

The Vincentimes

Volume 4, Issue 4

Summer 2016

The Lord planted a small seed and it has bloomed!

I am the President at St. Matthew's Conference in Oakville.

A few years ago I started to connect with the local high school St. Ignatius of Loyola to run a food drive for our cupboards at St. Matthew's because we run really short of food in the summer as our parishioners go on vacation. We still provide staples for our clients along with grocery gift cards.

This initial food drive grew into a Thanksgiving Food and Winter Clothing Drive. The teachers assisted us with this on the Friday before Thanksgiving because they have PA day and they use that as their faith day. The students donated so much food we took it to three other food banks. They also provided grocery cards for a turkey for our clients and we received about \$500 in additional funds. We did this in 2014 and 2015.

The Principal at St. Ignatius of Loyola contacted me this past winter wanting to put together a Lenten food drive.

The Lenten food drive was incredible. We took all the Easter baskets made by the students and handed them out in the evening at the church along with some Easter

treats for the children. We sent out 100 invitations and had 70 clients picked up the baskets. We delivered about 10 to our clients that had mobility challenges. They all expressed how much they needed the basket. It was cardboard box (printer paper size) full of goodies.

Principal Mike Harris was very instrumental in motivating the students with his daily announcements. We still have enough food in our pantry for the summer and the overflow went to the Fair Share Food Bank.

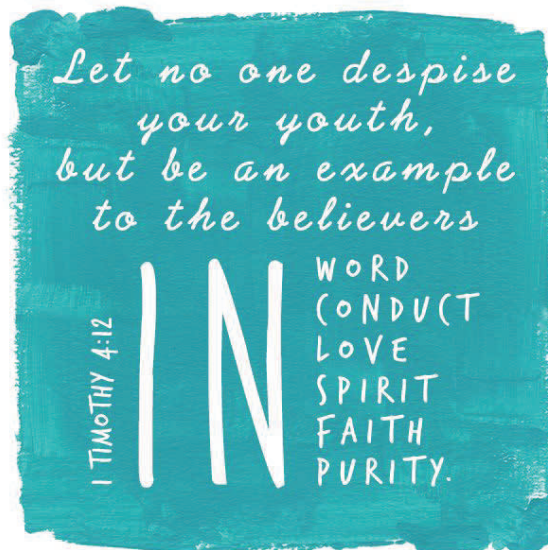
Our clients are still leaving messages (a month later) expressing their thanks.

The students are really amazing as they sure come through with the goods!

I have to say when I started this I did not know how well it would go. I was afraid we would not have enough coats and food for the clients but it all worked out. In addition the students really get into it and they have a lot of fun as they make it a competition in their home rooms. Some of the teachers have just been so on board they want to assist with other projects in the community. The Lord planted

a small seed and it has bloomed!

God Bless,
Pauline Jones
President St. Matthew's Conference
Oakville



LifeHopeandTruth.com

In organizing this, I made a list and rated the food items (tuna was a 5 and pasta a 1) so it made for a good competition among the students. There was a set list of items for each box. It was topped off with a \$10 grocery card. I hear the Vice



Fall Ball!

In 2015, we decided to hold a dinner, dance and mini Vinnie's fashion show. We sought sponsors, in three tiers, to help us support our food pantry. All monies raised from this event was used strictly to purchase much needed food for the pantry. With the sponsors' help, we were able to offer our tickets to this event for \$50.00/person. We enjoyed a full-course Italian dinner, which was well worth the ticket price alone.

Important features of the event were the 50/50 draw and silent auction, with donations from many local businesses that we set up by the entrance of the venue to draw attention immediately from guests.

The most enjoyable portion of the event was the mini-fashion show from Vinnies. The models were made up of volunteers from all age groups, and could be likened to an episode of Glee! We had a wonderful volunteer Andrea Mazziotti, who spent countless hours working with each volunteer group to make this a spectacular choreographed show. Each segment of the fashion show was a glimpse back at a past decade with corresponding outfits of that decade from Vinnies stock – for example, everyone wore denim as they danced along to Neil Diamond's "Forever in Blue Jeans".

Highlights from the fashion show were when the men surprised the audience with an impassioned rendition of Shania Twain's "Man I Feel Like a Woman," while dressed in gowns and heels! Additionally, we were lucky to welcome talented dancers from a local high school (Thomas A. Stewart) who performed a number of times; they filled in the gaps beautifully.

It was also important to us to use this platform to thank a single volunteer for their outstanding contributions over the years. For 2015 we honoured long-time volunteer Dorothy Dow with the award, presented by the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Peterborough President Fred O'Donnell, and Past President Sue Mazziotti-Armitage.

