

Spotlight

HOUSING

HUNGER

HEALTH



The gifts of your time, talent and treasure bring Help and Hope to Georgia neighbors in need.



Alex Olivo, St. Vincent de Paul Chamblee Thrift Store Manager

IN THIS ISSUE

- \$1 million Award from DeKalb County
- SVdP Pharmacy Intern Program is a Win-Win
- A Conversation with... the Executive Director
- We Make Home Visits!
- Measuring Dignity and Respect
- Ways to Get Involved

From the Director

Friends,

Where has the year gone?

It's often said that time passes faster at a non-profit than at any other enterprise. Almost every month and quarter is marked by a significant program or event, especially around fundraising. As fall approaches, our efforts shift into high gear.

We're still beaming with excitement after a beautiful and inspiring **Morning of Hope** event and are thrilled to have hosted our second annual **Block Party** in October. Now, we've kicked off our **Year-End Fundraising Campaign**. All our efforts are aimed at moving you to understand **how much work is still needed, how deeply our neighbors and communities are impacted, and how much more we can accomplish with your continued support.**

You can imagine our pride in receiving the invitation from DeKalb County to be part of their Community Care Initiative. They identified St. Vincent de Paul as an experienced non-profit with a proven track record. Eviction prevention is critical for so many of the families we serve. The alternative, homelessness, would require far more resources to address.

If you purchased eggs or filled your gas tank in the last few months, you can imagine the choices that low-income households are making to keep their families sheltered, keep food on the table, and maintain their health. We saw it firsthand this summer as an extraordinary number of neighbors sought food support. This winter will bring on a new set of challenges for many new neighbors. **We are tracking to serve more than 220,000 neighbors by year-end.**

Yes, I toss and turn at night thinking, is there one more prospect or donor I can reach and confirm support? I'm sure my peers on the project side have their funding worries that also keep them up at night. The worry, anxiety, and even fear I see on the faces that walk through our doors provide all the motivation I need to make one more call, send one more letter, and plan one more event!

I continue to appreciate the generosity of our supporters who affirm the value of the St. Vincent de Paul mission.



Bea Perdue
Senior Director of Philanthropy

St. Vincent de Paul is projecting a 20% increase in service to neighbors in 2025. Georgia ranks 7th among US states whose residents have had the most difficulty paying for usual household expenses in 2024. The request for food support has increased sharply as neighbors face rising costs of basic food items.



Vincentian, Javier Lerch, assisting a neighbor shopping at the Chamblee Food Mart

Avg. Cost	Eggs 54%	Milk 36%	Cereal 28%
March 2024	\$5.12	\$4.08	\$5.12
Nov 2020	\$3.08	\$3.00	\$4.00

\$1 Million Award from DeKalb County for Eviction Prevention

SVdP Among 11 Nonprofits to Receive DeKalb County Community Care Initiative Support



DeKalb County Commission voted unanimously on August 13th to invest \$21 million to keep Dekalb residents in their rental homes and apartments. The investment is aimed at the housing affordability crisis fueled by the COVID-19 pandemic. **More than 50% of renters in DeKalb face housing insecurity**, a critical and urgent crisis for low- and middle-income families.

The DeKalb County Community Care Initiative will distribute \$13 million to 11 experienced nonprofit organizations which includes a \$1.0 million dollar award to St. Vincent de Paul. The partnership initiative includes DeKalb County Community Development's Coordinated Entry and the selected nonprofits, in collaboration with the HUD-approved HOME-ARP program.



The funds will provide rental and utility assistance, employment assistance, training, mental health services, educational needs, food, childcare, and legal services. *"We are excited to be among the organizations recognized and then selected to focus on to support,"* said Mike Mies, Executive Director at SVdP. *"We continue to stress that the best way to prevent homelessness is to keep our neighbors housed. The return on investment in preventing homelessness includes a more stable family environment, sustained independence, and the ability to contribute to our social fabric; all of which result in stronger, more livable communities. Our entire community will benefit from DeKalb County's investment."*

St. Vincent de Paul is expecting funds to be available in early 2025. Beyond the distribution of financial assistance, participating Vincentian Chapters and Chamblee Service Center counselors will provide case management to facilitate housing stability and self-reliance.

