

THE SOCIETY PAGE

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND STAFF OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GEORGIA



FORMATION EVENTS

Visit our [Formation Calendar](#) online for details or to register.

INVITATION TO LEAD: PRESIDENT/VP, 5/4 (VIRTUAL)

DISTRICT 5 VINCENTIAN UNIVERSITY, 5/20

St. Matthew, Tyrone GA

DISTRICT 6 OZANAM ORIENTATION, 5/24 & 25

Holy Cross, Atlanta GA

DISTRICT 3 & 4 OZANAM ORIENTATION, 6/10

Conference Support Center, Atlanta, GA

INVITATION TO LEAD: SECRETARY, 6/22 (VIRTUAL)

OZANAM ORIENTATION, 6/24

Queen of Angels, Tomson GA

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Conference Support Center will be closed in observance of the following:

MEMORIAL DAY, 5/29

JUNETEENTH OBSERVED, 6/19

INDEPENDENCE DAY, 7/3 & 7/4

[SVDPGEORGIA.ORG/MEMBERS](https://svdpgeorgia.org/members)

FEAST OF ST. LOUISE DE MARILLAC MAY 9

“Above all, be very gentle and courteous toward your poor. You know that they are our masters and that we must love them tenderly and respect them deeply. It is not enough for these maxims to be in our minds; we must bear witness to them by our gentle and charitable care.”

- St. Louise de Marillac

FORMATION & NEWS EBLASTS

Don't miss out on formation events, news, and other SVdP Conference Support Center updates. Sign up to receive Formation & News emails [HERE](#).

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MIKE MIES | MMIES@SVDPGORGIA.ORG | 678-892-6180

Dear fellow Vincentians,

The best part of my job is being able to tell others about the great work St. Vincent de Paul does – and primarily the great work that our Vincentian members do in Conferences, thrift stores and food pantries every day. When I am meeting with someone who does not know much about St. Vincent de Paul – whether donors, community partners, or potential corporate partners – I love to highlight what makes us unique among charitable organizations.

The first is that we are a Catholic lay membership organization and the vast majority of the work done by the Society is done by Vincentian members and other volunteers. You may not appreciate how significant that is, but let me put it in context. Last year, you and other volunteers contributed 1,393,647 hours of service. Yes, **1.4 million hours!** And I suspect that is probably understated because we are not always great about recording our volunteer hours. Do you know that, using the IRS rate for volunteer hours, your volunteer hours were valued at **over \$41,000,000** last year? Incredible.

The second key differentiator between the Society and other charities is the way we deliver our services. We treat people as neighbors being helped by neighbors, not as clients being helped by a charity agency. This is best exemplified in the Home Visit, where we sit and visit with neighbors in need, understanding their needs, sharing their burdens.



This is truly unique to St. Vincent de Paul. And it allows us to provide our neighbors with the [Hope that comes from knowing someone else cares](#). It is the power of this Hope that we will be celebrating at Morning of Hope in two weeks. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

The third characteristic that differentiates us is our spiritual dimension. We recognize that we are all on a faith journey, and our ultimate goal as Vincentians is to grow together in holiness through service to Christ in the person of our suffering neighbor. No one better exemplifies this than Sister Mary Francis, our outgoing Council Spiritual Advisor, who has dedicated her life to serving others. When I asked Sister to be our Spiritual Advisor three years ago, she (somewhat reluctantly) agreed. And how fortunate we are that she did! She has been a tremendous leader and a constant advocate for our spiritual growth. Sister is relocating for the next three years to Tijuana, Mexico to minister to the poor and imprisoned. See her farewell message on page 3. Sister goes with our immense gratitude. Please join me in praying for her and her ministry.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

I'LL SEE YOU IN HEAVEN

BY SR. MARY FRANCIS POWER, ESEH | SISTERMARYFRANCISPOWER@GMAIL.COM

My dear fellow Vincentians,

May 16th will be my last day in Georgia for the next three years, in order to serve the least of our brothers and sisters in Tijuana, Mexico, where our mission houses are located. I have been receiving “divine nudges” for the past two years that I need to help serve those in prison and the poor, specifically in Tijuana. Our number of active sisters is very low, due to Covid. I am accepting this higher calling from God to serve in a third world country, saying yes to His Will for me.



