

The Vincentimes

Volume 8, Issue 4

May 2020

Dunnville Thrift Store!

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul St. Michael's Dunnville Conference has been operating a Thrift Store for over 33 years. Our humble roots began above the parish centre with just a handful of Vincentians and store volunteers. We have had a few moves over the years and at present are located in the downtown area of our town, close to our neighbours in need as well as our loyal customers.

A typical day will see our store volunteers sorting donations and putting them out for sale at very reasonable prices. All donations are accepted with a heart felt thank you – for without donations to our store our Conference would probably not exist. We carry gently used clothing, footwear, small household items, books, etc. Unfortunately, we do not have the space to offer furniture or other large items.

Our food voucher program helps those in need with their grocery expenses – this is the main goal of our outreach program: feed the poor. We have a small food area (Vinnie's Cupboard) which we share with those in need. This cupboard is filled by donations from St Michael's elementary school; as well as customers and volunteers.

Our Twin in Dominica was hit hard by Hurricane Maria in 2017. We collected items to be sent to them via an associated group in Hamilton (hygiene products, batteries, baby items, etc.). Monetary donations were also collected and forwarded on. These poor souls have been living a distressed existence since the natural disaster and any help we give them is appreciated.

At times we run special events or raffles to help raise funds. We did a raffle for a quilt which was made entirely from donated clothing and the work of a few of our people. Pictured selling tickets at Food Basics is (L-R) Jasmine Moody, Secretary; and Mary Mater, President and Store Manager.

Our thrift store is run



completely by volunteers. If you or someone you know in the Dunnville area has a few hours a week they could share with us we'd love to meet with them. Call 905-701-9999 and leave a message for Mary M.

Our store is located at 116 Lock Street East, Dunnville. Store hours are Monday noon till 4 pm; Tuesday to Friday 10 am till 4 pm; Saturdays from 10 am till 2 pm; closed Sundays and holidays. Drop by and say hello if you're in the area!

Mary Mater
Store Manager
President, St. Michael's SSVP,
Dunnville



Strathroy Economy Shop

Strathroy-Caradoc is a municipality located 40KM west of London.

All Saints Catholic Church established a SSVP Conference in 1967. In 1971, five Vincentians lead by Hugh Thompson recognized an opportunity for the Society to extend their outreach in the community and initiated the establishment of the SSVP Economy Shop, opening in 1972. At this time, the Conference was deactivated as a 'Traditional Conference' and the Economy Shop became the 'face' of the Society in Strathroy. They leased a property that previously was a lumber yard. Over the years, the property experienced five ex-

pansions, inclusive of a new warehouse built in 2000.

We work with in the following organizations in our community:

- The Women's Rural Resource Center (providing clothing vouchers)
- Leads Employment Agency – helping people re-enter the work force, and referring clients to the Economy Shop to obtain clothing to assist in job searches (e.g. steel toe boots)
- Social Justice Committee of All Saints Parish (providing vouchers for clothing)
- Search Community Mental Health Service – case workers and clients make a social outing to visit the Economy Shop

Between 15 and 20 families are supported through these agencies monthly. The Economy Shop also donates \$100 monthly to the Salvation Army food bank.

We also give all the unsaleable metals to Scouts Canada; they have a trailer parked at our location, and a volunteer takes the metal apart and places it in bins on their trailer. They keep the money for programs they run.

Saint Vincent de Paul Summer Camp – children are sponsored by us to attend the SSVP summer camp (we fully support up to 25 children and pay fees for kids to go to camp). This is also a partnership with C.A.S as they have referrals for children who would benefit being at camp.

We currently employ 7 full time and part time staff and are blessed to have reliable volunteers who are also very invested. The store is open Monday thru Saturday, 9:30am to 5pm.

Julie Clements,
Store Manager



Stores in these turbulent time

I hope that by the time you are reading this, all 48 SSVP stores in Ontario are back open. We at ONRC want to take a moment to thank all our wonderful managers for making the very difficult decision to close your store. As much as we did not want to have to close, the safety of our employees and volun-

teers was of the utmost importance in light of Covid-19. We are all feeling the loss, not only dollars for our many programs but also the ability to help our friends in need readily with clothing, furniture, etc. If anyone ever doubted the importance of our stores, they really understand it now. All we can say to you "our

managers" is thank you for all that you do helping our friends in need!

Sue Mazziotti-Armitage, ONRC Vice President, Stores Liaison

This may be of interest ...

Last summer one of our store cashier volunteers invited me to speak at their parish CWL meeting about our SSVP Store. My husband John, who is also a store volunteer, and I created a powerpoint presentation and spoke to the group of 35 ladies about the SSVP mission and how it specifically links to the work done in the store in serving the poor of

our city. It was great to see other store volunteers from this parish wearing their SSVP tshirts and providing their testimonies about the value of service and the impact it had made on their lives and the lives of others.

One of the highlights was when their enthusiastic Youth Minister,

Julie Makarski, asked how their Youth Group could get involved. What a blessing!

Karen Felker
Barton Street, Store Manager
Hamilton

St. Augustine's Youth Ministry Update – SSVP Store



We did it! The launch of our Saint Vincent de Paul Store project last Saturday (February 1st) was a great success! In total, 8 youth and 7 parent volunteers gave their time and selves in service. We served many patrons who came through the store; sorted through many donations and prepped them for sale, including assembling furniture; we even did a multi-furniture pick up run with the truck; and decorated the store front for Valentine's Day.

Thank you to all the parishioners who came by to say "Hi!" All in all, it was a blessed day. Thanks to

Karen and John for partnering with us. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Saturday store openings: March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6 (first Saturdays of the month) from 10am to 2pm. On behalf of the St. Augustine's Sr Youth Group members, thank you everyone for your prayers and support!



**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.

January 13, 2020: Jude Malone, St. Patrick (Burlington), Halton Particular Council

March 11, 2020: Sister Mary Walter, Spiritual Advisor to Brant Particular Council

April 23, 2020: Marie Burns, St. Basil, Brant Particular Council

January 24, 2020: Mary Kormendy, St. Mary (Blenheim), Kent Deanery Particular Council

March 22, 2020: Babara Hewitt, St. Basil, Brant Particular Council

Upcoming Dates

June 20, 2020 — Ontario Regional Council Annual General Members Meeting (aka the Spring Meeting) to be held online. Details to be announced.

July 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)