

The Vincentimes

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February 2020

Summer Program

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul invites all young people across Ontario, who have volunteered with us, to participate in our first Youth Summer Program, Journeying with St. Vincent. Throughout the school year, youth are able to work with us on different projects that SSVP already have running, or spearhead a new project and work with SSVP to bring it together. The goal is to build a bridge between young people and adult Conferences. The first is partnering with our adult Conferences all across Ontario and working in our soup kitchens, food banks, thrift stores, etc. and gain volunteer hours with us there. Another way is to create campaigns in their schools; some examples would be A Bed for Every Child, Canned Food Drives, Cleaning the Neighbourhood, Sleep Out for Poverty, BINGO night at a retirement/seniors home, baking at Ronald MacDonald House, and any other creative ideas that these young people come up with.

We want to thank the young people for their service throughout the school year and to give them an incredible summer filled with friendship, faith, community and service.



You will find 2 posters on our website, ssvp.on.ca, that invites young people to join us for an amazing summer experience. Please take a

look at our website to get more information on this project. There are resources available on the website for ideas on how young people can start something in their schools. Also, if your Conference is eager and hungry for new projects then by all means - take it upon yourselves to use these projects, to print these posters or come up with new better posters and just start something.

Go out to these schools and encourage young people to come out to your events. Be it, packing boxes or organizing shelves or helping out at a BBQ or dinner.

Young people can't join us if they don't know about us.

Thank you for your time and consideration and cheers for all the good work you are doing in your communities.

Sophia Mutuc, Youth Representative Ontario Regional Council

Connect

As you all know, youth numbers aren't anywhere close to where they should be - it's definitely a challenge. As much as we have ideas and tools for you to use that we post online, we still need help. We need and want to hear and see what has worked and not worked for you in the past. Let's start a conversation. We are open to anything you have to say - good or bad - about young

people and how we can improve on the growth of this demographic within our Society. Please send us an email at sophia@ssvp.on.ca , lillian@ssvp.on.ca or you can connect with us through our social media pages.

Sophia Mutuc & Lillian Mulder,
Youth Representatives
Ontario Regional Council



Facebook page - Society of St. Vincent de Paul Youth in Canada [@ssvp.youth.ca](https://www.facebook.com/ssvp.youth.ca)



Instagram - SSVP Youth Canada [@ssvp.youth.ca](https://www.instagram.com/ssvp.youth.ca)

Youth (not necessarily!) Wasted on the Young!!!

Note: This article is best read while playing [Whitney Houston's "The Greatest Love"](#) in the background!

♪♪♪ ...I believe the children are our future... ♪♪♪

Whitney Houston's beautiful silky voice from her 1985 hit "The Greatest Love" dances through my head as I reflect upon the wonderful charitable works our youth have engaged in over the past year.



Our model here in Brant revolves around a strong relationship between the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board and SSVP Brant. The match, with intertwining goals, is a perfect one for so many reasons. Under the leadership of amazingly talented and creative principals and teachers as club advisors, the schools have formed social justice clubs or teams.

♪♪♪.....Teach them well and let them lead the way... ♪♪♪

With names like "The Avengers for Christ", "The Social Justice League", and "Pups for Christ", students in these clubs learn about the inequities and injustices that exist in our society. With the expert guid-

ance of their teachers, team members learn to feel empathy with those most disadvantaged amongst us. Through their experiences and creative brainstorming for solutions, the students come to feel empowered as they begin to take on leadership positions within the school with the strong singular goal of helping those in need.

♪♪♪...Show them all the beauty they possess inside... ♪♪♪

With the energy, enthusiasm and creativity that comes with their youth, these teams organized all sorts of fun-filled Advent activities this past season. Some schools ran very successful "Tree of Warmth" campaigns, generating a very large quantity of coats, hats, scarves, boots, mitts etc. The students in a high school Social Justice class all learned how to knit, and ran a "Knitting for the Needy" campaign that saw them creating all manner of warm knitted goods not only for our local neighbours in need, but also items to be sent to Guatemala. In one school, the staff and students sold tickets to parents who wanted prime seating for the Christmas concert. The owners of the winning tickets got a chance to sit up front to view the concert, and the proceeds were forwarded to SSVP Brant. Some schools ran a "12 Days of Christmas" campaign where each day had a different theme. For example one day was Ugly Christmas Sweater day, another day was Christmas Hat Day, yet another day Pyjama Day etc. etc. For each of the themed days, students brought in either food/clothing items or monetary donations. All of their drives were met with resounding success!