As habited religious sisters, God uses us for His Will. We are his hands and feet. Daily unplanned, unexpected meetings with strangers take place everywhere, due to the wearing of the habit and veil. Because of this, we have the opportunity to evangelize, console, and pray with them. Often, I end the exchange with, “I’ll see you in Heaven!”

The life of a Vincentian is much the same way, letting God use us as his vessels to reach others, imitating his unconditional love.

Both St. Vincent de Paul and St. John Eudes (our sisters’ patron saint) served the least of our brothers and sisters, prayed with clients, evangelized, and brought souls to Christ. Both were priests who actively lived their faith as shepherds of their local flocks.

Recently our sisters met for an annual retreat. We learned that St. John Eudes and St. Vincent de Paul were inspired by the same spiritual director, Cardinal Pierre de Berelle. It’s no wonder we can clearly see what they had in common, that both saints had the same charitable heart of compassion for those who suffer.

Both remarkable leaders continually worked to become more holy through their service to the materially and spiritually poor. All faithful Vincentians, whether priests, deacons, brothers, sisters, or lay Catholics, strive to deepen Vincentian spirituality through service to the suffering Christ, with every opportunity presented to us by God himself.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as the SVdP Georgia-Council Spiritual Advisor for the past 2 and ½ years.

And...I’ll see you in Heaven!

Sister Mary Francis Power, ESEH
Eudist Servants of the Eleventh Hour

TOP HAT AWARD

On Saturday, March 25th, we celebrated nine 2023 District Top Hat Finalists at Spring to Life Annual Assembly. The Top Hat Award honors Vincentians that embody the charism of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as expressed in our three essentials elements - Spirituality, Friendship and Service.



Top Hat Finalists

- District 1 – John Pepe, Holy Family
- District 2 – John Francis, St. Jude & All Saints
- District 3 – Pam Kramer, St. Lawrence
- District 4 – Ron Carr, Our Lady of the Assumption
- District 5 – Bernie McMullen, Holy Trinity
- District 6 – Pat McGovern, Holy Cross
- District 7 – Susan Joanis, St. Katherine Drexel
- District 9 – Terry Turner, Good Samaritan

TOP HAT AWARD RECIPIENTS



Congratulations John Pepe! (L)

John Pepe has been a Vincentian for 20 years at his Conference, Holy Family. Over the years, John has held several positions including Conference President, Vice President, CMS Administrator, and CMS Knowledge Sharing Team Member.

Congratulations John Francis! (R)

John Francis has been a Vincentian for 40 years at All Saints and St. Jude the Apostle, where he has had several roles including Council Formator, Council Caseworker, and Conference Caseworker.

SPRING TO LIFE SURVEY RESULTS

RATINGS

Overall Spring to Life experience

★★★★★ 4.54 / 5

Welcome, Top Hat Award & Keynote

★★★★★ 4.61 / 5

Breakfast/lunch Provisions

★★★★★ 4.74 / 5

Most Enjoyed Course

ENGAGING IN LANDLORD ENGAGEMENT

Experience with the facility, Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School

★★★★★ 4.49 / 5

Vigil Mass at The Shrine

★★★★★ 5 / 5

Topic you would like to hear more about

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

WHAT DO YOU WANT OTHERS TO KNOW ABOUT SPRING TO LIFE?

- Great chance to meet other Vincentians and learn about Spirituality, Friendship and Service regarding Hunger, Housing and Health.
- It reaffirms your Vincentian calling; it is informative and inspiring.
- Great way to meet fellow Vincentians, be more aware of the great work being done within the Council.
- It's a great time to renew your passion for the Society - surrounded by so many other people from different backgrounds.
- The good work SVdP does, and the spiritual growth you can achieve serving others.

WHAT KEEPS YOU COMING BACK TO SPRING TO LIFE EACH YEAR?

