

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Vancouver Island



2019 Annual Report

Fundamental Principles of the Society

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization of charity,

- by its constitution,
- in its composition,
- in its administration.

The primary goal and purpose of the Society, its members, staff, volunteers and benefactors is:

- to serve and to minister to all the poor, making no distinctions of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions;
- to promote their dignity in accordance with Christian values and the philosophy of the Society as expressed in the Rule.

Vincetians, in serving the poor:

- are living the message of the Gospel;
- are transformed through Christ.

Vincetians recognize that the service, the activities and the attachment to traditions, as expressed in the stated parameters of the Society, reflect the vision of:

- our main founder Frédéric Ozanam
- our patron Saint Vincent de Paul

Vincetians belong to a worldwide community, and members:

- are drawn from every cultural and ethnic group
- are united by prayer and reflection
- take part in gatherings and meetings to organize and administer assistance wherever needed

Vincetians work as a team within the Society and also in collaboration with other people of good will to:

- serve the poor
- discover and help redress situations of social injustice that cause poverty, suffering and need

Vincetians believe that:

- they are serving Christ when they serve the poor
- the activities of the Society reflect the spirit of Christ in promoting the reign of God

Vincetians carry out their work keeping in mind that:

- no work of charity is foreign to the Society
- they are the loving companions to their brothers and sisters
- the Society's vision goes beyond the immediate future looking towards sustainable development and the protection of the environment for the benefit of future generations

Vincetians, through person-to-person contact,

- serve in a spirit of love, humility, respect and discretion
- are ready to serve when needed.

Message from the Chair

Submitted by Brian Mann
Chair, Board of Directors

From a governance perspective, 2019 was a year where the Board and Particular Council worked to lay the foundation for the Society's continued growth and success. Significant effort was invested in updating and improving our By-Laws (approved at last year's AGM). Changes included:

- The creation of one Particular Council for the Island
- New voting rights
- A new Board nomination process and new rules that formalize accountability between voting members (Particular Council) and the incorporated Society.

Last year the Society's management team led the Board through an intensive orientation session and organized comprehensive site tours for Board and interested Conference members, which will hopefully continue annually going forward.

Early in the year a snowstorm forced us to close all the Thrift Stores. Then the Langford Store was closed for a few days at Christmas time due to safety concerns with the building next door. Management continues to adjust Mary's Place Childcare enrolment policies to achieve the right balance between our financial constraints and our desire to ensure spaces are available for Rosalie's Village residents. The Society's website was updated and improved this year. I recommend you check it out if you haven't already. I think we can consider 2019 as a year of stabilization and capacity building following so many years of significant growth and operational changes. I look forward to the day when conditions are right for the incorporated Society to pursue new growth opportunities for membership consideration and approval such as the redevelopment of our Langford Thrift store property.

It is my honor and privilege to thank our staff and the 300+ volunteers of the Society for their hard work and achievements. We are grateful for the essential financial support of individual donors, government (via funding and property tax concessions), and non-government funding organizations. Our food bank is totally dependent on the generous donation of food from countless individual donors and fresh fruits and vegetables from Fairway Markets in 2019. I want to thank Board and Committee members for helping us through another successful year.

I want to single out our Particular Council President, Jeff Kucharski, for his leadership through the governance changes the last two years. Finally, none of what the incorporated Society has accomplished this year would have been possible without the visionary and tireless leadership of our Executive Director, Angela Hudson. Thank you.

I am honoured to serve as Chair of the incorporated Society for the last two years as we collectively strive to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, and joy.

Message from the Executive Director

Submitted by Angela Hudson, CIHCM
Executive Director

As the Society enters its 104th year of existence on Vancouver Island and I enter my 21st year as Executive Director with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, I truly believe that we have stayed true to the mission and vision of Frederic Ozanam, our founder, in all that we do. Our members, staff, volunteers, and our Vancouver Island community have joined together as one family to have personal contact with those in need and to help in all possible ways.

Throughout the annual report you will see the details of how the mission of the Society is being fulfilled in each program and conference. There have been many successes and we have been able to continue to reach our strategic goals despite some factors outside of our control throughout 2019 and into 2020.