Participating nonprofit partners, grant amounts, and services:

- New Life Community Ministries, \$2,9 million, rent and utilities
- Urban League of Greater Atlanta, \$ 2.9 million, rent and utilities
- Latin American Association, \$2 million, rent and utilities
- DeKalb County Government, \$300,000, Coordinated Entry Services
- Atlanta Legal Aid Society, \$600,000, housing stability services
- Jewish Family Career Services of Atlanta, \$1 million, rent and utilities
- New American Pathways, \$1.04 million, rent and utilities,
- Africa's Children Fund, \$1 million, rent and utilities
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul, \$1 million, rent and utilities
- DeKalb Pro Bono, \$200,000, housing stability services
- Paws Between Homes, \$60,000, housing stability services



The Mission

To provide Help and Hope to neighbors in need while maintaining the Dignity of the individual and creating a path to self-sufficiency. Serving Neighbors In Need since 1903, we are one of the oldest, largest and most trusted state-wide social services safety net organizations in Georgia.



Hunger

13% of Georgians are food insecure.



Health

77% of Georgians, below \$50,000 income, cannot afford medications.



Housing

Georgia has 1 Million households using 50% of income for shelter.

Learning is Driving Growth at the SVdP Pharmacy

“They taught me everything I know about the inner workings of a pharmacy,” says Dr. Lisa Kim, of her pharmacy colleagues, with a wink and a smile. She is a full-time staff pharmacist at St. Vincent de Paul, new to the position but not the organization. To many of the staff at Chamblee, it really does feel like she grew up here. They first met her as a pharmacy student on rotation in 2022. After graduating with a Doctorate in Pharmacy, she worked as a part-time graduate intern. Dr. Kim began her current position shortly after becoming a fully licensed Pharmacist at the end of 2023.

Dr. Samantha Ricks has served as both the Pharmacy Director and as a preceptor to pharmacy students for over 3 years, ensuring her students are involved in every aspect of operating a pharmacy. During their one to five weeks learning experience, students are fully immersed in operational, management, and regulatory aspects of a non-traditional pharmacy practice site.

“So many students have little to no exposure to the regulatory side of operating a pharmacy. They don’t often get an up-close view of administration and leadership.” shared Dr. Ricks. *“Many have never attended a senior leadership team meeting, before attending one here. It can be unnerving, but they need to know how to operate in the decision-making process, to advocate for patients, collaborate for innovation, and contribute to programming that enhances patient care.”*



Dr. Lisa Kim
Staff Pharmacist



Applied learning is an integral part of each students’ rotation. Students leverage their unique educational experiences to make a meaningful impact at St. Vincent de Paul. For example, they have the option to create and present a health seminar for the community, focusing on chronic illnesses; or they can conduct research and develop a presentation for staff education. Through these activities, they enhance their skills in communicating with both patients and community partners.

As students perform daily pharmacy related tasks in a high-volume nontraditional pharmacy, they also contribute to increasing our service capacity. In July, the SVdP pharmacy was able to reach its highest monthly totals, serving nearly 450 unique patients and dispensing over 3,300 prescriptions. This resulted in cost savings for patients exceeding \$415,000. Students on rotation contributed to making that possible. The SVdP Pharmacy Intern Program is a win-win for our neighbors and future pharmacists.

A Conversation with...

Mike Mies, Executive Director

It is evident from the increase in our service numbers that our neighbors are facing a great many challenges. When we assemble data for our 2024 St. Vincent de Paul Impact Report, we know that supporters and potential supporters will see how our mission has brought Help and Hope to Georgia neighbors in need. Bea Perdue sat down to talk with our Executive Director, Mike Mies, to capture his reflections on our 2024 efforts and his aspirations for the organization's future.

Q: What are your first thoughts about the coming end to 2024?

A: It's hard to believe we are close to another year-end already! This has been an incredibly impactful year. Two years ago, we served more than 150,000 people statewide. Last year that increased to around 200,000 neighbors served. This year it will be well more than 220,000. That's more neighbors provided with financial aid to avoid evictions, more families housed through our Motel to Home program, thousands more life-saving free prescription medications dispensed, and tons more food and household items provided.

More importantly, it is thousands more neighbors served with dignity and respect, providing hope for a better future. While I'm incredibly proud of the impact our staff and thousands of Vincentian volunteers are having, it is also distressing that there is such an enormous need for our services. So many fellow Georgians are struggling to make ends meet.