- Learning new skills that help us to become better Vincentians, to be more understanding and effective case workers when meeting with neighbors in need.
- Spring to Life connects me with the Vincentians of Georgia and our mission.
- The chance to learn more and the joy of being with other Vincentians.

SPRING TO LIFE SURVEY RESULTS...CONTINUED

WHAT AGENCIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE SPRING TO LIFE 2024 EXPO?

- More resources for the Hispanic community.
- Agencies that provide housing like Drake House, Rainbow Village or the shelters.
- Agencies that have representation in the counties further north, and east and west.
- GA Dept of Early Care and Learning, United Way of Metro Atlanta.
- CAC, Buckhead Christian Ministry, Solidarity, Latin American Association.

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE SPRING TO LIFE?

- Send materials in advance for some of the breakout sessions.
- You need a breakout session about serving the undocumented. This is a Catholic mandate.
- Need more time for Q&A at sessions.
- It would be wonderful to provide more resources for groups outside of the Atlanta area, especially further north.

SPRING TO LIFE 2023 FLIPBOOK

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE DEDICATION



On Saturday, April 1, 2023, long-time SVdP Georgia supporter and everyone's favorite consumer expert Clark Howard dedicated a Habitat For Humanity house he had sponsored in honor of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia. Clark has been a partner and friend of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia for decades and was compelled to dedicate one of his Habitat house builds to us in appreciation for our years of work together, including our partnership to plan and execute the Clark's Christmas Kids each year to ensure thousands of foster care kids in Georgia have gifts under the tree on Christmas morning.



The Habitat house, located in south Atlanta, went to a deserving family. SVdP Georgia Board President Denise Fisher, Executive Director Mike Mies, COO Darrell Hooker and Director of Housing, Mariel Sivley Risner were in attendance at the dedication.

MORNING OF HOPE 2023 | MAY 16



MAY
16
2023

Cobb Galleria Centre
2 Galleria Pkwy SE | Atlanta, GA 30339

Rise & Shine Meet Up 7:15 am
Program & Breakfast 8:15 – 9:15 am

**LAST YEAR SOLD OUT!
RSVP TODAY!**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

COMMUNITY TRADITION POWERFUL INSPIRATIONAL

*Hosted by St. Vincent de Paul Georgia, Morning of Hope
is a powerful one-of-a-kind, can't be missed experience
that reveals the power of Hope.*

14TH ANNUAL TEE OFF FOR HOPE | SEP 25

Benefiting St. Vincent de Paul Georgia and its critically-needed programs and services that provide Help and Hope to neighbors in need.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)



WHEN:

Monday, September 25, 2023
Registration, Breakfast + Driving Range | 7:30 am
Shotgun Start | 9 am
Shindig @ The Clubhouse | 1 pm

WHERE:

The Standard Club
6230 Abbotts Bridge Rd.
Johns Creek, GA 30097

PRICE:

Individual Player \$275 *Early Bird | \$325
Team of 4 Players \$1000 *Early Bird | \$1250
*Early Bird Registration Ends June 30, 2023



WHAT IS TEE OFF FOR HOPE?

Tee Off For Hope is a well-known and always enjoyable annual event that brings together community members, companies and supporters for a day of golf and festivities at the exclusive Standard Club in Johns Creek. This year, Tee Off for Hope features a golf tournament for players of all skill levels, breakfast and Bloody Mary bar, contests and awards, BBQ and whiskey tasting, and more!

LET'S CELEBRATE 120 YEARS OF HELP & HOPE!

ST. VINCENT de PAUL GEORGIA

**BLOCK
PARTY**



SAVE
THE
DATE

11 AM - 2 PM • FREE TO ATTEND

**SATURDAY
10.14.23**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GEORGIA

2050 CHAMBLEE TUCKER ROAD • ATLANTA, GA 30341

The annual St. Vincent de Paul Georgia Block Party is a fabulous NEW event that brings the community together for fellowship and festivities!