2019 was a year of unexpected challenges which brought out the very best in our staff, volunteers, and those we serve. The Society had a fire in the community kitchen of Rosalie's Village at the beginning of December, which destroyed the kitchen and resulted in the fire suppression system flooding five of the first-floor units and part of Mary's Place Childcare. The mothers and children were relocated to a hotel and everyone worked together to move them back in before December 25 in the middle of the remediation so that they could spend Christmas in their own apartments.

Shortly afterwards a very heavy rain flooded the Kirkpatrick warehouse and store location, resulting in some major damage. Then, at Christmas time, the Society faced the unexpected temporary closure of the Langford store location when the next-door apartment building was deemed a safety risk by the City of Langford.

What stands out to me during those times and, to be honest, during the past months of 2020 with the pandemic, is the resilience and commitment of the staff, volunteers, members, and especially the people we serve to each other. From the mothers and their children, to the shoppers at the thrift stores, to the seniors in our housing who offered their help, and those in need at the Social Concern Program who want to give back, I have been so proud to belong to this family. The sense of community is so prevalent and is reflected in every aspect of this amazing Society.

As we are already half way through 2020 as I write this report and we are now coming through some of the hardest months the Society has faced as we navigate the safety concerns resulting from COVID-19 Pandemic, I would like to extend my thanks to the Board of Directors, the Particular Council and to all the staff, volunteers and members who bring such a vitality and passion to the work of the Society. I would like to especially extend my appreciation to Barbara Webster, our Director of Finance and Administration, for her leadership and support. I would also like to recognize and thank Margaret Forbes, past Director of Support Services for her strategic vision related to our Support Services.

The Society is forever grateful to all the donors for their amazing support of the Society. Without the donations to the thrift stores and emergency food program or the donations to the capital and operating activities, the Society could not assist those in need in our community.

Social Concern Program

Submitted by George Pine
Manager, Social Concern Office

In 2019 the Social Concern Office (SCO) served 5,299 individuals in 3,510 households. SCO volunteers served a total of 10,629.5 hours; equivalent to 5.5 full-time employees. The 2019 Tax Clinic processed 1,246 tax returns for low-income individuals and families.

We receive regular (daily or weekly) food donations from Fairway Markets (four stores), Thrifty Foods, Cobs Bread, Give Food Get Food, and The Food Share Network. Donated food amounts to an average of 21,000 lbs/month. Almost 75% of all donated food comes from the Fairway stores.

Food Banks Canada has valued donated food at \$2.60/lb, which brings the monthly value of donated food to almost \$55,000. Feeding America equates 12 lbs of food to 10 meals, by which metric 21,000 lbs becomes 17,500 meals.

Every second Thursday, during the school year, we are visited by the 5th grade class of the Christ Church Cathedral School. The children spend an hour before we open for the day helping us bag bulk foods for distribution to our service users.

We have also been the recipients of several very successful food drives throughout the year by several of the schools, parishes, and conferences, as well as the Knights of Columbus and the members of the 5th Garry Oak Scouts Troop.

We have partnered with the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS) in an initiative to help new Canadians familiarize themselves with the greater community. Volunteering at the SCO allows them to practice their English skills, gain Canadian work experience, and meet new people!

The SCO is one of only two locations in Victoria participating in the province-wide Period Promise Research Project, being conducted by the United Way of the Lower Mainland. The project is studying the importance of free menstrual products for low-income individuals and families. The hope is that it will lead to a permanent source of free feminine hygiene products for anyone who needs them.

A survey conducted in the summer found that 93% of participants felt that volunteers and staff helped them feel welcomed, and 94% agreed that visiting the pantry helped them feel more food-secure.

The three volunteer appreciation events held this year – Bowling Day, a Picnic, and the Christmas Party – were all very well attended. The picnic was cold and rainy, but no one seemed to mind.

John Finley, Saint Vincent de Paul Centre Support Services, has been attending SCO staff meetings to better integrate our operations with those of the housing program at Saint Vincent de Paul Centre directly next door.

In partnership with Our Place and the Victoria Cool Aid Society, we have been displaying the works of several street-involved, low-income artists at the SCO. It not only gives the artists a place to display their works, it also makes the space much more inviting. Several of the art works have been sold, with all of the proceeds going to the artist.

Social Concern Office (cont'd)

Since the end of the fiscal year, the SCO has continued efforts to bring food security to service users by strengthening ties with the Food Share Network, Give Food Get Food, the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, Mustard Seed, Salvation Army, Our Place, and more.

