



Society of
Saint Vincent
de Paul



Community Impact Report

2020-2021

Message From the National President



Claude Bédard

President,
National Council of Canada

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Thank you to our National office staff for their dedication and assistance. Their work is invaluable to the Society and its members. Without them, we would be hard pressed to provide any services and help to persons in need from ocean, to ocean, to ocean. I know that when a conference or council is in dire need of a quick response or when they are faced with what appears to be an insurmountable problem, they can always depend on them to provide ideas, suggestions or solutions on how best to prevail over the issues at hand.

Thank you also to all the staff members employed by the conferences and councils to manage their offices, stores and special works and to support the work of the members, associates and volunteers within your respective jurisdiction.

Next, my thanks go out to the thousands of members, associates and volunteers, the life blood of our Society. More than 1.1 million hours of volunteer service per year means that no person in need has to go without help when reaching out to the Society; no stores or special works have to close their doors for lack of willing workers.

Where would the Society be without its leaders? Committed, steadfast, loyal and faithful leaders at the helm steering and guiding conferences and councils at all levels. Elected and appointed officials upholding and protecting our core values, fully motivated and dedicated to the mission of the Society. Thank you for your services.

To the executive committee, members of the board, committee chairs and national office staff, my most sincere and heartfelt thank you for all your work. Who could have imagined that we could accomplish so much in just two short years while under constraint by the COVID pandemic? The Lord works in mysterious ways. Let us hope and pray that He will continue to inspire and guide us to the benefit of the Society and those whom we serve.

Last but not least by any stretch of the imagination, thank you to our benefactors. Your support makes it possible for the Society to exist and to serve the needs of the unfortunate, the forgotten, the marginalized and the oppressed members of our communities. Your ongoing support has given the Society 175 years of continuous service in Canada.

Serviens in Spe,
Claude Bédard

Message From the Executive Director



Richard Pommainville

Executive Director
National Council of Canada

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Thank you to all members for your dedication and firm commitment to our mission, and for your continuing generosity in helping persons in need, especially during this COVID-19 public health pandemic. The mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is even more important today, to be proactive in the assistance of persons in need, making no distinction of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions, and to help in all possible ways. The mission of the Society is a key differentiator since it is anchored in Catholic Social Teaching, and is inspired by the respect of human dignity, by personal contact, and by the personalization of assistance. SSVP has a wide reach across Canada, not just in a few urban centers. Vincentians provide assistance to about one per cent of the Canadian population.

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam wrote "Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveler who has been attacked. But it is justice's role to prevent the attack." The National Action Plan, the national campaign on housing following the theme of Safe, Secure and Affordable Housing, was launched on February 7, 2021, feast day of Blessed Rosalie Rendu. Vincentians see first-hand the necessity of having a good roof over someone's head.

Training development continues to be a key focus for the Society. Training is a lifelong process, with regular updates necessary. The four pillars of training in the SSVP Canada curriculum are: i) Vincentian Life; ii) Leadership; iii) Spirituality; and iv) Special Works/Stories. The Formation Committee is putting a lot of focus on the extension of these four areas. Leveraging technologies, online webinars have been developed and delivered, providing opportunities to reach more Vincentians than ever before. As well, we saw the launch of the Society's spiritual computer-based program developed for the SSVP by Newman Theological College.

During the course of 2020, as part of being engaged with the Food Rescue Canadian Alliance (FRCA) Task Force, a relationship was developed with Second Harvest/Food Rescue so that the SSVP conferences/councils could take advantage of the fresh produce available in their communities. This is well aligned with Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* on care for our common home, by reducing waste and reducing green gas emission.

SSVP became a Founding Partner in the Will Power pilot campaign initiated by the Canadian Association of Gift Planners (CAGP); this pilot was in the Oakville, Hamilton and Niagara Golden Horseshoe (NGH) area, linking donors with financial planners, lawyers and notaries with charities. This legacy giving initiative will be extended throughout Canada in the fall of 2021.

