



How the Council Supports Conferences

Conferences Are Core Strength of St. Vincent de Paul

The core strength of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle | King County Council (SVdP) mission is the network of neighborhood-based conferences made up of over 1,300 Vincentian volunteers who make home visits to help the poor.

Vincentian Support and Training Team

- Facilitate visioning process for council's formation efforts.
- Develop and conduct over 25 retreats, trainings and formation gatherings per year, including an annual retreat, Ozanam Orientation, Home Visit Orientation, Home Visit Conversations, and Quarterly Formation Gathering. Also includes leadership formation for presidents, treasurers and spiritual advisor training.
- Work with the SVdP Board of Directors to help distribute conference financial aid annually. Includes distribution of Adequate Funding Grants, Conference Support Fund, Esterman Fund, discounted King County Metro tickets, ORCA fare cards and Safeway "With the Heart" Gift Cards.
- Lead in startup of new conferences and aid in growth and development of existing conferences.
- Support Vincentians and conferences to grow in the SVdP Society's spirit and charism.
- Serve as liaison between Vincentians and other council support and staff.
- Meet with Vincentians on an ad-hoc basis to help problem solve concerns as they arise.
- Contacts: Stephanie Ragland at 206-767-9975 Ext. 1107 or stephanier@svdpseattle.org or Tom Wagner at 206-767-9975 Ext. 1121 or thomasw@svdpseattle.org

Helpline (206-767-6449)

- Helpline pre-screens clients prior to being referred to conferences. This is a central intake service with referrals to conferences.
- Received over 48,500 calls in fiscal year 2014.
- Helpline referrals to conferences estimated at 15,496 in fiscal year 2014.
- Helpline contact: Lisa Barrientes at 206-767-9975 Ext. 1131 or lisab@svdpseattle.org
- Direct Assistance Program contact: Maria Moody at 206-767-9975 Ext. 1135 or mariam@svdpseattle.org

Social Justice Advocacy

- Partner with organizations such as the Archdiocese of Seattle sponsored Dialogue of Justice to promote our advocacy agenda at the state legislature, including Catholic Advocacy Day.
- Communicate and disseminate information that relates to Vincentian social concerns. Offer support and guidelines to conferences addressing justice concerns within their community.
- Facilitate the discernment of a long-term Voice of the Poor agenda and strategy.
- Contact: Tom Wagner at 206-767-9975 Ext. 1121 or thomasw@svdpseattle.org

Financial Support for Conferences to Help Clients

- Adequate Funding Grants for conferences.
- Esterman Fund: \$50,000 will be disbursed for conferences.
- Direct Assistance Program (DAP): special financial support for screening and support for clients conferences are unable to serve when the need exceeds their capability. Served 1,816 conference referrals in fiscal year 2014.
- Metro Bus tickets: the council purchases tickets at an 80 percent discount.
- Safeway food cards: food cards are purchased at discounts for conferences.
- Free delivery of warehouse furniture saves conferences funds every year.
- Thrift store net income from store sales supports conference and council programs.
- Development programs generate income to support conference and council programs.
- Maintain 501(c)(3) tax status for conference fund raising.
- Conferences are able to secure 50 percent off vouchers for purchases in thrift stores.
- Contact: John Morford at 206-930-6005 or email at jmorf1933@comcast.net

Case Management for Conference Clients

- Assess and refer clients who need more help beyond what the conference can do.
 - Conferences are encouraged to refer clients to case management for help. Council case managers utilize behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, and other useful tools for helping people adjust thinking for increased success toward self-sufficiency.
 - Provide intake, assessment and case management plans for each participant from an array of social support services including housing, utility assistance, referrals for medical, mental health and chemical dependency treatment, employment training and referral, assistance navigating systems, referrals to social security attorneys, and ongoing support and accountability for participant action plans.
- Specialized case management services for veterans.
- Maintain relationships with 65 community agencies to assist clients needing other services.
- Special short-term case management for Native Americans at Chief Seattle Club.
- Contact: Maria Moody at 206-767-9975 Ext. 1135 or mariam@svdpseattle.org

Council Special Works Projects

Food Bank

- Our food bank is a special project and is one of 54 food banks in King Co. Our motto is "Everyone Eats Today."
- We served 62,918 people in fiscal year 2014. Residents of 98108 and 98134 also receive USDA commodities. Close to 1.4 million pounds of food was distributed in fiscal year 2014.
- We provided health assessments for 1,615 people in fiscal year 2104.
- Contact: Erik Maus at 206-767-9975 Ext. 1127 or erikm@svdpseattle.org

Centro Rendu

- Provide education, social support services and case management services to Hispanic neighbors in South King Co.
- Offer legal help for immigrants and interpretation services.
- Provide support to conferences with Hispanic participants with limited language skills (for interpreting and culturally relevant social support service systems navigation).
- In fiscal year 2104 Centro Rendu served 326 people with GED, ESL, computer literacy, and case management. Centro Rendu also referred close to 4,500 people to other agencies for services.
- Contact: Mirya Roach at 253-499-4245 or miryar@svdpseattle.org

Thrift Stores/Donation Intake Department

- Manage five thrift stores, key part of SVdP public face, image and fund raising.
- Redesigning stores to include community social service support programs and health assessments, e.g. Centro Rendu, Aurora Community Service Center and Neighborcare Health clinic.
- Provide store vouchers for merchandise for conference clients, offered at a 50% discount.
- Provide store furniture for conference clients, full price for “in-store items,” deep discounts for council warehouse furniture, and beds at cost.
- Provide free pick up of store furniture donations for conferences to buy for clients.
- Contact: Shannon Jones at 206-767-9975 Ext. 1125 or shannonj@svdpseattle.org

Communication and Vincentian Promotion

- Develop communications activities for general public and Vincentians. Manage public and member websites, and social media. Member site now has 650 visits monthly and public site with 20,000 visits monthly. Assist conferences with communications projects and needs.
- Develop and implement communications programs that educate and advocate for important social justice issues connected to SVdP.
- Manage council office site tours to educate key audience about SVdP including students, businesses, community agencies and others.
- SVdP website now on first page of all searches. This is done through Search Engine Optimization, a process of maximizing visitors to websites by better search positioning.
- Contact: Jim McFarland at 206-767-9975 Ext. 1104 or jimm@svdpseattle.org
- **Total staff and program dollars committed to Vincentian Support is \$1,450,000.**