Within the Society itself, we have been tightening our bonds and partnerships with our housing programs and the Ozanam Centre. We hold monthly meetings to determine how we can support each other in our food security efforts. As one example, we are experimenting with vegetable gardening with seedlings from the "Get Growing Victoria!" program by the City of Victoria.

Since the inception of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, the SCO has transformed itself from an indoor program to an outdoor program. We have done our best to continue the Food with Dignity and Choice model, putting our produce and baked goods out on the sidewalk where we can practice social distancing, while offering a menu of choices detailing what is available inside.

In pursuit of these efforts, we have gratefully received assistance from:

Victoria Foundation Rapid Relief Fund

Community Food Centers Canada

The Food Share Network

Fatso Peanut butter

The Mustard Seed

Give Food Get Food

The City of Victoria "Get Growing Victoria!" program

BC Community Gaming Grant

Salvation Army

Fairway Markets

United Way of Greater Victoria

Many other individual and community partners



We have begun planning to determine a process to allow people back inside safely. Our hope is to construct a service model that can see us into the less pleasant winter months.

Many of our long-term volunteers have had to step away from their volunteering due to age and health concerns, but we have had a tremendous influx of new volunteers who have been temporarily displaced from their schools and workplaces. We hope that when things settle down, the regulars will come back and the new will be able to stay in some capacity.

Mary's Place Childcare Centre

Submitted by Anne Chen
Manager, Mary's Place Childcare Centre

Our team of six full-time early childhood educators is committed to providing a safe, warm, fun, and nurturing environment for all the children who attend Mary's Place Childcare Centre.

Our centre is licensed to provide care for up to 37 children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years. Presently we have 12 full time children enrolled in the Infant & Toddler program, and 20 full time children along with three part time children enrolled in the full-day Preschool program. By the beginning of September, open spots in the day preschool program will be filled by children that are transitioning from the Infant & Toddler program. This will free up space in the infant & Toddler program for new enrolments, bringing our childcare center to full capacity by end of September 2020.

Every month we provide parents with a monthly newsletter and calendar of activities, with special events and creative ideas. For example, in October we celebrated Community Workers month with visits from our local Saanich firefighters, police, nurses, and an officer of the Canadian Armed Forces. Furthermore, we visited our local library and family grocer where our children got to see the background work that keeps the facilities running. Teachers and children even got dressed up for a Halloween party, where everyone got to have a little fun, and enjoy festivities together.

In keeping with our focus to increase hands-on experience, we added two extra curricular activities (gardening/home economics & karate) to our preschool program, and one (gardening/home economics) to our toddler program this year, which was a great success.

Gardening/home economics is held every Thursday for Preschoolers, and Fridays for Toddlers. Children spend up to an hour outside learning skills such as planting, harvesting, and even how to make apple sauce.

Karate is held every Friday for preschoolers, where FUNdamentals are learned through core karate movement, developing physical literacy skills, building on interpersonal awareness with others (teamwork), reinforcing empathetic values, and anti-bullying education.

Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of COVID-19 we were not able to visit the (Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea) as planned, which was a disappointment all around since this was a tour planned to bring families together for a day of fun and exploration. We sincerely hope that with the reopening plan going smoothly and things getting back to a new normal, we will be able to set up new plans for the upcoming year. Due to COVID-19 our childcare center was closed for two months. Nevertheless, we are now set to reopen with on June 1st with the new protocols and guidelines set out for childcare settings.



Mary's Place Childcare Centre (cont'd)

In a market where dual-income families and working mothers are becoming the norm, there is a high demand for childcare and after-school care for elementary schoolers. Last year we looked at adding extra space to our Infant and Toddler program, and extending another classroom to accommodate eight more toddlers. However, this project was put on hold due to lack of suitable and qualified Infant and Toddler educators, which is a challenge for all childcare centers across the Island. Notwithstanding, we are actively investing in our educators by providing skills upgrading and training, which services to enhance the care provision and competence of our staff.

Recently, we have had lots of inquiries from families regarding the need for an after-school care program for children between Kindergarten and Grade 5. As such, I have taken the initiative of looking into possibilities of starting a classroom that will provide care for 20 children after school in Ozanam. This will not only allow us to support more families in need of care in our community, but also Rosalie's shelter families. This project is projected to be finalized by end of 2020.

