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Society of
Saint Vincent
de Paul



Community Impact Report

2021-2022

Message From the National President



Claude Bédard

President,
National Council of Canada
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Finally, we are approaching the end of the COVID Pandemic, or are we?

“Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.” Winston Churchill

I fear that this may be the norm for some years to come as we, a people and nation, in effect the world, continue to struggle with the ultimate questions in search of the ever-evasive answers in this contemporary secular era.

Our Society appears to have navigated the stormy pandemic waters quite handily, remaining relatively unscathed overall by adapting to the ever-changing conditions over the last 3 years. Although we are not without casualties, primarily the number of Conferences that were forced into closure or that lost substantial access to regular funding channels due to government restrictions and limits imposed upon the churches. Praise the Lord that our stores and special works have not suffered to the same extent.

We have managed to maintain adequate staffing, members, volunteers and benefactors, across the vast national spectrum, to continue to serve families and persons in need, albeit in a more restrictive and limited capacity from our normal person-to-person in-home visit. We also had to endure and overcome restrictions in the day-to-day service that we normally provide through our special works. Thanks to all who, thinking outside the box, managed to continue to provide a high level of service to all who depend on, sought or required our services.

The person-to-person in-home visit is the single most Charism of the Society recognized the world over. Armed with the Charism, members and volunteers allow those whom they serve to experience the healing power of Jesus' love. This applies equally to all the Society's special works, be it in the soup kitchens, stores, residences, recovery centers, camps, etc.

I hope and pray that we can soon return to the in-home person-to-person visit. We must be watchful and respectful of the different levels of comfort experienced by the individuals and families whom we serve and also of the members and volunteers who serve them. We should never impose our personal level of comfort onto another person. Be aware at all times and take appropriate measures to ensure each person's safety.

Many conferences, isolated conferences and councils have fallen short of or are in dire need of assistance due to the downturn in their normal funding sources. If you are one of the fortunate conferences, isolated conferences or councils who have reduced workloads and increased funding please be generous and plan to assist those not so fortunate.

In closing, let us remember that this is not our work, it is the Lord's. We need to be ever vigilant to His voice and direction. We can only do that through prayer. I encourage you to pray daily to seek the Lord's guidance and assistance.

Ste Marguerite pray for us that we will give freely of our time to others but especially to the poor and marginalized. Amen.

Glory be...

Message From the Executive Director



Richar Pommerville

Executive Director,
National Council of Canada

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The founders of the Society in Paris in 1833 would be proud of the dedication and firm commitment of our Canadian members who continued assisting persons in need, in spite of the Public Health requirements during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mission of the Society continues to be important with the personalization of assistance; this approach is anchored in Catholic Social Teaching, inspired by focusing on the dignity of the human person; Vincentians live their faith by their actions.

The 2021-2024 Strategic Plan adopted in June 2021 defined 9 objectives focusing on four pillars: Leadership, Vincentian Life, Spirituality, and Special Works; the different objectives of the National Strategic Plan were laid out so that conferences or councils can adopt some of these objectives to strengthen the Society and to create a common direction in the Society. Many objectives leverage the evolving set of technological advances available to a charity to progress in this ever-changing world, items such as ongoing social media presence and name recognition in the community, and fund development technics. The strategic plan includes an intrinsic care for our environment which the circular economy thrift stores provide by giving back to the community.

It is important to note the partnership with Second Harvest and their Food Rescue program allowing conferences and councils to take advantage of the fresh produce available in their local communities; this is well aligned with Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* on care for our common home, by reducing waste and reducing green gas emissions.

On Friday November 12, 2021, as part of continuing to modernize the National office infrastructure, in conjunction with the 175th celebration of the Society in Canada, a new National web site was launched. The National Member Portal phase 1 has been used in trials with multiple conferences and councils; with the development of phase 2, the online financial and statistics reporting will be introduced in the fall of 2022 allowing automatic consolidation of reports once conferences have submitted them.

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 campaign on housing under the theme *Safe, Secure and Affordable Housing is a Human Right*, continues to spur initiatives across the country. Partnerships with different groups having a common goal of providing to persons in need continue to flourish with the multiple social justice initiatives the Society is involved with.



12,000

volunteers



1,120,000

volunteer hours



115,000

homes assisted



183,000

people served at home



82,000

children served at home



105

stores and outlets



11,000

friendly visits and
visits to the sick



109

food banks and
soup kitchens



111,000

people served
at food banks



109,000

meals served at
soup kitchens



264

low-cost
housing units



9

shelters and
drop-in centres



2,100

people served at shelters
and drop-in centres



3,830

children given education
assistance



\$51,770,000

total revenues



\$45,315,000

total expenses



\$13,400,000

worth of food given



\$5,084,000

worth of merchandise given

Volunteers in Action



Shelby & Sophia

On The Street Event - Helping our brothers and sisters in need. St. Louise de Marillac Youth Conference, London (ON).



Katie

“Hunger Doesn’t Take a Summer Vacation” Food Drive, SSVP Carbonear Foodbank (NL). They collected hundreds of pounds of food and hundreds of dollars worth of donations.



Sylvia & Lise

These two Vincentians welcome and serve the most needy who come at the SSVP thrift store in Saint-Léonard (QC). Our thrift stores give a second life to your items.



Santa's Helpers

Santa’s helpers collecting donations for the Harbour Grace food bank (NL). They had an incredible day with an amazing amount of donations received!

