

# Hope in Action

Your compassion to help neighbors in need

Your  
personal  
support to our  
neighbors



Helping Our Neighbors In Need  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul — Madison



## Dear friends,

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul essential values of **Gentleness, Selflessness, Simplicity, Humility and Zeal** guide us to serve our neighbors every day. I know we share these values and I thank you for your dedication to caring for our neighbors in need. Take a look at the impact of your support on the following pages and know that each number, each data point represents a real family or individual.

During this season of Lent, I'm intentionally taking daily time to pause and reflect on my faith journey. My Catholic tradition asks me to particularly use prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to build my relationship with God.

**Prayer...** I've built prayer into my daily life for a long time. I pray for you and for our Members, staff and volunteers every day. I pray for our neighbors in need, that their burdens may be eased by people like you and by changes in our society that will help them thrive. I hope you pray for me too!

**Fasting...** When our kids were young, one Lent we did a water "fast," meant to be in solidarity with children around the world who have to carry water for their families instead of going to school. I don't think we

lasted a week! But fasting done right helps us differentiate needs and wants. Fasting reminds us of those who live without basic essentials, and prompts us to order our decisions accordingly.

**Almsgiving...** During Lent, my husband and I try to be more generous. To find ways to say "yes" to the needs before us every day. You have been generous already. Thank you! I hope you'll be generous again this season, perhaps in a new way.

- Will you make an extra gift, knowing that so many more people need help?
- Will you become a quarterly or monthly donor? This helps stabilize our budget year-round and might be a way for you to give a little more.
- Will you consider a legacy gift by including us in your will, as a beneficiary for an insurance policy, or making a gift of appreciated assets like stock or bonds?

This is my prayer today: *May the good you do for neighbors in need return to you in joy and fellowship. May others follow your lead in compassion, kindness, and generosity to make our community better for all, particularly those most in need. May this time be one of outward focus; seeking to give ourselves to those the world often ignores. And may you be blessed beyond measure for your goodness. Amen.*



Julie Bennett  
CEO & Executive Director



## Our neighbors in need, need you.

Here's how you can help...

Legal name: District Council of Madison, Inc., Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Federal EIN 39-0824876.



### Donate

Become a monthly donor.



### Volunteer

Contact Zoe Lavender,  
zlavender@svdpmadison.org.



### Become a Member

Visit <https://svdpmadison.org/member-conferences/> to learn more.



### Advocate

SVP USA's Action Center:  
<https://votervoice.net/SVDPUSA/home>.



### Give Goods

Schedule a free home pickup!

# Society of St. Vincent de Paul Virtues

Did you know that a powerful set of virtues root the work you do for neighbors in need?

Gentleness, Selflessness, Simplicity, Humility and Zeal are our guiding principles. These virtues impact every aspect of our organization from our thrift stores and volunteers to our home visits and charitable programs. Your compassion is essential too. In your kindness you have alleviated our neighbors' suffering and upheld their dignity.

Take a look at the impact of your support (October 1st, 2022 - September 30th, 2023)...

*\*The Vincentian Virtues, National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul, <https://members.ssvpusa.org/our-spirituality/the-vincentian-virtues/>*

## Donor spotlight

### Become a Sustaining Samaritan

Poverty never takes a day off. It is a relentless burden that causes anxiety and distress - especially for children. This Lent, please join our community of monthly donors bringing help and hope to struggling families. Here are five reasons donors choose to give monthly:

- **Consistency:** Many people rely on St. Vincent de Paul — Madison every month for food, medicine and clothing.
- **Easy:** Give through an automatic, convenient monthly payment.
- **Impact:** As a Sustaining Samaritan, you invest in ongoing care of our neighbors in need.
- **Community:** Be a part of the loyal group of supporters that are committed to giving back.
- **Cost-Effective:** Monthly giving leads to fewer administrative costs, meaning more money to focus directly on neighbors' needs.

To give monthly, visit <https://svdpmadison.org/donate/> or scan here:



## Gentleness

Compassionate help that provides stability



*Our gentleness is expressed through a friendly assurance and invincible goodwill, which mean kindness, sweetness, and patience in our relationships with others.\**

**Because of you, St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy staff go the extra mile for adults unable to afford their prescription medications.** The gentle care they provide includes taking time to organize medications, check a blood sugar level, and answer patients' questions. As a community pharmacy, staff have the unique opportunity to spend quality time with patients to make sure they understand their medications. With help from pharmacy and nursing student volunteers, the pharmacy is also an incubator for future medical professionals who are passionate about helping underserved communities. A recent survey showed that 74% of Spanish-speaking patients responded "strongly agree" or "agree" when asked if they felt respected when visiting the pharmacy.

**Your gentle care for single adult families experiencing the trauma of homelessness is remarkable.** On any given evening, between 70 and 100 Dane County families are homeless. These adults and children living in shelters, outdoors or in their cars are more likely to face hunger, poor hygiene and delayed early-childhood development. Through the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Program, single parents and their children have the support they need to stabilize in permanent housing.



12 single-adult families are currently receiving ongoing case management support to prevent a recurrence of homelessness, heal from trauma, and set goals for their future.



