

The Vincentimes

Volume I, issue 4

Summer 2013

To Nicaragua with Love!

The participants in the Fourth Annual Pencil Case Project, "To Nicaragua With Love", were elementary schools in: Hamilton, London, Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo. Our Vincentian volunteers coordinated with the many teachers and principals, who encouraged their students to be part of "a good thing". They picked up in their respective cities and delivered their collections to Waterloo for sorting, counting and packaging.

Vincentian youth along with their family and friends packaged 5,500 lbs. of used school supplies, clothing, toys, arts/crafts, back packs, pencil cases, shoes and sporting goods. This is our largest collection to date! A 20-foot container was loaded and sent on its way on August 7th and is due to arrive in Corinto, Nicaragua on September 24th.

The National Council of Nicaragua will arrange ground transportation from port to a local site, where all



Young Vincentians help sort and pack supplies for Nicaragua

items will be re-sorted and bundled for distribution to the many poor children and schools in their country.

Thank you to all the members of the Vincentian Family who participated in making this a successful project, 'from our youth to theirs'. A special thank you to Lillian Mulder from London, Ron Trent from Cam-

bridge and Guido Kelly and Lorenzo Mostacci from Hamilton, for taking the time to be part of the organizing, collecting and delivery team! It would not have been possible without each of you! A great deal of thanks also goes out to CGI, who funded the shipping of the collection and offered valuable support during the early and later stages of planning.

Many teachers, principals, families, students and community members have already expressed their excitement in participating again next year. They are already thinking of ways to do more to bring awareness to our students. To show by example that every ruler, pencil, eraser and crayon they donate here, makes a huge impact on a student in a poor country and allows them to go to school. We are accomplishing a lot - one project at a time, one student at a time.

Humbly submitted by
Carmela Addante, Waterloo

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Pancake Tuesday at St Mary Immaculate

On Tuesday, February 12, 2013, the Vincentians of the Saint Mary Immaculate Conference of the York South Particular Council coordinated a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner in the Parish Hall from 5 to 8 p.m. under the direction of Daniella Ballan. All our neighbours in need within the community were invited to enjoy a delicious celebration that extended itself to mask and chef hat making for

the children. The families were very grateful and looked forward to more opportunities to break bread together and interact throughout our sacred calendar year.

Theresa Riccardi,
President,
York South Particular Council,
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Experience with “Twinning”

Annunciation of Our Lord Conference, Hamilton, ON decided to explore “Twinning” in April, 2003 and chose the country Peru after an article on a Conference in Peru appeared in the Vincenpaul Magazine. After applying in October, 2003, we were advised in February, 2004 that we had been “twinning” with the **Conference of the Miraculous Medallion in Lima, Peru.**

Its President visited Toronto on business in March 2005 and our President arranged to meet him. He hosted a ‘welcome’ get-together for our friend from Peru with all our Conference members at



Peru Conference members visit mental health facility once a month to celebrate birthdays with the patients(75). They use part of the funds that we send them to bring these joyous occasions to fruition

his home in Hamilton. A lot of pics were taken and shared with his Conference on his return to Peru. Members of both Conferences were thrilled.

We have now progressed to the present time as the members of both Conferences get together via Skype each March and September during their meetings to jointly say the Rosary and see each other....a wonderful uplifting experience for the members of both Conferences.

~ by Guido Kelly, Hamilton

St Thomas More Celebrates 25 years!

On Friday, November 16, 2012 St. Thomas More Conference, Niagara Falls celebrated 25 years of service. We began our celebration by attending morning mass together. Following mass we gathered, with our Spiritual Advisor, for breakfast and fellowship. We were honored and pleased to have one of oldest and long-time members celebrate with us. At each mass on the following Sunday two members volunteered to bring the gifts to the altar.

An insert was placed in the bulletin explaining the many ways we serve the less fortunate as well as the way we obtain the funds that enable us to serve. We also expressed our "Thanks" to parishioners for their prayerful and monetary support. Members are continuing to serve by our Mission Statement "To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy."



St Thomas More volunteers celebrate 25 years of service

President's Pen



Jim Paddon, ONRC President

I would encourage your support of our Ozanam Education fund by your contribution to this worthy project. If you have excess funds, please consider helping us give hope to our friends in need.



A cupcake cake to celebrate Family Day at Jim's home conference, St Joseph's, Chatham

Creating Hope for a Brighter Educational Future

The Systemic Change Team has launched an RESP (Registered Education Savings Plan) Project with the goal of supporting the children in their pursuit of post-secondary education (full time or part time studies in: apprenticeship programs, colleges, trade schools, universities).

Education is one of the most critical and important elements in breaking out of the cycle of poverty. The statistics show that the 'mere existence of educational savings makes a child 50 percent more likely to pursue post-secondary education' and this is such a powerful and hopeful statistic.

