



Society of
Saint Vincent de Paul

All Saints Conference

Contact the West Middlesex Catholic Family of Parishes office for more information at 519-245-0644.

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

On Thursdays, at the parish center at All Saints, you can smell the delicious aroma of food wafting down the hallways, tempting our tastebuds!

You see, on Thursdays, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul workers are preparing food for the Helping Hands lunch that is served on all but one Thursday of the month.

An outreach of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, many people in our local community are nourished and sustained not only by the food, but by the wonderful friendly people they encounter who serve them with friendship, good humor and laughter!

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is operated out of All Saints Roman Catholic Church. They are an independent agency of non-profit, charitable status. They are entirely volunteer based. They are not an adjunct to the social service funding agencies of the province.

Below is a description of just some of the things they do in our community.

New volunteers always welcome!

What we do:

Helping Hands Free Lunches

- Lunches are available on Thursday of each week except the 2nd Thursday when lunch is at the Anglican church.
- Food is purchased through monthly collections from the parishioners.

- There is a special Christmas Lunch very near to Christmas. St. Vincent de Paul school have been providing gift bags with a range of toiletries, socks, mitts, scarves, etc. for ladies and men.

Community Outreach

- The program is available to neighbors in need at the church on the 2nd And 3rd Wednesday of the month which has been specifically chosen to be in the middle of whatever government income the person might have, to help until the next cheque.
- We provided food cards for Food Basics in \$10 denominations that is increased depending on the number of people living in the household. Homes with young children under age 16, are issued more. The assistance is available to registrants 6 times per year as funding depends on donations from our parishioners for this purpose.
- On a one-time basis only for one person, we pay utility bills or on occasion, up to 50% of rent. We do not have funding to pay massive back owing amounts.
- We provide emergency bed at a motel for those in extreme circumstances for 1-3 nights.
- More consideration for this is given if there are children involved.
- Give vouchers for clothing that is obtained at the Economy Shop free.
- Out of the Cold: we collect hats, scarves, gloves, socks and coats for those in need. These are distributed as needed and at the Christmas lunch.
- Financial counseling: we have an agreement with BDO available to those who want some assistance or guidance with financial issues.
- We advocate and refer to other agencies as appropriate following discussion with client.

Food Drives

- There are three per year, equally split between the Salvation Army food bank, WRRRC/CAS in Strathroy, depending on how many community-driven food drives are conducted. We joined with the Community Food Bank several years ago to facilitate equal distribution in the community.
- At Christmas, we provide hampers of food and gifts for members of our parish only. The contents are derived from our annual Christmas Angel Tree collection. Excess items of food and gifts/toys are taken to the above agencies for dispersal to those in need in our community.

Leo's Linens

- Funds donated by parishioners' support what is in reality a diaper and hygienic product bank that can be accessed by young mothers with babies, adults or seniors on a bi-monthly basis and receive a box of product and a package of wipes free. Cap for diapers

is age 4. This service can be accessed on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 9 until 10 am at All Saints parish center.

Home Visits

- When a client requests assistance, we go to the home to meet in their own comfortable environment. We assess what the client asks for and what else we can identify as also needed but not asked for. We establish a relationship with the clients that often lasts for years. We offer access to other assistance and agencies.

Systemic Change:

- Ozanam Education Fund or ONRC, has been established to help provide educational funding for those trapped in poverty enabling them to obtain a decent job. The fund was established under the Ontario Regional Council of Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Conference members identify students either through our Community Outreach Program or work closely with counselors at Holy Cross Secondary school or SDCI high school. The grant is applied to the tuition or residence fee for the student at any post high school educational program in Ontario. The application process is conducted by the Conference members and is approved by the Ozanam Grant Committee at the provincial level.
- Seeds of Hope Project – the Government of Canada provides a \$2000 tax free grant towards a RESP for every child born in Canada after the year 2004. SSVP is a champion of this by making sure every family is aware of its existence and how to access it without any financial burden to them. It does not affect any other social income they might be receiving. Our goal is to make all families aware of the program and assist in establishing it at the bank of choice.

For more information about the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Ontario Regional Council, go to

www.ssvp.on.ca