiled as she cradled her cat, Mewli, "If you ask for help, the Lord will provide." St. Vincent de Paul's conferences of charity provide rental assistance to many people like Kat that saves them from the storm of homelessness sweeping Southern California at this time.

“*St. Vincent de Paul helped me, and that was a blessing.*”

-Kat, St. Vincent de Paul recipient.



Kat and Vincentians from Incarnation's Conference of Charity.





SVdPLA's Los Angeles Thrift Store.

Society Thrift Stores

Hassan and Fatima came to the United States just before the civil war broke out in Syria. Their two sons learned English. Fatima struggled with the language and Hassan found only part-time work at a gas station run by one of his countrymen, stocking coolers and cleaning. When a Vincentian from Santa Clarita Conference of Charity met Hassan begging for food at a grocery store, he provided the family with food and household items. Hassan and Fatima also needed special glasses. The conference provided these too. The family was in dire need of clothes, especially for growing boys to return to school for the new year. The conference took them to the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store in Los Angeles: "It was quite an outing for them. The mother could not believe that she could buy what she needed - and probably some she wanted - and get it free. She was able to stock up quite well." The family was also provided with gifts and necessities at Christmas. The conference members check with Hassan periodically at the gas station, making sure all is well.

“*She could buy what she needed - and probably some she wanted - and get it free.*”

-Santa Clarita Conference member.

Social Services

Michael got leukemia and lost his home and job. Doctors managed to save his life, but 62-year-old Michael had lost everything else. Michael said, “At first I was staying with my niece, then I was on the street, and then I went to the housing authority, and they gave me a bed for four nights. On the morning of the 4th day, the lady, she said, there’s an agency over there on Winston. They’re having an orientation this morning. She told me at 7:45 a.m., and the orientation was at 8 a.m., so I hurried over there to (St. Vincent de Paul’s Cardinal Manning Center homeless program in Los Angeles). I liked what they were saying. I stayed for the interview. That got me off the street. No more garages. No cars. No more nothing. I got a bed for 6-8 months, then I got a unit (a single room occupancy apartment in downtown Los Angeles). I got a spot. All made possible through the Cardinal Manning Center. This is where it all happened.”

“ Got me off the street. No more garages, no more cars. ”

-Michael, St. Vincent de Paul recipient.

Because of you, last year the Cardinal Manning Center provided:

104,185 meals

18,841 shelter nights

24,446 drop-in center visits by unhoused individuals
and got 48 residents into permanent housing.



Cardinal Manning Center (CMC).



Michael and Center Coordinator, Diana at our Cardinal Manning Center.

Circle V Ranch Camp



Cori and her art supplies.

Cori's family faces challenges. Her father is disabled. Cori's mother works, but it can be hard to make ends meet. Cori and her mom were invited to St. Vincent de Paul's CHiPs for Kids Toy, Food & Shoe Giveaway at Christmas two years ago. "It really helped us," Cori said, "It made us feel like there is hope when it seems like there isn't any." Cori also received a full scholarship to our Circle V Ranch Camp in the Summer of 2017. One week before she was to leave, the Whittier Fire nearly destroyed camp, burning the water supply system, Craft Shack and Health Lodge - closing Circle V for two years. "I was devastated," Cori said. "I was really looking forward to going to the Craft Shack. It was a big part of my life. My whole life I've been painting or drawing." Cori has been collecting art supplies for Circle V's arts and crafts. "I'd like to see it put to use," Cori said with a smile, "And see how what I contributed helps with the regrowth of the camp." Thanks for giving back, Cori. In 2019, Circle V Ranch Camp will reopen for you and so many children who rely on it for faith, hope and love.

“It made us feel like there is hope when it seems like there isn't any.”

-Cori, camper at Circle V Ranch Camp.

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Thank you to all of our donors for your generosity and commitment to our mission of charity.

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Shepherds of Hope

One of the best New Year's resolutions you can make is to become a SVdPLA *Shepherd of Hope*.

That's because members of this program commit to give a donation every month to St. Vincent de Paul. Your monthly gift helps us continue the work we do throughout Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, helping us give hope to even more men, women and families in need.

To become a member of *Shepherds of Hope* call:
323-686-6737.

We look forward to welcoming you to *Shepherds of Hope* and working together with you to help our neediest neighbors throughout 2019-2020.

SHEPHERDS:

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Bertha De Alegria
Vincent DeStefano
Richard & Diane Duran
Jeanette Frontera
Ramiro Galvan
Sylvia & Jose Gonzalez
Dr. Lorayne Horka
Mary Lou McKeever
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Salesha Whitmore

Assistance & Support

2017-2018

OUR MISSION

St. Vincent de Paul of Los Angeles is part of a worldwide organization of lay Catholic men and women who are committed to live and grow in their Christian faith through prayer and personal involvement in charitable works.