It has been an absolutely challenging journey this past year, but I am forever grateful for the support from parents, staff, and the directors alike. Mary's Place Childcare Centre has grown steadily and is now taking steps to becoming one of the best in Victoria.



Frederic Ozanam Centre

Submitted by Tim Imhoff
Manager, Ozanam Centre

Vision Statement

We strive to help people move from dependence to independence to the best of their ability.

It was a very busy year at Ozanam. We worked on completing the CARF recommendations. In March the Rick Hansen Foundation surveyed the Ozanam building for accessibility. We received an 83% score, which qualified us as 'RHF Accessibility Certified Gold Standard', and allowed us to apply to the Rick Hansen Foundation for BC Accessibility Grants Program. We were successful in receiving a grant for an accessible training kitchen! We also received a New Horizons for Seniors grant from the federal government which will be put towards the kitchen as well.

Programs at Ozanam have been running on a quarterly basis so that there are a variety of different opportunities to meet participant and Ozanam outcomes throughout the year. We run over 35 programs per week.

The Snoezelen Room can help those who have learning difficulties, developmental disabilities, or sensory impairments. Participants learn to interact with the world around them in a safe environment that builds up their confidence and their ability. Furthermore, using the technology, participants can travel virtually around the world where they can visit and learn about different countries, cultures, and customs. There are also documentaries on animals, mammals, reptiles, and plants that participants can learn from.

The University of Victoria Radio Show, 101.9 FM, hosts Thrift Store Music every Tuesday from 1-2pm. The participants take part as DJs.

Participants volunteer at the Beacon Hill Petting Zoo, cleaning out the barns and putting new hay and water down for the animals.

We have theme days throughout the year, in addition to our summer program which includes everyone's favorite: The BC Ferries trip around the Gulf Islands. Ozanam has a conference meeting once a month for participants to share what's happening in their programs and voice any concerns they would like to bring up. There are elections once a year where their peers nominate and vote participants in for one-year term.

Our annual Friends and Family BBQ and Christmas Brunch with the three world-famous magicians were very successful. Over 180 meals were made, and at the Christmas brunch, Santa showed up with a small gift for each participant. Santa is always played by 2 participants in alternating years. In early February 2020, Margaret Forbes, Director of Social Services, left her position. I would like to thank Margaret for her hard work during her time at Ozanam.

All of SSVP Ozanam participant referrals come from Community Living BC (CLBC). The Program Manager works closely with our assigned CLBC analyst and facilitator to make sure the participant is a good fit for the Ozanam program. This year, three participants chose to attend Ozanam but their situations had them withdraw from the program within the first three months. We did add three new part-time participants.

On a sad note, we lost two long term participants over the year whose names were added to the Ozanam memorial courtyard wall.

Frederic Ozanam Centre (cont'd)

As we are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic took the world by storm, and we were heavily affected. The Ozanam Centre has been temporarily shut down due to the pandemic. At the end of March, CLBC was declared an essential service, so as of April we have been running the Ozanam Community Inclusion Program from home. We have set up Zoom links with participants, and staff have a rotating schedule phoning different participants daily (sometimes twice a day), totalling 120 calls every week. This allows us to keep a great connection open and be there to listen to the participants or their caregivers. The staff have been researching 50 participant syndromes and presenting them at our staff Zoom meetings. We also have three staff presenting different workshops: First Aid Mental Health, Behavior Strategies, and Compassion Fatigue.

Ozanam staff have been following the guidelines put forth by the Vancouver Island Health Authority and the Province of BC. CLBC has requested that staff help in the participants' homes.

I would like to thank our leadership team at SSVP, Angela Hudson and Barb Webster, for giving Ozanam the health and safety direction of keeping all staff and management safe during this pandemic.

The Ozanam program has 51 participants in total, ranging in age from 26 to 76 years old.