The first step in the project is to educate the SSVP volunteers on the Canada Learning Bond and Canada Education Savings Grant programs so they can inform and support the parents in accessing this funding for their children. The parent must apply for a Social Insurance Number for the child and open up an RESP account. Some parents may find government and financial programs intimidating, so encouragement by informed SSVP volunteers is critical to empower them.

The Canada Learning Bond (CLB) offers up to \$2,000 in free education money provided by the government of Canada for children born after January 1, 2004 into families who receive the

National Child Supplement (net income of \$43,561 or less). Upon registering, children receive \$500 and an additional \$100 annually until they reach 15 years of age and the funds are retroactive. No parental contribution is required!

Only 1 in 4 children who are eligible for the Canada Learning Bond have received it. Through our SSVP network, we can work together to change this statistic.

The Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) offers a matching grant for contributions into RESP and depending on income levels, can reach up to a 40% grant.

Through the joint sponsorship of the Ontario Regional Council (ONRC) and the Halton Particular Council (HPC), we have funding available to provide children in our Particular Council with a \$50 contribution into an opened RESP.

A parishioner in one of the SSVP conferences has been so inspired by the project that they are providing an additional \$100 monthly contribution to their local conference's project and hope other parishioners will be similarly inspired to help.

Given the persistent gap in post-secondary pursuit in students from higher and lower-income families, these savings are more than dollars – they

can be a catalyst. Studies show that once the RESP account is open, it tends to attract additional contributions even though they are not required. As the savings grow, so does a student's confidence to apply to post-secondary. Application and acceptance opens the door to scholarships, bursaries and other forms of financial aid. Finally, higher education improves employability, earnings and financial stability for a lifetime.

Here is a letter received by a client expressing her gratitude for the support for her 6 year old son (all names have been changed to retain confidentiality)

Through John's gentle yet persuasive guidance, I was encouraged to open an RESP for Michael. I am very grateful for this. As Michael is as well. He's already planning a career as an engineer for VIA Rail =) He's also planning my retirement "on board the lunch coach, so I can still make his lunch". John also took the time to call and check the status on said account. During his phone calls he was always full of kind encouraging words.

For more information on the RESP Project, please contact Linda Alexander at alex.lmja@gmail.com

Notice of Passings

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

Feb 2013: Pam Dale, St Peter's, Goderich

Feb 2013: Richard "Bud" Birchall, St Peter's, Goderich

Jan 5, 2013: Robert Paquette, St Vincent de Paul, Windsor

BAM! 2

We are pleased to announce there will be a second BAM! this fall. Tentatively scheduled for November 13-14th 2013 in the Windsor area, we are inviting all those between the ages of 12-35 to mark their calendars for what will surely be a great opportunity to come together, talk about what it means to be a young Vincentian and what our youth can do to help our friends in need.

Penny Craig Receives Queen's Diamond Jubilee

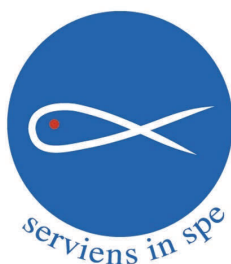


On Feb 23, 2013 Penny Craig was presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal by MP Jeff Watson. Congratulatoins Penny on all your years of dedication.

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

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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.

Accomplishments

We would like to recognize the following volunteers for their great dedication and service:

From Kent Deanery: **Joe Johns, Donald McGregor & Roger Van Buderen**, 50 years; **Alphonse Charron & John DeBakker**, 40 yrs; **Gerard Laevens**, 30 yrs; **Grant McAuley, Brenda & Joe Kormendy** (past president certificates) & **Rowena Smith** (with the store), 20yrs. All are still active volunteers

From London PC: **John Lang**, President, St. Martin of Tours, 15 years before stepping down in October, 2012; **Ray Seed**, Treasurer, St. Martin of Tours, 10 years before stepping down in December, 2012; **Bill Smith**, President, St. Andrew the Apostle, 7 years before stepping down in November, 2012

The following have received their letters of Aggregation:

Cathedral of St Catharines in St Catharines

St Francis of Assisi in Toronto

Also, congratulations go to:

Rainbow Spirit North PC and Sault Ste Marie who have joined together to become one Particular Council.

We have a new conference: **St Therese** in Courtice, Lakeshore PC

Is your council or conference celebrating an anniversary? Do you know a Vincentian who has been awarded or recognized for their dedication (or should be)? Let us know and we will mention your accomplishments in the next issue.

Upcoming Dates

April 19-21, 2013 - ONRC GM in Cambridge

May 24, 2013 — Sleep Out for Poverty

June 26-30, 2013 - National AGA in Ottawa

September 14, 2013 – ONRC AGM in Val Caron/
Sudbury

November 13-14, 2013 — tentative date for BAM! 2 in
the Windsor area

June 15, 2013 – 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) Email:

administrativeasst.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca or

secretary.ssvp@ssvp.on.ca