Q: Where would you like to see growth, improvement, and investment in our mission efforts?

A: Despite being one of the largest—if not the largest—social service nonprofits in the state, we are still only able to provide financial assistance to 50-60% of those who turn to us for help. It's really disheartening for our Vincentian volunteers to not be able to handle all the calls we get on our intake lines. We need to expand our sources of revenue and our volunteer workforce, since 80%+ of our service delivery is done by volunteers.

We've made significant investments to broaden our donor base and generate more contributions, as well as to increase our Vincentian membership, and we need to continue these efforts. We are also making investments to increase our thrift store operations to generate more income, 100% of which goes into direct service. Lastly, we are increasing our programming to provide more support to our neighbors to achieve stability – things like our HANDS savings match program, landlord engagement program, workforce development initiatives, and our affordable housing development in Lakewood Heights.

Q: In reference to the challenges, you've shared throughout the year— economic instability, affordable housing, gas prices, discontinuance of the summer child food subsidies, etc.—how have neighbors been specifically affected?

A: We're inundated. While the rate of inflation has come down significantly recently, actual prices are not falling. The impact of inflation has disproportionately impacted working class families. Basic necessities—food, household items, gasoline, rent—have increased more than other items.

This really impacts families on fixed incomes and those earning below what is considered a "living wage" in metro Atlanta and Georgia. Incomes haven't kept up with the increased cost of living. This means more neighbors turning to us for food assistance,

housing solutions, and direct financial aid to help with utilities and other household expenses. Seeing the increase in service to our seniors and veterans, many of whom expected their retirement incomes to sustain them is difficult.

Q: SVdP is developing a five-year strategic plan – what are the focus areas, and what are your BHAG's (Big Hairy Audacious Goals)?

A: Focusing on our Christian calling to "Love Your Neighbor", the theme of our strategic plan is Building Neighborhoods of Support and Friendship. We have four strategic pillars—

Over the next 5 years, we expect to double the number of Georgians we serve today. We will also be greatly expanding our thrift store infrastructure to help generate funding to support these efforts:

- 1. **Supporting Conferences** (which is what we call our local chapters) with technology solutions and best practices,*
- 2. **Supporting Vincentians** (our volunteer members) with tools and training to better deal with the more challenging circumstances we are seeing,*
- 3. **Supporting Neighbors** in need with programs and services that help to achieve stability, and*
- 4. **Supporting Communities** by expanding our geographic footprint, establishing more Conferences, and developing more affordable housing solutions.*

Q: Public and financial support have increased over the last year. It appears more people and organizations are discovering the impact of the mission, what do you attribute that to?

A: As I told you when you arrived last year, one of our key Vincentian Virtues is humility. Sometimes I think we take that too far and are hesitant to talk about the incredible work that our organization and our Vincentian volunteers are doing. We are still a "well-kept secret".

Well, we've started to let the secret out! The more that people know about the work that we do – and the way we do it – the more support we are garnering. We need to keep telling the story.

Q: Speaking of support, our Year-end campaign will kick-off in a few weeks. What would say to donors who making those final giving decisions of the year?

A: I feel like almost everyone recognizes the dramatic needs in our community and wants to contribute in some way but may not know how best to help. I hope they continue to have confidence in our stewardship of donated funds—more than 95% of which go directly to programs and services. We're incredibly grateful to our many donors, especially our Guardian Society monthly donors, for supporting our efforts.

We're like almost every other non-profit in the world, more than half the donations we receive for the entire year will occur during November and December. I think once most donors get beyond the tax implications, they start to wonder where they can make something better for someone in need. I can't think of a more impactful mission than working to bring Help and Hope to our Georgia neighbors in need.



Mike Mies
Executive Director

We Make Home Visits!

A contribution from Vincentian Gina Wilson, 2024 Morning of Hope Gala Host Committee, Conference President, Holy Cross Catholic Church, Atlanta, Georgia

Making face-to-face contact with neighbors is the central and most basic activity of our service. Often when asked what makes St. Vincent de Paul different from other social service non-profits, the answer is “*We make home visits.*” If the listener is thinking, so do law enforcement and uninvited friends, it’s because they probably know very little about our organization and even less about our service model.

