

St Vincent DePaul Conference Report



St John Neumann St Vincent de Paul Conference has been meeting and helping people in and around the parish boundaries for over ten years. The main financial support for the conference comes from the parish poor box, generously funded by you, our parishioners. The quarter ending June 30 proved to be quieter than normal with just 11 home visits, assisting 29 people, and spending \$6,114.08. In addition, we shared \$1,000 with the SVdP at a poor parish in Aurora and provided \$2,000 seed money for the new initiative in our area, Hope Takes Action (HTA).

Recently, there have been some major changes to a formerly low-cost rental area in St. Charles. In time, this may cause great stress to the lessees, and it is expected that call volume will rise. Many of those who call SVdP for help live in a cycle, paycheck to paycheck, having every dollar already marked for a purpose. If something comes along to throw off the balance - a car repair, appliance breakdown, health crisis, or change in employment, help may be needed to fill in the financial gap; this is where SVdP comes in. Sometimes, though, there requires a more long term need for help and mentoring, helping the family make better decisions, giving some budgeting advice, etc. This is where Hope Takes Action comes into play. We can guide these families into a better position as they go forward, giving them a firmer base, and the tools to handle a crisis as it comes along.

Hope Takes Action (HTA) is in start-up mode in St. Charles. It is a cooperative effort of many churches, businesses and volunteers in the area. This project incorporates *Bridges Out of Poverty*, an initiative for the community (<http://www.hopetakesaction.net/bridges/>), and *Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' by World* (<http://www.hopetakesaction.net/gettingahead/>) for those individuals living in poverty. Training and mentoring is provided to participants who are motivated to find ways out of their poverty and just need support along the way. HTA is looking for volunteers. Please call us for additional information.

Our conference is constantly needed to offer referrals, advice, gas cards, food cards and pantries, options for car repairs, and financial assistance. Our limitations come with affordable housing, health care, and pricey car repairs and transportation. But our great joy comes in offering a listening ear, a compassionate heart, and the desire to see Christ in the face of every single person who calls us. Without the support of the parish, we would be extremely limited in the help we can provide.

Another way to help the Conference is through the Auto Donation Program (<http://www.yes-svdop.org>). This year we have had three parish families donate to SVdP through the gift of their older car. All types of vehicles are accepted, cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles, heavy equipment, airplanes, etc.

Thank you for continuing to support this ministry, directly or indirectly. Call with your questions about any of our programs or services. 630-375-7746.