# Selflessness

Thanks to you, no one needing help has been turned away



*Dying to our ego with a life of self-sacrifice; members share their time, their possessions, their talents and themselves in a spirit of generosity.\**

Every week, hundreds of caring volunteers sort, pack and deliver food to families struggling to make ends meet. These faithful souls remove the one damaged orange from a donated bag and repackage it, check expiration dates, and move hundreds of pounds of milk, dairy, and meat between the food warehouse, into shopping carts, and into cars.

**Your selfless gifts of time and talent means that no one needing food was turned away from the pantry this year despite escalating need.**

Access to quality food means people have money to pay for gas, rent and utilities - bills that have no other social support.



2,204 families with transportation barriers received food through DoorDash delivery.

5,336 families choose culturally-appropriate and dietary-friendly food through the Pantry2Home online system.

# Simplicity

Neighbors receive basic essentials for their day



*Simplicity is expressing ourselves honestly, with frankness, integrity, and genuineness.\**

**Simplicity is central to how you help neighbors** in need through St. Vincent de Paul — Madison. Thanks to you, neighbors receive essentials of food, diapers, medicine, clothing and furniture. These basic needs are offered simply with the intention that neighbors can access them without complicated processes or unnecessary questions. Care is provided without regard to a neighbor's sexuality, race or legal status.

Each day, about ten adults or children receive clothing at no cost to them from St. Vinny's Thrift Stores. Sometimes families have lost all of their possessions in a fire and need clothing. In other cases, young kids wear through clothing and need bigger sizes faster than what a family can save for. Your generous material and financial support means we're able to donate goods directly from our stores to people in need. Along with providing a reliable thrift experience for shoppers (we know that's many of you!), **our stores are visible signs of our collective work in our community** and commitment to helping our neighbors in need.



Your generosity provided clothing to 3,607 adults and children.



# Humility

Home visitors offer a personal connection to struggling neighbors



*Humility can be understood as humbleness, “the foundation of all the other virtues” or “the knowledge of truth.”\**

**In a spirit of humble generosity**, St. Vincent de Paul Members offer their very selves to neighbors in need. Volunteer home visitors respond to calls for help by meeting with neighbors in their homes. They offer a listening ear and encouragement to neighbors; they problem solve and provide information on community resources. Many times, they find that people just need someone to talk with to remember that they are not alone. Often families moving into new apartments lack beds, furniture, pots, pans, dishes and utensils. Home visitors direct neighbors to St. Vinny's Thrift Stores where they can redeem clothing and furniture vouchers giving dignity, warmth, comfort and hope for brighter days ahead.

Home visitors help where they can. If a neighbor's needs are more sizable, they may refer them to our Sister Rosalie Fund for one-time financial assistance. For example, a car repair or unexpected medical bill may threaten a neighbor's ability to pay rent. The Sr. Rosalie Fund is reserved for these types of bills that are one-time emergencies. **Your support of time, talent, and treasure fuels the work of home visitors.** The goods you donate generate income, your volunteer hours, and your financial gifts all come together to help our neighbors in need.



54 families received one-time financial help through the Sr. Rosalie Fund.

Vincentian member volunteers conducted 1,135 person-to-person home visits.

# Zeal

Being available and present when neighbors call



*Zeal, which St. Vincent de Paul once described as “the soul of all the virtues,” is a passion for the full flourishing and eternal happiness of every person.\**

Your support of our neighbors in need through St. Vincent de Paul — Madison kindles our collective zeal to actively alleviate suffering. **You are part of a large team of people, businesses and foundations working to help our neighbors in need.** Many of you have been supporters of neighbors in need for years and decades - thank you! Some of you are new in joining us to help our neighbors in need - welcome!

It's hard to be poor. It's hard to not know where your next meal will come from or not have proper clothing during winter. With you, so many people in our community have someone to turn to for help. Our neighbors' resilience is strengthened when they walk through challenges with someone by their side.



2,494 individual, business, and foundations gave support.

\$3,860,435 received in financial contributions.



**None of this would be possible without you. Thank you for your generosity.** Will you continue to kindle our zeal so that every person can fully flourish? Please give now: <https://svdpmadison.org/donate/>.





District Council of  
Madison, Inc.  
Society of  
St. Vincent de Paul  
PO Box 259686  
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### Our mission

We are a Catholic lay organization in which members join together in friendship to grow spiritually by providing person-to-person services to our neighbors in need.

### Vincentian Values

Simplicity  
Humility  
Gentleness  
Selflessness  
Zeal

### Your crucial support

Your compassion and generosity changes the lives of thousands of people each year in Dane County. Donate online now by scanning the below QR code or call (608) 442-7200 x34.

Contact Eric Fleming at [efleming@svdpmadison.org](mailto:efleming@svdpmadison.org) or (608) 442-7200 x34 to leave a bequest in your will or estate to care for future needs of our community.



You're Invited!



## With You... Lives Change.

### 9th Annual Fundraising Breakfast

Wednesday, May 1st, 2024

7:30 am – 8:30 am

Alliant Energy Center, Madison

Help raise \$210,000 to feed the hungry, care for the sick, give dignity and lend comfort to our neighbors in need. Registration, parking and breakfast are complimentary. **Invite family, friends and colleagues.**



Registration required by April 24th,  
<https://svdpmadison.org/care-cafe/>.



Thank you, sponsors!