For our principal founder, Frederic Ozanam, making visits to the poor symbolized a commitment to reaching out to those in need, rather than requiring them to report to a service site. Still today, Vincentians know that in their homes, neighbors feel more comfortable sharing the stories of their struggles. Vincentians are asked to listen, offer humble advice, and render assistance.

Even before the COVID pandemic, other contributing factors were forcing Vincentians, and staff counselors to identify strategies to maintain the face-to-face interaction advantage. We recognize that immediate assistance is not always enough to place a neighbor on the path to self-reliance.

Sitting face-to-face with a neighbor provides a greater chance to recognize temporary and systemic challenges facing their household. A visit to assist with a utility disconnection notice may reveal empty pantries and the need for food support. Physical characteristics, behaviors, and the look in their eyes can reveal health support needs. It’s the listening that helps us identify needs for financial education, refinancing a high-interest loan, and challenges beyond St. Vincent de Paul’s capacity but not other community partners.

Yes...we do home visits. It’s where we get to show our neighbors, with the utmost respect and care, that we are there to listen, comfort, and help.

“*The knowledge of social well-being and reform is to be learned, not from books, nor the public platform, but in climbing the stairs to the poor’s man garret, sitting by his bedside, feeling the same cold that pierces him, sharing the secret of his lonely heart and troubled mind.*”

– Frederic Ozanam



Help Beyond the Home Visit

At St. Vincent de Paul, we don’t just wait for our neighbors to come to us—we actively seek them out, especially those who are unhoused and in urgent need. Whether through home visits or direct outreach, we are committed to understanding the unique challenges facing our community. This approach makes a profound difference, as reflected in this heartfelt 5-star Google Review we received last month from a neighbor in Alpharetta. Their story is a testament to the love, compassion, and immediate action that sets us apart in helping those in crisis.

“St. Vincent de Paul Georgia was a true lifesaver for my family. After moving to Alpharetta in 2024, we found ourselves living between our car and hotels, struggling to get by. Eventually, we lost our car and my daughter her job, leaving us homeless—living on the streets in Alpharetta, in parks and bus station stops with our dog. We didn’t have help; our family and friends knew our situation but refused to assist. For months, we walked the streets of Alpharetta—four females, without protection, no food, no housing, no help, and no sympathy from onlookers or shelters. People judged us and thought less of us due to our situation, and no one initially stopped to ask if we needed help.

However, a Lyft driver and a woman from a local church finally asked if we were okay and offered some resources. But when we reached out, no other organization responded—except St. Vincent de Paul. Their compassion and quick action were incredible. They arranged a hotel, Uber ride, and food voucher that same day. It was the most help we had received in months. I’m beyond grateful for their compassionate support during the hardest time in our lives. Thank you for everything!”

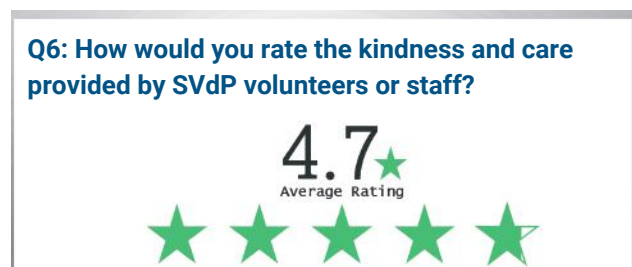
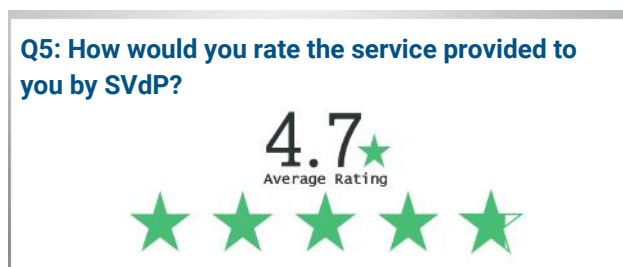
Editors note: This review has been summarized for clarity and brevity in this publication.

Measuring Dignity and Respect

Treating neighbors with dignity and respect is an expectation and requirement, made clear to everyone who works or volunteers to serve the St. Vincent de Paul mission. We recognize that it is from our dignity as humans that all other rights and responsibilities flow. As neighbors, there is no “us” and “them.”

