

Saint Maria Goretti Conference – Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - Current Year to Date Report

During our first seven months of operation, we have assisted 45 families in need. Without too much effort, The Holy Spirit raised \$9,815.96 from our kind and generous benefactors that paid \$9,777.00 for rent, car repairs, utilities, storage, and daycare expenses. Thank You all our Benefactors who contributed to our success, including the Youth Group Volunteers!

Why do we have to help with all the resources and charities in town? Our Saint Maria Goretti conference is managed strictly by volunteers, and 100% of our donations go to those in need that live within our specific four zip codes here by Saint Maria Goretti. We are their last hope, before falling into homelessness, losing their utilities, or valuable possessions. This month, our lack of funds prevented us from assisting six families, mostly women with children, in keeping a roof over their heads. Shelters are not easy on families if they are even available. Thank You Dear Volunteers for contributing your time and talent; you are making a difference in the Kingdom of the Lord!

How are we different? We offer immediate help. For example, if a person is laid off and files for unemployment, the waiting period is four weeks before getting compensation. If rent is due during this time, by living paycheck to paycheck, they run into very expensive late fees, possibly court costs, and eviction notices. When they get their first check, they are already homeless. Our group helps them with their rent, negotiate late fees with the landlord, and saves their dignity. We visit them in the comfort of their homes: no lines, no waiting time, no humiliations and the visit is completely confidential.

What is our mission and what do we gain? First and foremost, we are Catholic and servants of the Lord. Acts of the Apostles, 20:35 *“In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* It is especially true of our Saint Vincent de Paul mission. Every time we help a child of Jesus, we receive more spiritually than we give out materially. Join us and live the experience yourself! Be a witness of Jesus’ love to his children, the poor, and those in need.

Who are the poor and those in need in America? You might not be aware, but the Star-Telegram¹ reports that 20% of Tarrant County, including Arlington, lives in extreme poverty. One out of five residents lives paycheck to paycheck. If a minor issue occurs, like missing work due to an illness, they are subject to going homeless. Your contribution keeps a roof over their heads, saves their dignity, and helps to improve the overall safety of our local neighborhood.

How can you contribute? You can donate with a check made out to SMG Saint Vincent de Paul Conference and drop it in the Poor Box located in the Narthex, entrance to the Church. You can also join us as a volunteer; we value your time, dedication and commitment, more than anything else. We have many roles: Intake Operator from the comfort of your home, Home Visit team, Fundraising team, and guidance and support. We meet every first, third and fifth Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Padre Pio House.

¹ <http://www.star-telegram.com/living/family/moms/article3832632.html>



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SMG SVdP Hot Line: **(817) 260-0376**