BACKYARD BBQ

BBQ PITMASTER
+ COOKING DEMOS

RAFFLE + GIVEAWAYS



CRAFT BEER TASTING



MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT
+ GAMES



OPEN HOUSE + GUIDED TOURS

MEET THE SVDP GEORGIA TEAM

SPEAKERS + SPECIAL GUESTS

1ST ANNUAL SVDP GEORGIA CORNHOLE CLASSIC

JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY AND CONNECT WITH FRIENDS NEW AND OLD, NEIGHBORS, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GEORGIA SUPPORTERS!

Your support and generosity make it possible for St. Vincent de Paul Georgia to fulfill our mission to help neighbors in need. Together, we are fighting hunger, preventing homelessness and changing lives.

**WEAR YOUR FINEST FLIP FLOPS AND T-SHIRTS + BYO LAWN CHAIRS.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST!**

svdpgeorgia.org/BP

NEW COMMUNITY TRADITION

FREE TO ATTEND

CELEBRATE

CONNECT

f @svdpgeorgia

WELCOME TO THE SVDP GEORGIA TEAM!

Anthony Dixon joins the SVdP Georgia Council Finance department as our new Staff Accountant.

Anthony has five years of accounting experience and was most recently Staff Accountant at Clark Atlanta University handling all travel-related expenses and other accounting duties. Anthony brings problem solving and technical skills in the areas of accounts payables, accounts receivables and payroll.

Anthony earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from Georgia Gwinnett College. Outside of work, Anthony enjoys using his multitasking skills as a musician. He plays trumpet, violin, piano, and is also a percussionist.



Chelsea Wilkins joins SVdP Georgia Pharmacy as our Certified Pharmacy Technician.

Chelsea Wilkins has been a certified pharmacy technician for more than three years. Chelsea attended Altierus Career College to obtain her pharmacy technician diploma. She graduated at the top of her class with a 4.0. Chelsea joined SVDP team in January of 2023 after working for Walgreens as a pharmacy operations manager for 2 years. She takes pride in providing quality care and serving the patients' needs.

Chelsea was raised in Miami, Florida and moved to Georgia with her husband and two sons in 2019. On her off days she loves listening to music and relaxing in the comfort of her own home.



Isaac Solomon joins SVdP Georgia Pharmacy as our Staff Pharmacist under the direction of Dr. Samantha Ricks.

Isaac graduated from the inaugural pharmacy class of GA-PCOM in 2014. Isaac began as a floater pharmacist for Rite Aid, and eventually served as a staff pharmacist for 3 years. Isaac then began working as an independent pharmacist until the pandemic occurred in 2020. Isaac joined CVS Health to immunize against COVID-19.

Isaac was born in Newark, NJ and lived there for 13 years before moving to Lawrenceville, GA in 2000. Isaac lives with his fiancé, pet dog, and 3 cats. Isaac enjoys being an avid foodie and home cook as well as streaming video game content.



WELCOME TO THE SVDP GEORGIA TEAM!

Lisa Kim joins SVdP Georgia Pharmacy as our Pharmacy Technician.

Lisa Kim joined St. Vincent de Paul Georgia as a pharmacy technician after completing her advanced pharmacy practice experiences rotation here at SVdP Georgia under Dr. Samantha Ricks. Her long-term career goal is to become a pharmacist that provides quality patient care and advocates for her patients. She is passionate about serving the community and being an accessible resource to patients.



Lisa is from Athens, Georgia and majored in pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Georgia. She is completing the Doctor of Pharmacy program at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and scheduled to graduate in May of 2023. After graduating, she plans on continuing her training at SVdP Georgia as a graduate intern and is looking forward to being a part of our pharmacy team and contributing to better serve the community.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A REWARDING EXPERIENCE? BECOME A CASEWORKER!

We are looking for Vincentian caseworkers to volunteer on site at the SVdP Georgia Conference Support Center each week to help neighbors in need (in areas not covered by Conferences) with financial and food assistance, benefits screening, education on resources, and more. No casework experience necessary - we will train you! This is a great opportunity for new Vincentian caseworkers to get trained at the Conference Support Center and use that experience to help neighbors in need served by their respective Conference.