Participants Years of Service at Ozanam

31-35 years - 8 participants
26-30 years - 8 participants
21-25 years - 2 participants
16-20 years - 6 participants
11-15 years - 6 participants
6-10 years - 7 participants
0-5 years - 15 participants

Participants Needs

2 participants need a vision cane
13 participants are in wheelchairs
3 participants use a walker
33 participants are ambulatory
22 participants have different protocols (Behaviour, Seizure, Medical, Swallowing)
18 participants require personal care twice a day
10 participants require noon medication

Participant/Staff Ratios at Ozanam

5 participants are 1/1
15 participants are 2/1
6 participants are 3/1
9 participants are 4/1



Staff Years of Service at Ozanam

31-35 years - 1 staff
16-20 years - 2 staff
11-15 years - 3 staff
6-10 years - 6 staff
0-5 years - 10 staff

Saint Vincent de Paul Centre Housing

Submitted by John Finlay
Resident Support Coordinator

Our program consists of 43 residents, 15 of whom have been referred through the CASH (Centralized Access to Supported Housing) program which is supported by Island Health. The residents work daily on maintaining a positive and stable approach to their mental health concerns. They are continuing to utilize the supports within the building and are receptive to referrals to outside agencies.

The residents continue to take advantage of the programs offered at the Downtown Community Centre.

Additional successes and highlights for this year include:

- Attaining crime-free status and maintaining a good relationship with the Victoria Police Department
- Organizing clothes and small article exchange in the laundry room and front lobby (a resident-led initiative)
- Organizing and participating in coffee get-togethers in the common room (a resident-led program)
- Continued use of the two computers in the common room and the associated wi-fi
- Continued use of the quiet and meditation room on the 7th floor (Art room)
- Continuing to have Birthday Celebrations as organized by the residents
- Helping to prepare the Christmas dinner and do the dinner clean-up
- Preparing and distributing Earthquake kits to each of the residents
- Offering donated food from the Social Concern Office to the residents as it becomes available. This has been especially well-received (we have a spare fridge that is being used for perishable items).

Many of the women in our building attend the Women's Group on a regular basis. In addition, the tax service being offered at the Social Concern Office continues to be used by the residents.

Along with Property Management, we continue to address issues that arise with our aging population. The majority of our residents fall into the senior category and continuing to work with them will ensure their safety and security.

On a sad note, we had a resident pass away over Christmas who had lived in the building for many years and was well liked in our resident community.

Saint Vincent de Paul Centre Housing (cont'd)

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated safety protocols that are required within our residential building, our social programming has been suspended. This includes the locking of the common room (which has our computers), the quiet art room, and the meditation room, as per BC Housing. Continuing residential support takes place by phone or one-on-one meetings in the mezzanine, maintaining social distancing guidelines.

A tenant check-in sheet is maintained and wellness checks are performed by telephone.

Several of the residents have stepped up to help with daily sanitizing of the building (touch points and elevator buttons). They have also been watching over each other to make sure they are healthy and able to get groceries.



Rosalie's Village

Submitted by Sasha Harper

Resident Support Coordinator

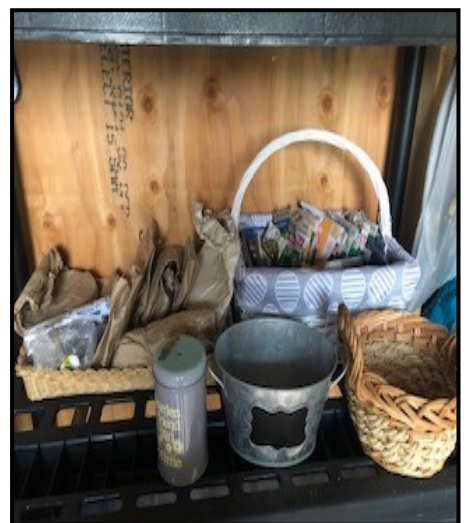
There have been several exciting and positive developments this year at Rosalie's Village. The focus on healthy relationships has continued and has intentionally expanded to include our relationships with other Saint Vincent de Paul Programs and with greater communities and networks. Some of the highlights of these relationships include:

- Ending Violence Association of British Columbia (EVA BC). The Board of Directors approved our membership, which allows access to support, information, and funding opportunities for Rosalie's Village staff and participants.
- BC Society of Transition Houses (BCSTH). The BCSTH officially approved and designated Rosalie's Village as Second Stage Housing for Women. This acknowledgement of the programming at Rosalie's Village offers tremendous support for staff and participants.
- Nurse Family Partnership Program (Saanich Public Health Unit)
- Boys and Girls Club of Greater Victoria Young Parent Support Program
- Kiwanis Young Moms Program
- Cridge Outreach Program
- Victoria Native Friendship Center Housing Outreach Program
- HerWayHome
- Volunteer Victoria
- Burnside Gorge Housing Outreach Team
- Wear to Start
- Knights of Columbus
- MLA Lana Popham
- Community Social Planning Council (Learning Garden Evaluation)
- University of Manitoba School of Social Work Practicum Program
- CRFAIR
- Community Food Centers Canada
- VanCity
- Bridges for Women