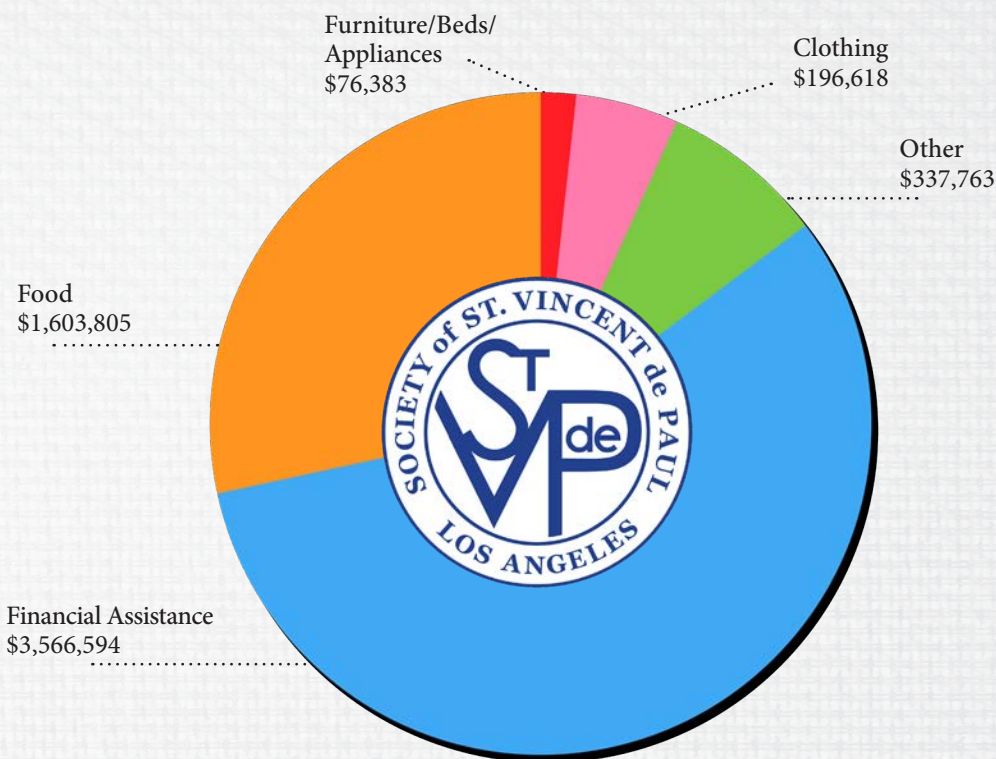
The Society's mission is accomplished through parish and community-based volunteer groups called Conferences of Charity and programs called Special Works.

The Society's work includes any actions that promote the dignity of the person, alleviate suffering and distress, while correcting the conditions that cause them.

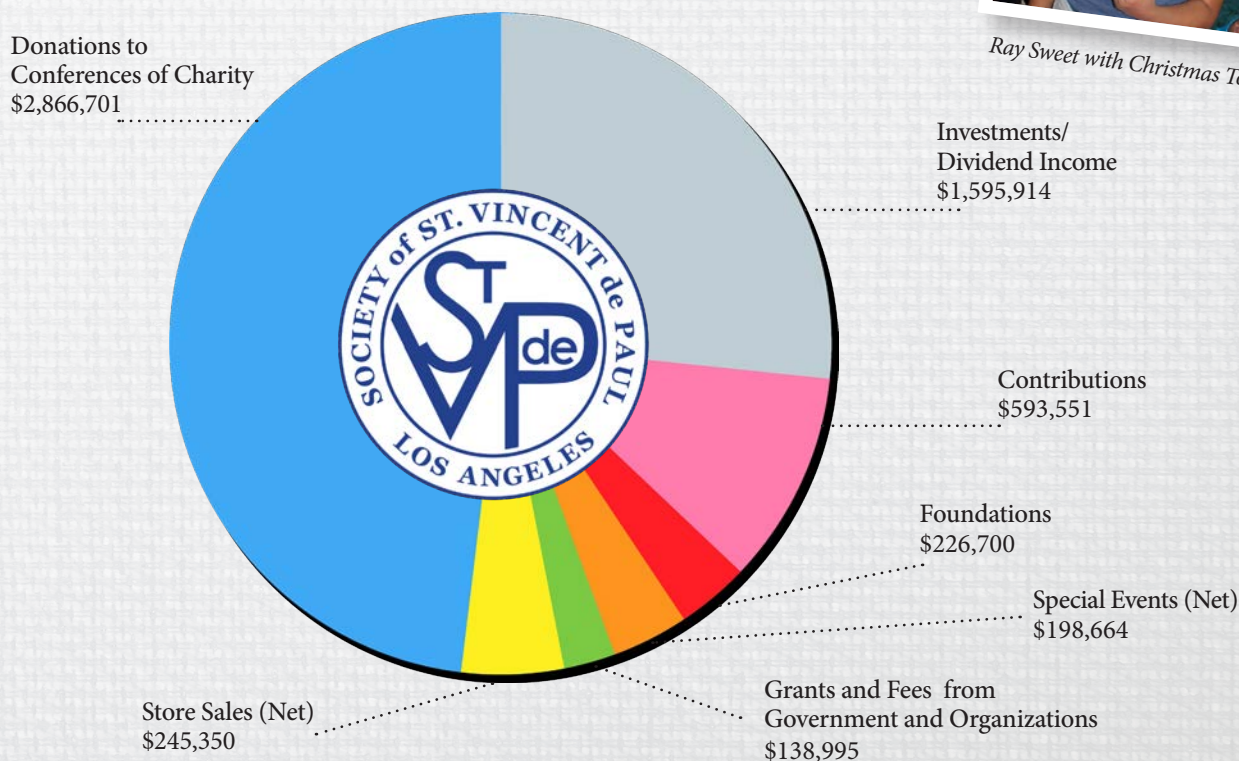


Ray Sweet with Christmas Toy Giveaway recipients.

Assistance We Gave



Financial Support We Received



You Can Help!

St. Vincent de Paul of Los Angeles

210 North Ave. 21
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