



# SOCIETY of St. VINCENT de PAUL (SSVP) OUR LADY of PERPETUAL HELP CONFERENCE

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## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

*“To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy”  
Mission, SSVP*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization. The members develop spiritually as they practice Christianity by helping those in need on a person-to-person basis, without regard to race or religion. We cooperate with other organizations and community agencies to achieve our Mission.

Our organization exists because of the generous donations we receive from our community, donations of time, talents and treasures. Contact is made through our Donation Line. Volunteers pick up the donations and distribute them to those in need which are identified through our Help Line. Our Help Line is supported through home visits. The home visits provide us with the opportunity to meet the poor in their own environment, listen to their story and attempt to assist them with dignity and respect.

In addition, we have special projects in assisting the community of Paulatuk, the Cree Nation of Saddle Lake and the Parish Clothing Nook along with other Social Justice activities.

SSVP is a Registered Charity, run by volunteers, who receive no monetary compensation. In 2019, we provided approximately 14,000 hours of volunteer time. We rely on donations of time, goods and money to fulfill our mission. We are very appreciative of the monthly donations to the Poor Box. We are a part of a generous and caring parish that is always assisting us and for this we are very grateful.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES:**

In 2019, we received 99 requests through our Help Line and we served 106 adults and 120 children in need, both in the community and through Safe Place. This reflected 74 home visits and 34 follow-up visits. The home visits provide an opportunity “to add to the bread that nourishes, the visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, and the friendly shake of the hand that lifts the sinking courage...”

Frederick Ozanam, 1848

## **GENERAL SERVICES:**

This year, 2019, we received 216 donation calls and made 147 pick-ups of furniture and household items. This resulted in 600 hours of volunteer time.

All of this was made possible by the generosity of our volunteers and of the Parish and surrounding community. In addition, we provided pickup and delivery service for St. Matthew's Conference in Edmonton, which was very much appreciated.

## **GARAGE SERVICES:**

In 2019, we made 204 deliveries of much needed furniture and household items. We receive clothing from the County Clothesline and clothing along with furniture and household items from the community which we sort and distribute to those in need as identified through our Help Line. We send clothing to the Parish Clothing Nook, The Marian Center, the Bissell Centre, Youth Empowerment and Support Services and our special projects in Saddle Lake and Paulatuk. Again, this year we sent several bags of clothing to Nigeria through Father Sabinus.. The volunteer hours for sorting and distribution for 2019 were 3600 hours. We sort 250 bags of clothing and 100 boxes of household items per week. In keeping with our mission to serve the poor with joy, the joy evident in the garage as we work together is a testament to the presence of Christ among us.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS:**

### **NORTH OF 60 PROJECT - PAULATUK**

We continued our work with Paulatuk this year sending a sea can in July with much needed food and clothing along with construction supplies. The latter was used to continue our renovation of the Mission House. Many hours are dedicated to this project. Once again, we are so appreciative of the support of the Parish for this project.

### **SADDLE LAKE CREE NATION**

In March, 2019, we reached out to Saddle Lake hoping to form a trusting relationship with them and to assist them with food and clothing as a Parish Initiative. In 2019, we visited six times. We have evolved to attending Mass with them followed by a meeting with them to share stories and to discuss how we can continue to work together to help them help themselves. We bring food for their Food Bank and clothing and household items for their Clothing Depot. Both are operated through their Local Parish.

## CLOTHING NOOK

In May, 2019, following the expansion of the existing space, improved lighting, a fresh coat of paint and partnering with the volunteers of the Clothing Nook, we commenced working in the Clothing Nook to better serve the ongoing need for clothing by the poor in our community. As a result, the Clothing Nook is open every Tuesday afternoon, staffed by the volunteers with SSVP on alternate Tuesdays. To the end of December, 2019, we served 310 persons including adults and children. This represented a significant investment in volunteer hours, with 7500 Hours being recorded. The hours spent were valued by the volunteers and the clients. The appreciation expressed within the accepting environment from the eager shoppers was a result of the love, respect, justice and joy in evidence.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The following is summarized information for the year ended December 31, 2019 *(stated in thousands of dollars)*:

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Receipts:</b>      |                     |
| Poor Box Collection   | \$ 27               |
| Other donations       | <u>14</u>           |
| <b>Total receipts</b> | <b>\$ <u>41</u></b> |

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Disbursements:</b>  |                     |
| Charitable works:  |                     |
| Direct assistance to local clients   | \$ 10               |
| North of 60 Project  | 15                  |
| Saddle Lake Cree Nation  | 1                   |
| OLPH Clothing Nook refurbishment   | 4                   |
| Twinning with an OLPH Conference in Ukraine  | <u>3</u>            |
| <b>Subtotal Of Disbursements</b>   | <b>\$ <u>33</u></b> |
| Operation and maintenance of SSVP garage and truck   | 6                   |
| Operating and administrative expenses: telephone help and donation line; bank charges; postage and office supplies | <u>2</u>            |
| <b>Total disbursements</b>   | <b>\$ <u>41</u></b> |

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>Excess of Receipts over Disbursements</b> | <b>\$ <u>0</u></b> |
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(The above does not include the value of donated clothing, furniture, etc.)

For 2020, we have designated several thousand dollars for much-needed special works for the North of 60 Project, and for the Sherwood Park Against Hunger Project.

Our Conference is a registered charity, with the registration number 13241 0671 RR0586. Accordingly, we are authorized to issue official tax receipts for monetary gifts (cash or cheque). As required, our Registered Charity Information Return is available for viewing on-line at the Canada Revenue Agency web site:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes/charities.html>

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

In 2019, we twinned with a Conference in the Ukraine, the Ukrainian Conference in Murovani-Kurilovci. Our contact, Sister Marta Meshko has reached out to us and is delighted with our relationship. We sent \$3,000 in 2019 to assist them in their works. We received word that they had set up a Library for children with special needs, which has been well received. We will send another \$3,000 in 2020.

On September 27, 2019, we hosted the Annual SSVP Commissioning for Edmonton Central Council. 27 members of our Conference were commissioned. Our Catholic Students from Archbishop Jordan High School provided the delicious refreshments.

On November 9 and 10, 2019 and November 16 and 17, 2019, we hosted Ministry in Focus weekends. With displays and hand-outs, we told our story, answered questions and requested volunteers.

On December 5, 2019, 18 members of our Conference attended the Annual Central Council Christmas Party hosted by St. Theresa's Conference in Edmonton. It was a night of warm fellowship and delicious food.

Planning is underway for the Sherwood Park Against Hunger Project which will be held in our Parish Hall on February 22, 2020. Together with the Sherwood Park Rotary Club, the OLPH Knights of Columbus and the Emmanuel Foundation, we will produce 60,000 meals for the hungry among us.

## **OUR INVITATION:**

We invite you to join with us in making a difference in someone's life by living our mission in some way. We have many jobs to be done and are looking for caring, fun-loving and reliable volunteers interested in helping the poor among us meet their basic needs. You may contact us through Mary Pat Skene at 780-416-3878.