Some highlights of training opportunities for staff last year include:

- Online Field Instructors Course (CASWE)
- Food Skills for Families Training through Canadian Center for Disease Control
- Technology Safety (EVA BC)
- Gardening education through Gaia College and Haliburton Farm
- Next Steps Employment Training
- Intimate Partner Violence and Brain Injury (Cridge)
- Housing First Training (CAEH)
- Privacy Training (CLBC)
- Evaluation Training
- EVA BC Annual Conference
- WHMIS Training

Rosalie's Village (cont'd)



Rosalie's Village (cont'd)

Rosalie's Village programming, training and events are driven by participants and we had several successful events this past year. Some highlights include:

- FoodSafe Training and Certification
- Food Preservation Training and Certification
- Grow Your Own Food Course at Royal Roads University
- Weekly Garden Workshops for participants and children from Mary's Place Daycare
- Art Therapy Course led by Vahini Govender MC:AT, BA (Psych.), DVATI, RCC (6weeks)
- Food Skills for Families HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET (6weeks)
- COATS FOR KIDS sponsored by The Knights of Columbus
- Talent Show, Easter egg hunt and brunch, and Canada Day BBQ
- Annual Christmas Party at the Ozanam Center with gifts for all the children at Rosalie's Village purchased by Grade 6 students at St. Patrick's School

The Rosalie's Village community continued to meet monthly for healthy meals and meetings to encourage productive and empowering discussions and healthy communication. Food for meals is provided through the Social Concern Office food pantry and we are fortunate to be able to use the Ozanam Centre for our meetings. Participant committees such as the Garden and Food Security Committee, the Safety Committee, and the Social Committee provide updates at these monthly meetings. This structure provides skills and experience for participants.

This year we implemented a new program agreement for participants and saw ten new participants move into Rosalie's Village. The participants who moved out remain part of the Rosalie's Village community and continue to be involved as alumni. We developed an exit survey and saw women move to subsidized housing, market housing, and co-op housing.

The focus on economic empowerment at Rosalie's Village puts woman and their families in a position where they have choices about where they move on to. The new program agreement is clear that Rosalie's Village is transitional housing that offers support for meeting self-determined goals. With the completion and implementation of our Program Manual, each participant has identified and continues to work on individual goals. Rosalie's Village has no vacancy and is a high demand program.



Rosalie's Village (cont'd)

The Rosalie's Village Shelter Program has been a lifeline for many women with children, especially during the housing crisis. We continue to move women into shelter suites from the hospital after giving birth and support them into housing with their babies. The shelter suites have helped many women and children with a place to stay while they search for housing and wait for suitable and safe housing. The shelter units continue to be in high demand and have been continuously full the past year.

We are so fortunate to share the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Royal Oak site with programs like Ozanam, Mary's Place Daycare, and the Seniors' residences. The work that has been done to bridge programs and supports has been especially valuable as we have faced the COVID-19 pandemic together. Our Food Security staff member has been available to support members of this community and our garden programs continue to thrive. The Rosalie's Village Learning Garden is a shared space for all, and we continue to work with Ozanam garden team and Seniors' garden members to increase food production and reap the rewards of enjoying the beautiful outdoor spaces. Mary's Place Daycare and the Rosalie's Village community are grateful to have these safe and established outdoor spaces.

I am incredibly grateful for the calm and capable leadership of Angela Hudson and her team.



Thrift Stores

Submitted by Angela Hudson

The retail program has a mandate through the Strategic Plan and the Rule to be financially viable and that any surpluses should be reinvested in the extension of the Society's services to the poor, balanced with providing low-cost goods to those in need.

The Society has four retail locations in Sooke, Langford, Esquimalt, and Central Saanich. During 2019, the retail program generated a small profit, which was transferred to support the good works of the Social Concern support programs in Victoria.

As the Society looks forward to the future, the continued financial viability of the retail program will be a focus, while ensuring the Society maintains the voucher program for those in need and the programs that are offered in the retail locations that directly support the local communities.