In addition, as part of continuing to modernize the National office infrastructure, many conferences and councils have taken advantage of the National donation portal to receive donations, all part of revenue diversification. A series of social media visuals were developed, including a social media use guide and best operational practice, for reuse by any conference/council.



13,000

volunteers



1,125,500

volunteer hours



104,000

homes assisted



248,000

people served at home



82,000

children served at home



140

stores and outlets



34,300

friendly visits and visits to the sick



139

food banks and soup kitchens



129,000

people served at food banks



186,000

meals served at soup kitchens



264

low-cost housing units



9

shelters and drop-in centres



1,130

people served at shelters
and drop-in centres



8,107

children given education assistance



\$47,820,000

total revenues



\$43,500,000

total expenses



\$14,770,000

worth of food given



\$3,950,000

worth of merchandise given

Volunteers in Action



Sandra

Sandra coordinates with the Mount Pearl (NL) Minor Hockey Association to collect food and funds for the food bank. In December, Sandra collected 30,000 food items and raised over \$10,000.



Bob & Richard

Every two weeks, Bob and Richard distributed boxes of pre-packaged frozen meals to 38 families, helping 131 people in need. (Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, BC).



Food Bank (Rosemont)

Young food bank volunteers in the Borough Rosemont (QC) help with the weekly food distribution, assisting 100 people in need.



Lynn

Lynn assists in the weekly preparation and distribution of 90 food hampers, helping 125 people in their homes and 40 people in the park in Williams Lake. (BC).

Special Projects

North of 60

Tsiigehtchic NWT

We invite you to view photos and texts by Therese Steiner of the North of 60 project. Therese visited Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic in the Northwest Territories. She describes the life in these communities; the arrival of sea containers sent by the SSVP; the distribution of the food and material received. She introduces us to the Vincentians and other volunteers in this region who make sure that everything is well distributed... by snowmobile and toboggan!

Watch the video at bit.ly/tsiigehtchic-nwt



Whitefish Lake First Nation

Over the month of December, SSVP has received a generous donation of several hundred mattresses. Please enjoy the visual of the movement of these mattresses from the Edmonton 'North of 60' warehouse to the Whitefish Lake First Nation (Atikameg) Cree Community located in Northern Alberta, five hours drive north.

Further distribution is within the Edmonton Community through SSVP conferences as well as the SSVP conference in Yellowknife, the Edmonton Mennonite Centre, the Edmonton Emergency Services Centre, and a few other Cree Nations Communities in Northern Alberta.

Watch the video at bit.ly/whitefish-lake-first-nation



The North of 60 project continues to assist 17 Northern communities by sending 13 sea containers with food and material.

Special Projects

“Twinning” Nicaragua

Construction of bathrooms

This project entailed the construction of 19 bathrooms in the rural community of El Tule, Chinandega Department, Nicaragua.

It was planned and executed by a local community organization, FUNDACCO, in collaboration with the National Council of Nicaragua. FUNDACCO is linked to Roots of Change, a Catholic charity from Alberta.

More information at bit.ly/ssvp-nicaragua



\$208,500 has been sent by SSVP Canada to its 170 active twinning engagements over 21 recipient countries.

Advocacy

Housing campaign

Inspired by the Housing campaign “Safe, secure and affordable housing is a human right”, the Halifax Particular Council has initiated two key projects where they have:

- Provided new portable beds, mattresses and bedding to the residents of the Out of the Cold (OTC) Shelter in Halifax, replacing borrowed Salvation Army cots. Value: \$11,500.
- Provided funding to support the Sackville Area Warming Centre’s social worker and her work, locating long-term housing for the users of the Centre. Value: \$10,000.



Safe, secure and affordable housing is a human right

Thank you

We'd like to thank all our donors and volunteers for their commitment to helping our communities this year. It's people like you who make this all possible. Whether you donated money, food, goods or time this year, know that your contribution has truly made a difference.

Find out how to get involved at ssvp.ca



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