

St. Vincent de Paul Society



Milwaukee Council Guidebook

June 2022



**Affiliated with Society of St. Vincent de
Incorporated 6/4/1917**

Paul United States Council

Dear New Member:

WELCOME TO THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY!

You are now part of the efforts of over 600 women and men in the Milwaukee Council who have committed themselves to helping people in need in our community by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

We cannot offer you personal glory or even recognition for the works you do simply a great deal of spiritual growth and peace and a commitment to justice that may well last the rest of your life.

As President of the Council, I urge you to remain faithful to the meetings of your parish conference and to the principles of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We encourage you to sharpen your skills by reading the Society's publications and attending meetings of the Council and training sessions that are offered.

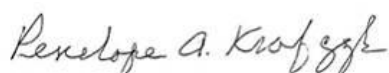
The Milwaukee Council staff and I are here to support and guide you in your call to Vincentian life.

To help with accuracy in membership records and communication please refer to the checklist below:

- Attend an Ozanam Orientation within 6-12 months; Council Office has schedule information.
- Complete, sign and submit the Membership Form
- Use the Milwaukee Council Guidebook for reference

We have volunteer opportunities beside our conference works that we encourage Vincentians to consider - at our stores or our meal sites. Again, thank you, and welcome to the St. Vincent de Paul Society!

Your Sister in Christ and St. Vincent de Paul,



Penny Krafczyk
SVDP Board President
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Milwaukee Council Contact List

Mailing Address

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Email

council@svdpmilw.org

Phone

Phone: 414-462-7837
Fax: 414-462-5458

Website

www.svdpmilw.org



Council Office- *working remotely to provide services*

Debbie Duskey Executive Director	414-667-0241 dduskey@svdpmilw.org
Michelle Martin Finance Director	414-667-0244 mmartin@svdpmilw.org
Becca Surges Philanthropy/Marketing Communications Director	414-667-0242 rsurges@svdpmilw.org
Beth Hohenfeldt Administrative Specialist	414-667-0240 bhohenfeldt@svdpmilw.org
Melanie Critton Intake Coordinator	414-667-0243 mcritton@svdpmilw.org
Maria Welz Vincentian Membership Coordinator	414-667-0245 mwelz@svdpmilw.org

Thrift Stores

Donna Wallace General Manager	414-377-9077 dwallace@svdpmilw.org
Mark Dimeo Lincoln Store Manager	414-672-2040 mdimeo@svdpmilw.org
Tona Goddard Greenfield Assistant Store Manager	414-377-9077 tgoddard@svdpmilw.org
Angela Rodriguez Greenfield Assistant Store Manager	414-377-9077 arodriguez@svdpmilw.org
Cindy Friede Store Administrative Assistant	414-377-9077 cfriede@svdpmilw.org
<u>CONTACTLESS DONATIONS</u> will be <u>accepted</u> <u>at both locations</u> as noted or until full capacity	Donation pick-up line: 414-462-7863

Thrift Store Locations

2320 W. Lincoln Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53215
 Tel: 414-672-2040
 Mon-Fri 10am – 7pm, Sat 10am-6pm
 Donations: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm

4476 S. 108 St. Greenfield, WI 53228
 Tel: 414-377-9077
 Mon-Sat 10am – 7pm, Sun 11am – 6pm
 Donations: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm

Meal Program

Peggy West-Schroder Meal Site Manager	414-722-1353 pwest@svdpmilw.org
Quartterri(Terri) Wilder Site Coordinator	414-649-9555 Crossroads@svdpmilw.org
Samantha(Sami) Kongla Assistant Site Coordinator	414-249-3866 Skongla@svdpmilw.org

Meal Program Locations

Indoor sit-down service is not available at either location until further notice. Meal Program staff at both locations are preparing and serving hot to-go boxed meals following CDC guidelines.

North Site- Harambee Kitchen
 2600 N. 2 St. Milwaukee, WI 53212
 414-249-3866
 Monday – Friday 4:00pm - 6:15pm

South Site- Crossroads Kitchen
 931 W. Madison St. Milwaukee, WI 53204
 414-649-9555
 Sunday – Friday 4:00pm – 6:15pm

Volunteer Sign Up

Volunteers help is appreciated to prepare and serve meals boxes, greet guests and set-up/clean-up as needed. Click on links for availability.

Harambee Kitchen	Crossroads Kitchen
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Mission Statement



We are dedicated to eliminating poverty and hunger throughout Milwaukee County.



A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

Identity Statement

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Frederic Ozanam, and its patron, St. Vincent de Paul. As a reflection of the whole family of God, members are drawn from every ethnic and cultural background, age group, and economic level. They are united in an international society of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility, and sharing, which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings, and adherence to a basic Rule. Organized locally, members witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction among those served, because, in them, members see the face of Christ.