Two- and four-hour shifts are available Monday through Friday. To volunteer, please contact Christa Frye, Council Casework Manager, at cfrye@svdpgeorgia.org.

SVDP GEORGIA PRAYER LIST

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING VINCENTIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Olga Lucia Trujillo & family
- Barry Barth for healing
- Leo Payne for healing
- Sister Mary Francis
- Joe Skillin for healing
- Armando Lerch
- John Padeiro for healing
- Rita Pannayiotto
- Kathleen Prudhomme
- Gretchen Karst
- Ginny Posid & family
- Robin Patton
- For the repose of the soul of Ann Berry.
- For the repose of the soul of Joan Hart Karst.
- Repose of the soul of Ann Hill.
- For the Holy Spirit to guide our work and our donors that support our mission.
- For Those discerning to be Vincentians.
- For our fellow Vincentians that have passed.
- For our Vincentians that are suffering with illness.
- In thanksgiving for our parishioners who give generously supporting our conference.
- For all those who struggle to earn enough to financially thrive in our city.
- All members of our military serving our country around the world.
- All who seek to bring peace to the world as Jesus taught.

Please submit your Vincentian prayer requests/intentions online [HERE](#) to be included in Society Page.

SHARE YOUR STORIES OF HOPE!

We want to hear about how you have made an impact in your community! Send success stories of how your Conference has helped support the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and we will highlight them in our Stories of Hope publication. Send submissions for consideration to jmaxwell@svdpgeorgia.org

FORMATION & NEWS EBLASTS

Don't miss out on formation events, news, and other SVdP Conference Support Center updates. Sign up to receive Formation & News emails [HERE](#).

REMINDER: LEADERSHIP UPDATES

If you have had any changes in leadership within your Conference or District, please provide those updates to Jennifer Maxwell, Sr. Director, Mission Integration, at jmaxwell@svdpgeorgia.org

SVDP GEORGIA MARKETING POSTERS & BROCHURES

Are you looking for marketing material to display and/or handout at your next ministry fair or recruitment drive? Please visit the Marketing Toolbox section on our [member website](#). Scroll to the bottom and fill out the "Request Marketing Material" form.

CONSIDER A CAREER WITH SVDP

At St. Vincent de Paul Georgia, our team has a shared purpose of providing help and hope to move people beyond poverty. It's a mission our staff members pursue relentlessly, with dedication, determination, and a deep sense of satisfaction that comes from knowing they are making a real difference. If you are the type of person who is excited and motivated by the idea of doing good for others, and our community, come join us! Do you know someone who might be interested?



CURRENT OPENINGS:

[Communications Manager](#)

[Development Data Coordinator](#)

[Grants Manager](#)

[HR Admin Coordinator](#)

[Staff Pharmacist, PRN](#)

[Thrift Store Assistant Manager](#)

[Vincentian Services Coordinator](#)

To apply, please submit a letter of interest, resume, and salary requirements to [Sonji Bates-Boston](#).

[VISIT OUR CAREERS PAGE](#)

CONFERENCE SUPPORT CENTER STAFF

Mike Mies – Executive Director

678.892.6180 | MMies@svdpgeorgia.org

Mike is the legal and functional senior executive of SVdP Georgia and is responsible to the Board of Directors for the management of all aspects of the operations of the organization. As the chief advocate and spokesperson for the Society, he also promotes the work of the Society with donors, supporters, elected officials and other organizations.

Cheryl King – Chief Financial Officer

678.892.6172 | CKing@svdpgeorgia.org

Cheryl is responsible for overseeing the organization's finances, the accounting department, managing the Council's budget, financial reporting, cash flow and the annual audit.

Darrell Hooker – Chief Operating Officer

678.892.6176 | DHooker@svdpgeorgia.org

Darrell facilitates the logistics and coordination of the operations of SVdP Thrift Stores, Family Support Centers, Food Recovery and Distribution Program and the Warehouse & Recycling program in Chamblee.