♪♪♪...Give them a sense of pride to make it easier... ♪♪♪

There were too many activities for me to mention in this article. It is an understatement to say that we were absolutely overwhelmed with the kindness, generosity, and wholehearted support. The students gained a sense of great pride and accomplishment through their hard work, and saw their self-confidence grow as they discovered they truly have the power to make a positive difference in the world. Now that is empowerment!

As we look forward to the future we hope that these early experiences will help form the basis of a lifetime of empathy, generosity, understanding and gratitude ...and THAT is worth singing about!

♪♪♪...Let the children's laughter... remind us how we used to be... ♪♪♪



Cheers!
Peter Giordano
SSVP Brant Youth Vice President

Social Media

How familiar are you with social media? Has your Conference truly embraced the beauty of having such easy access to the community? It's such a wonderful tool that we MUST utilize to promote our events, our sales and our great works within the community. It's a fantastic way to display what we are all about and how to get involved with us. It's so refreshing to show the community that there's this AMAZING Society doing great works that, if they want to, they can join.

Some important things to take note of before starting. We do not want to overwhelm the community with multiple different groups to have to follow. It's best to just stick to city groups instead of individual groups for different Conferences. This way it will be easier to find content to post online because we want content that is regular, informative and important. You do not want to post useless content just for the sake of posting. It's time to look through on who has a group and to start deleting ones that are no longer in-use or coming together as a community

and decide which one to keep and which ones to let go. We are one big group, we all have one goal - to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

Our Conference groups should be separate from store accounts because that is business and we want to promote news about our events rather than what's on sale that week. You are responsible for creating a personality for SSVP within your communities, to promote SSVP events locally, nationally and globally. It's just another way for people to get to know us and to not be frightened or intimidated.

Now what to post? Make it fun, light and easy to understand! Post and celebrate every event you have in the community. Posting SSVP articles from national or international is great content! It's important for our community to know that we are an international organization comprised of many volunteers who are doing good works around the world.

If you are having a hard time figuring out how to start this, go to your local parish or schools and find a young person who LOVES social media and this can definitely be a volunteer position.

You can keep up with other youth events by "Liking" our [Facebook page](#), Society of St. Vincent de Paul Youth in Canada, and [Instagram page](#), @ssvp.youth.ca.

*Sophia Mutuc, Youth Representative
Ontario Regional Council*



Facebook page - Society of St. Vincent de Paul Youth in Canada [@ssvp.youth.ca](#)



Instagram - SSVP Youth Canada [@ssvp.youth.ca](#)

Upcoming Dates

February 20, 2020 — Annual Reports due from Particular Councils. Pass report up to Central Council or Regional.

March 10, 2020 — Annual Reports due from Central Councils. Pass report up to Regional.

April 15, 2020 — Deadline for newsletter submissions (please note: we cannot guarantee all submissions will make the next issue, but will do our best to include in upcoming issues)

April 17-18, 2020 — Ontario Regional Council Annual General Members Meeting (aka the Spring Meeting). Hosted by the Kitchener Particular Council. For more information, please check your email and visit www.ssvp.on.ca

**SOCIETY OF
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL**
**ONTARIO REGIONAL
COUNCIL**



Visit us on the web

www.ssvp.on.ca

Email: info@ssvp.on.ca

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Mission:

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is: To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

Values:

The Mission of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul implies that as Vincentians, we:

See Christ in anyone who suffers;
Come together as a family;
Have personal contact with the poor;
Help in all possible ways.

Notice of Passings

We would like to recognize and remember the following Vincentians who have passed.
They blessed so many with their lives.

October 1, 2019: Lionel Dubeau,
Most Precious Blood, Windsor East
Particular Council

October 13, 2019: Lillian Long, Holy
Name of Mary, Windsor West
Particular Council

November 17, 2019: Margaret Ber-

trand, St. Columbkille, Pembroke

December 3, 2019: James Francis
"Frank" McAlpine, St. George, Otta-
wa

December 8, 2019: Lynn Patrick
"Tokey" Ryan, St. Anthony of Padua,
Harrow

December 12, 2019: John Leyzer, Store
Volunteer, Brant Particular Council

December 17, 2019: Robert Gay, Most
Precious Blood, Windsor

December 26, 2019: Declen Whelan,
St. Anthony of Padua, Kincardine

*Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,
and He will reward them for what they have done.*

Proverbs 19:17