Vision

An international organization, the Society invites people from every ethnic and cultural background, age and economic level to join together in charity and social justice to fight against poverty and hunger. Members, known as Vincentians, offer person-to-person services, emergency aid, financial assistance and compassionate support and advocate for social justice.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an extraordinary organization that addresses two great commandments: love of God and love of neighbor. The Society enables us, with our weakness and strengths, to grow and become enriched spiritually, by serving those in need.

In this ever-changing world, with poverty increasing in a multitude of ways, the demands and opportunities for service are many and varied. The work that Blessed Frederic Ozanam and his young friends undertook was radical. They cared for the poor and the suffering and that is the challenge that we also face today.

Membership is a “vocation,” a calling to serve God in His poor. It is an opportunity to put faith into action in a practical way, and in a spiritual context. Unlike some social service agencies, the Society is not simply a material service provider. We should cherish our “spirituality” and do all we can to nurture it. People notice what we say and do, and how we do it. They see how we treat one another for good or ill. The spirit of fraternity among Vincentians should glow like a lamp in the dark for others to see how genuinely we love one another.

Structure of Organization

Conferences
The conference is the basic unit for every Vincentian. The activity of the Society is conducted on the conference level and efforts on other levels exist to support conference activity. There are 45 conferences in the Milwaukee Council . Conferences meet regularly, have leadership positions, make home visits and organize special works of charity, and are committed to spiritual growth.
Local Council (District)
Local councils (districts) serve individual conferences as well as promote a spirit of broader unity, coordinate activities of conferences, and undertake works that overlap parish areas. Local councils may also operate stores that oversee collection and distribution of furniture, clothing, and other household items. Councils have also taken on the role of raising money to support the poorer conferences, providing training sessions for new Vincentians, and publishing formational and promotional materials.
(Arch)diocesan Council
Archdiocesan Councils bring together local councils in the same way as the local council brings together conferences. It encourages initiatives to establish new councils in areas where the Society is not established. It represents the Society before the Bishop and on diocesan planning bodies. The Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council consists of 9 districts: Dodge, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha.
National Council
A National Council brings together the Vincentians of a country, providing guidance and advice on local problems, ensuring communication, coordinating international twinning, and representing the Society at international meetings where new policies are discussed. The National Council of the United States is assisted by eight subdivisions called regions, which are groupings of states and consist of over 150,000 members.
International Council
The International Council consists of national presidents and coordinates the Society throughout the world. International assemblies are held at several year intervals to discuss major issues facing the Society. SVDP is found in 150 countries over 5 continents consisting of 44,600 conferences.

Our History

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) is a worldwide Christian community. It was founded in Paris, France by a 20-year old student at the Sorbonne, Antoine Frederic Ozanam, with six friends, on April 23, 1833. The "Conference of Charity," as it was originally known, was formed in response to taunts from fellow students: *"What is Christianity doing to help the poor and suffering?"* The group took as their model and patron the great French saint and champion of the poor, Vincent de Paul. It later became known as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and spread rapidly throughout Paris, and then France.

Rules and regulations became necessary as the single Conference in France grew and became an organization. In 1835, the Society's Rule, a series of Articles, was developed to help preserve the objectives and Spirit of the original founders.

By 1845 the Society had reached the shores of the United States, and the first conference was established in St. Louis, Missouri. The pioneer town of Milwaukee was the site of the founding of the sixth conference in the United States in 1849. The movement grew quickly and widely across America.



Yours must be a work of love, of kindness, you must give your time, your talents, yourselves. The poor person is a unique person of God's fashioning with an inalienable right to respect. You must not be content with tiding the poor over the poverty crisis; You must study their condition and the injustices which brought about such poverty, with the aim of a long term improvement.

~Blessed Frederic Ozanam

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores

The St. Vincent de Paul Stores exist primarily to collect and process donations for distribution to individuals and families in need through parish conferences. Vincentians use gift certificates(vouchers) to provide clothing, furniture, beds, and other household items based on the needs expressed during the home visit and the resource ability of the conference. *How to Write a Gift Certificate* is a guide updated regularly by store personnel and provides Vincentians with procedures to follow when issuing vouchers/gift certificates. Conferences may also have relationships established with local used appliance stores in order to assist with appliance requests. Consult with your conference on policies for issuance of appliance vouchers.

St. Vincent de Paul Meal Ministry

The Milwaukee Council of St. Vincent de Paul has been serving hot, nutritious evening meals since 1983 at two sites with the assistance of over 2,000 volunteers. This "special work" also accomplishes the Vincentian mission because it involves people of faith in direct service to people in need and promotes personalized service, emphasizing the ministry of hospitality. The meal program relies on volunteers to prepare and provide meals as well as to set up, serve and clean up.

Resources

[SVDP MKE Vincentian Resources](#)

The Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, The Manual and the *Member Handbook* are essential to learn and understand Vincentian life and charisms. These will be provided to new members as part of the Ozanam Orientation.

How to Write a Gift Certificate: This is a guide to the store procedures, policies, and prices for gift certificates/vouchers that are provided by conferences as a result of the home visit.

www.svdpusa.org National Council website: Click on the Members tab

www.famvin.org Vincentian Family website

www.ozanet.org International website