Special Projects

A bed for Every Child

The Bed for Every Child project was conceived to help alleviate some of the ill effects of poverty on children in the Brant/Brantford community.

The goal is to provide a new bed to a child in an underprivileged home who would otherwise not have a bed in which to sleep. These children are currently sleeping on the floor or carpet or couch or are sharing a bed with parents and/or several siblings. The living conditions in these homes are personally witnessed by SSVP Brant home visitors, who engage in home visits to determine the extent of the need within these families.

To date, over 280 beds have been given to these very under-privileged children.

More information: www.ssvpbrant.ca



La Dépannerie:

Your Neighbourhood Solidarity Grocery Shop

La Dépannerie is a low-cost grocery store, open to the public, where you can find a healthy and varied food offer. It thus promotes physical and economic access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Following a consultation with users of our services, we noted that they often leave with the same type of non-perishable food. Lack of easy access to fresh food has been mentioned several times: this is how our solidarity grocery project emerged.

The project was set up to meet the needs of people with low incomes or who are food insecure, who become members of La Dépannerie. However, the grocery store is open to all types of households (single people, single-parent families, large families, students, etc.) regardless of their economic situation.

More information: www.svp-mtl.org



Special Projects

Seeds of Hope

Alleviating dental suffering!

Unmet dental needs can lead to health consequences downstream such as gum disease, tooth loss, infection, heart disease, and loss of self-esteem. We witness dental suffering on an almost daily basis with our encounter with people in need.

The SSVP dental project is organized around three pillars:

- Connecting children to dental services
- Adult teeth cleaning
- Emergency dental for adults

More information: www.ssvp.ca



Twining - Peru

Community Cooking Pots

The SSVP Superior Council in Peru buys or accepts donations of food that is brought to nine neighborhoods in the District, where teams of women (cooking pot mothers) prepare the food and distribute rations. Food is prepared over fires in several 50-litre pots. The women cook on the streets or in houses without the minimum basic needs. Beneficiaries participate in the program by supplying firewood or material for cooking.

"The Conferences within Durham Particular Council's area voted unanimously to support this twinning project. While continuing to support local Neighbours in Need, the overarching sentiment was that we can support those both near and far to combat food insecurity. We are all interconnected in our faith, and generosity is one small way to show our humanity."

Maureen, Durham Particular Council

More information: www.ssvp.ca



**\$219,335 has been sent by SSVP Canada to its
186 active twinning engagements
over 20 recipient countries.**

More information: ssvp.ca/members/twinning/

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.



The North of 60 project continues to assist 18 Northern communities by sending food and material.

More information: ssvp.ca/special-projects/north-of-60/

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ANNUAL DUES APPEAL

We are slowly returning to “normal” after two years of following different local/regional/provincial Public Health requirements. As 2021 financial and statistics reports are being received, we have a better understanding of the impact the pandemic had on conference life, where certain conferences have managed to continue and even thrive, while others went dormant. This latter situation implies that some conferences are not in a position to cover their annual dues.

Since multiple conferences are not in a position to cover their dues, this ultimately has an impact on the National Council of Canada revenues since a significant portion of these dues cover the day-to-day operations. Based on current information received, there is a contributions gap in the order of \$35,000.

We are therefore reaching out to conferences and councils that are capable of providing some financial coverage for sister conferences who would not be in a position to pay their annual dues. Funds can be sent to National via the donation portal <https://www.imakeanonlinedonation.org/ssvp-national/CONTRIBUTIONS/> or by sending a cheque to the National office at 2463 Innes Road, Ottawa, ON, K1B 3K3.

*Dave O'Connor, Treasurer
National Council*



WEEKENDER PROGRAM FOR KIDS

The Weekender Program for Kids (WP4K) is one of the 4 main giving programs of the Brockville Conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP).

The WP4K provides food assistance on the weekends, during the school year, to children with food insecurity in their lives. These children often benefit from school breakfast and/or lunch programs during the week, but on the weekend, they are at risk of going hungry. That's where we come in! The WP4K provides the kids enrolled in our program with a large baggie containing a variety of food items for them to take home each Friday during the school year, to help fill their tummies over weekends. Pasta, juice boxes, oatmeal, granola bars, fruit snacks, soup mix, Bear Paws and a fruit cup are among the items in each bag, each weekend. In total it costs a little more than \$200 per year to sponsor a child.

In 2018 the Weekender Program for Kids was awarded one of the inaugural *Brockville Community Awards of Recognition for Outstanding Community Contribution*, thanks to Councillor Matt Wren. We were very honoured to be included in this recognition with the other amazing recipients.

Since the 16 first baggies were sent home, from our first partner school, on Dec 11th 2015, we have now expanded into 19 local schools (JK to Grade 8) and we currently have 237 children enrolled in the WP4K. On Wed, Nov 17th we packed our 30,000 WP4K baggie! This milestone means 30,000 weekends were made easier for a child in our community, and that's something to celebrate! From the bottom of our hearts, to everyone who has supported us in any way over the past 6 years...THANK YOU!

Laura Roobol
Coordinator WP4K





QUESTION & ANSWER

Q: Will the presentations from the 2022 Annual National Formation (ANF) be made available?

A: Yes, like previous years, the presentations are available under the Members of the National web site.

[ANNUAL NATIONAL FORMATION](#)