An author once described Vincent de Paul as a “hospitality practitioner,” based on his desire to provide the best possible care for those society had often forgotten or diminished. The observations of his warmth, openness, and authenticity that exceeded expectations are as practical today as they were in his time.

In July, we asked over 700 neighbors to rate their experience of requesting aid from St. Vincent de Paul. We were pleased to learn that they recognized the qualities we strive to embody as we assist them through some of their most challenging times.



“My experience with SVdP has been exceptional, above ALL other help agencies.”

“Just please continue being a blessing to the people/communities you serve.”

“My experience was a total Blessing and as always - Truly Grateful.”

“I couldn't be so selfish to ask for anything more or better, they are beyond the call of duty.”

Ways to Get Involved

Upcoming Events

Clark's Christmas Kids

November 27 - December 18, 2024



St. Vincent de Paul is the managing partner of this annual holiday gift drive providing Georgia's foster children with

Christmas gifts through community donations and support.

Make plans to volunteer with Meghan King, mking@svdpgeorgia.org.

Tee Off for Hope - Save the Date!

Monday, April 14, 2025

Secure your sponsorship or foursome today!

Contact Debra Roberts, droboters@svdpgeorgia.org.

Your Generosity...

...Our Neighbors' Possibilities.

2024 YEAR-END CAMPAIGN

There are many ways you can bring Help and Hope to our Georgia neighbors in need before 2024 ends.

- Make a financial donation
- Become a Guardian Society member
- Establish a legacy of support in the 1903 Society
- Bring us your gently used clothing and household items
- Donate your unused vehicle(s)
- Volunteer to serve Health, Housing, and Health initiatives



Scan to make your gift today!


Want to schedule your year-end gift or tour the Chamblee Service Center? Contact Bea Perdue (bperdue@svdpgeorgia.org).

Thank You for Helping St. Vincent de Paul Build a

Morning of Hope

September 26, 2024
Spring Hall Event Venue

Building Hope for Better Tomorrows

<p>Message of Hope Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole 2021 National Humanities Medalist, Former Spelman College President, and Education and Human Rights Advocate.</p>	<p>Presented by  QuikTrip</p>	<p>2024 Builders of Hope Gas South United Way of Greater Atlanta Don and Theresa Conklin</p>	<p>Emcee Donna Lowry Entertainment The Trey Clegg Singers</p>
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Champions
Anonymous
Chick-fil-A
Georgia Power
Pinnacle Custom Signs
Southern Company Gas
SAIA Inc

Heroes
Marie Crean
Eagle Rock Distributing Company
Gas South
Truist

Protectors
Archdiocese of Atlanta
Chemical Insights Research Institute & UL Research Institutes
The Garrett Group Merrill Lynch
Wealth Management

2024 Morning of Hope Host Committee

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Louise Scott, Chair | Cynthia Edwards | Pat McNulty |
| Rita Breen | Mary Ellen Garrett | Phil Mooney |
| Teresa Carthon | Sue Hansen | Shana Starks |
| Charlotte Combre | Fritz Holgreffe | Andrew Suesserman |
| Tom Dailey | Doug Hooker | Gina Wilson |
| Drey Dennis | Charles Jones | Dr. Christa Wright |
| Charon Donaldson | Portia Lloyd | Dr. William Wright |
| Tim Doyle | Jay Mannelly | |

The 2024 Morning of Hope Gala is an annual community fundraising event that allows St. Vincent de Paul Georgia to reflect on our impact, celebrate the contributions of our supporters, and look ahead to the brighter future we can build with our neighbors. Thanks to the generosity of over 500 donors, we raised an incredible \$303,000 to bring Help and Hope to our Georgia neighbors in need. More than 300 individuals joined us to hear an inspiring Message of Hope from Dr. Johnnetta Cole. We are deeply grateful to all who affirm the value of our mission, and all event proceeds will be used where they are needed most. Thank you to each individual and organization who made this event a success!

Make Plans to Join Us on September 25, 2025!

Reserve your seat, sponsorship, or patron support by contacting Bea Perdue, bperdue@svdpgorgia.org

Missed the event or want to relive the moments?

Scan to watch the full 2024 Morning of Hope video