The event was a huge success for the organization, raising over \$20,000 in funds for the food pantry, and we are currently planning a similar event which will be held on October 15, 2016.

~ Sue Mazziotti-Armitage for the Peterborough Particular Council Fundraising and Communication Committee



A Vincentian for many years, Dorothy Dow was also honored at the event

THE FALL BALL
All Proceeds go to Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

Presented by
Beverly Cassidy

October 24, 2015
Doors Open at 5:30 - Dinner at 6:00pm

Dinner - 50/50 Draw - Vinnies Fashion Show - Dance - Tickets \$50 Available at Vinnies, 750 Eglinton Avenue

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THIS WEEK
Whelan's
Age of Majority Event
Parkway Banquet Hall
1135 Lansdowne St. West # 200

Notice of Passings

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

March 10, 2016: Catarina Tavares,
Holy Family, London

March 12, 2016: Barbara Hartnett,
St. Patrick, Burlington

April 17, 2016: Gary Goddard, Holy
Family, London

Camp Ozanam has a new home!

Toronto Central Council is very pleased to announce that with the recent purchase of a residential camp site in South River, Camp Ozanam will have a permanent home.

The Society operates two camps for children in the Archdiocese of Toronto whose families cannot afford to send their children to camp. Marygrove Camp in Penetanguishene has been operated by the Society since 1962, and Camp Ozanam since 2009. Previously, the boys attended Columbus Boys Camp which was operated by the Knights of Columbus until they sold their property and program in 2007. Both Camp Ozanam and Marygrove Camp provide an opportunity for children from disadvantaged homes to enjoy a fully subsidized camping experience. Even just a week away can be a life changer for some children. To play and learn in a beautiful environment, with the influence of young, positive role models is an opportunity that all children should have.

Between 2009 and this past summer, Camp Ozanam operated at a site rented from Scouts Canada in Stouffville, Ontario. While the children enjoyed the adventure, seeking out a permanent location for this valued program was a priority for the Board of Toronto Central Council. The need to expand our services to operate for both July and August

as we do for the girls was a driving force behind finding a permanent location as our rental limited us to providing camp spaces to one month only. The camp committee steadfastly reviewed site after site, until we discovered a gem on Deer Lake, South River which is north of Huntsville.



Built originally as a retreat centre with a recreational summer camp component, the facility was practically purpose built which made it very appealing. Located on 29 acres and with very adequate facilities, the great draw was the lake which will enable the camp staff to re-introduce the valued canoeing program as well as fresh water swimming. Soccer fields, basketball and volleyball courts are ready for action and there is plenty of space to re-establish our ball hockey and biking programs.

The Society has long recognized that bringing young people together

in such a healthy environment is a life changing experience. The campers have such a great time, they are able to experience what all children should – a fun filled, cottage-like experience in beautiful settings with dedicated counsellors who care about who they are. The staff at the camps endlessly inspire – young adults who commit to caring for children, ensuring that the children make the most of their experience and at the same time growing in their own skill development is a privilege to witness.

Toronto Central Council has been blessed to be able to purchase this camp due to the generosity of donors and partners who believe in this program. Our five year plan is to ensure we have adequate funds to upgrade the buildings to the same high standards of Marygrove and add additional program elements for camper enjoyment. We will continue to work at spreading the word to raise the funds to ensure our new Camp Ozanam flourishes and begins its journey of being the home to a long and meaningful outreach to children in need.

~ Louise Coutu,
Executive Director,
Toronto Central Council

Upcoming Events

June 15-19, 2016 – National AGA in Vancouver, BC. Check www.ssvp.ca for more information.

July 15, 2016 — 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)

September 16-17, 2016 — Ontario Regional Council Fall AGM Meeting, London. Details to be announced

**SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT
DE PAUL - ONTARIO
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Visit us on the web

www.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.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul ...

My name is Benjamin and I am twelve years old.

For years the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has been changing the lives of thousands.

It changed my life, because for the past five years, I have noticed all the needy people just in our city.

I want to prevent the need as much as I can.

I think about all I have and what little they have.

I can give two or three hours a week to help these needy people.

I thank God, that I have such a

great and good grandfather who showed me how to do things here at the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Holy Name Conference.

It has changed my life a lot.



I want to help out as much as I can because if I was in need, they would help me out.

All the people, the members, I know here are always in a good mood. Not one single person I know here I dislike.

Also, I thank God I have such a good group of people to belong to, who are willing to help out the needy.

Thank You!

Benjamin McKinley
Holy Name of Mary Conference
SSVP
Windsor Ontario