The Society would like to thank the Store Managers Al Cox, Rebecca Morris, Paula Jans, and Shirley Larsen, as well as all the countless staff and volunteers who work tirelessly in their communities.



Archives Report

Submitted by Kathy Weswick
Chair, Archives Committee

The Archives Committee sorts through historical items of our Conferences, Particular Council, Board of Directors, and special works history. We also seek items from Conferences that would be kept in our files.

We sort and file into our Archives binders designated by year. As you open a binder, the Annual Report, the Annual General Meeting minutes, and the Financial Report for the year are the first items you will encounter. Then, the five sections are titled Particular Council, Board of Directors, Conference Reports, Committee Reports, and finally Miscellaneous, usually holding items such as letters, building plans, and new editions of the Rule. Our sorting reveals treasures from the past that are shared, if possible, with the Particular Council at their meeting.

This year has seen further sorting of items, with fewer boxes for us to sort and an increase in the documents filed. Maureen Dietrich and I continue to meet once a month, on the third Wednesday, for a couple of hours in the morning. By our terms of reference, we are also responsible for the library.

We invite Conferences with copies of past minutes and photos (labelled with names if possible) of their Conference members to consider donating them to the Archives. Please drop them off at the Administration office, to go to the Archives Committee.

We would really appreciate any group photographs of Conferences or teams of volunteers or staff who contribute to our Society. Please email them to weswickk@telus.net.

We invite members to search the archives in the Vincentian Room for information about their members and activities in the past. The Administration Office holds the key to the Vincentian Room.

All members of the Society are invited to join our team of members for a task that is rewarding and limited to the activity and energy that we want to give it.

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Patrick McDonald CPA CGA, CFP
Treasurer, Board of Directors

The purpose of our Society is to promote and perform works of charity as expressed through personal contact with the needy or suffering. A large part of fulfilling this mandate is to continually manage our finances prudently.

Last year, our donors, store customers, residents, daycare clients, and governments all joined together to provide more than \$6,000,000 in funds to accomplish our Society's goals. In addition, we received food donations of nearly \$800,000 and were blessed by thousands of hours of selfless volunteer work.

From this talent, time, and treasure, we were able to provide relief services with dignity, low-cost housing, affordable childcare, and merchandise to our clients. We paid out over \$3,000,000 in wages to our employees, provided over \$400,000 to relief programs in cash, maintained our buildings, and paid interest on our loans.

We were able to reduce these loans (mostly mortgages on our property) by nearly \$500,000 last year, so that we now owe \$14,500,000 (we spent over \$26,000,000 on these buildings originally).

This year of 2020 will challenge our resources and finances as has no other year in recent memory. We are grateful to donors who have already stepped forward and to our staff and volunteers who are weathering this pandemic.

I would like to thank fellow Finance Committee members and directors Kathy, John, and Brian; our Executive Director, Angela Hudson; and her staff.

A special thanks must go to Barb Webster, CPA CGA, Director of Finance and Administration for her invaluable contributions to our Society and this committee.

The Audited Financial Statements are available for review by contacting Barb Webster, CPA CGA at bwebster@svdpvictoria.com.

Thank you to the City of Victoria, the District of Langford, the District of Sooke, the District of Central Saanich, and the District of Saanich for their contributions to our various locations by way of a property tax grant. Without this important contribution, the Society would not be able to provide the same level of assistance to those we serve in our communities.

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia.



“Charity is the cement which binds
communities to God
and persons to one another.”

Saint Vincent de Paul

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Vancouver Island

During 2019, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of Vancouver Island received and filled over 27,070 requests for emergency assistance through the Emergency Assistance Programs.

Your donations have directly impacted the lives of those individuals, families and children that request our help. With your support and the support of our 375 volunteers, who donated over 34,475 hours during 2019, the Society:

- Distributed \$785,268 in emergency food to those in need. This included food donations collected through food drives, schools, parishes, and individuals.
- Distributed \$75,311 worth of free emergency clothing, household goods, and furniture.
- Provided \$1,640,892 worth of low-priced goods to the community through our four thrift stores. This was possible because you donated your gently used goods to us.
- Provided a work training program; a women's day program; a family support program; life skills training; a free income tax program; emergency relief to families for the payment of utility bills, rent, or transportation to medical appointments; bus passes; and advocacy for those in need.

Thank you for your support.

You have made a great impact
on those in need in our community.

Contact us:
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