



St. Vincent de Paul Annual Report to the Parish for the Year Oct 1, 2019 to Sept 30, 2020

We of the St. Matthew Conference of SVdP humbly thank you, our fellow parishioners, for your generosity which allowed us to continue to help our neighbors in need in the Lake City area. Our conference has been serving the poor for 57 years, beginning under the able leadership of Tommy Kobayashi. Our local Seattle-King County Council is celebrating 100 years of service!

The mission of the Society is “to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering”. Covid 19 stretched us to creatively continue that goal. Our model is to visit our neighbors in their homes in teams of 2, bringing a compassionate ear and help for their needs. Since March we have substituted with telephone visits, mailed support as appropriate, and delivered food and household supplies in a socially distanced manner. With a 3 month closure of the SVdP stores we had to forego vouchers to the stores as well as deliveries of beds, and were not able to partner with a P-Patch this summer for fresh produce. We have found the most profound need of our neighbors is for monetary help, primarily with rent, and secondarily for utilities. We have concern for their welfare when the eviction and shutoff moratoriums cease as many of our neighbors are substantially behind in their rent and utilities.

For our fiscal year we supplied the following help:

- * \$61,482 for rent and utilities, which is a 42% increase over last year.
- * \$1,691 in other support, such as Fred Meyer gift cards, air beds, and bus tickets.
- * \$2,898 in vouchers written to one of the SVdP stores for clothing, furniture and household items.
- * \$3,147 worth of beds delivered to their homes.

We made 351 visits to homes, 262 telephone visits, and delivered 508 bags of food, which helped about 1400 people. This includes Thanksgiving and Christmas deliveries to 107 households.

We received support for our work from the following:

- * \$45,621 from parishioner donations, including Christmas in July.
- * \$16,000 from the SVDP Council and other parish conferences.
- * \$4,475 in memorial donations.
- * \$4,000 from a grant from the Holy Names Sisters.
- * \$255 in miscellaneous support.

We received 8,477 items of food, supplies, and holiday items for our food pantry from parishioners, school families, community businesses and Bishop Blanchet High School. We estimate the value of these donations at \$17,356.

We ask you to prayerfully consider becoming a member of our Conference. Our meetings are currently held virtually on Zoom on Tuesdays from 7-8 pm. If you feel called to this ministry, please call Mary Hebert at 206-697-2138 for more information. All are welcome.

PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR WEEKLY COVID-19 PRAYER ON THE OTHER SIDE

A PRAYER FOR OUR TIME DURING COVID-19

**May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.**

**May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.**

**May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making
their rent.**

**May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no option.**

**May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no safe place to go.**

**May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.**

**May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country, let us choose love.**

**During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.**

Amen.