Elizabeth Sirk – Chief Development Officer

678.892.6171 | ESirk@svdpgeorgia.org

Contact Elizabeth for donor information as well as information on Planned and Monthly Giving.

Sue Hansen – Controller

678.892.6173 | SHansen@svdpgeorgia.org

Sue manages the accounting department and oversees financial reporting and other financial duties needed in day-to-day operations.

Jennifer Maxwell – Sr. Director, Mission Integration

770.576.4080 | JMaxwell@svdpgeorgia.org

Jennifer oversees Vincentian Services (Formation, Communication, and Resources), Council-based Casework, and Volunteer Engagement to ensure the Vincentian mission and values are incorporated into our Council activities.

Sonji Bates-Boston – Director of Human Resources

678.892.6160 | SBatesBoston@svdpgeorgia.org

Sonji performs general clerical tasks and personnel oversight to ensure effective day to day operations.

Dr. Samantha Ricks – Director of Pharmacy

678.892.6181 ext. 1004 | SRicks@svdpgeorgia.org

Dr. Ricks is responsible for all aspects of the SVdP GA Pharmacy operations, growing our client base, and educational programs for those we serve. Contact Dr. Ricks for questions about client referrals to the pharmacy.

Mariel Risner Sivley – Director of Housing

678.892.6185 | MSivley@svdpgeorgia.org

Mariel oversees our strategic and tactical housing related initiatives, including the Motel to Home program.

Ann Frazer – Corporate Giving Manager

770.687.2613 | AFrazer@svdpgeorgia.org

Ann is responsible for managing and growing our portfolio of corporate donors and supporters.

Eileen Parker – Case Manager

678.705.7828 | EParker@svdpgeorgia.org

Eileen coordinates casework at the Lakewood and Dallas Family Support Centers. Contact Eileen if you have questions regarding casework or community resources.

Linda Gurrant – Operations Manager

678.892.6165 | LGurrant@svdpgeorgia.org

Linda manages the donation line and mapping for the truck drivers as well as processes and maintains EFSP (Emergency Food & Shelter Program) cases, schedules Conference pick-ups for the Food Distribution Program and coordinates Food and Clothing Drives.

Christa Frye – Council Casework Manager

678.892.6168 | CFrye@svdpgeorgia.org

Christa manages casework services provided by the Council office in Chamblee and Lakewood serving walk-in neighbors in areas not covered by Conferences.

Alejandra Cadiz – Caseworker (bi-lingual)

678.892.6174 | ACadiz@svdpgeorgia.org

Alejandra performs casework for our Motel to Home Program and Rapid Rehousing Program Initiatives.

Krystiona “Krys” McLean – SNAP Case Manager

770.576.2615 ext. 1053 | KMclean@svdpgeorgia.org

Krys is responsible for SNAP benefits eligibility screening, enrollment assistance, and education.

Heidi Eveleigh – Program Manager

678.488.7241 | M2H@svdpgeorgia.org

Heidi provides program administration and casework for our Motel to Home program and Rapid Rehousing Program Initiatives.

Laura Gibbs – Program Manager

678.892.6188 | LGibbs@svdpgeorgia.org

Laura provides program support for Homelessness Prevention and Supportive Housing initiatives.

Anthony Dixon – Staff Accountant

678.892.6166 | ADixon@svdpgeorgia.org

Anthony supports the financial accounting and reporting for SVdP Georgia.

Ebony Baldwin – Accounting Clerk

770.687.2603 | EBaldwin@svdpgeorgia.org

Ebony provides support to Thrift Stores and Conferences for financial reporting. Contact Ebony for information regarding monthly/annual reporting and treasury questions.

Alyssa Speranza – Development Coordinator

678.892.6164 | ASperanza@svdpgeorgia.org

Alyssa is responsible for donor database management, events coordination and small donor engagement and recognition.

Nisha Mossing – Web & Information Systems Analyst

678.892.6160 | NMossing@svdpgeorgia.org

Nisha supports digital communications for Vincentians and Conferences.

Elizabeth Langston – Receptionist

678.892.6160 | ELangston@svdpgeorgia.org

Contact Elizabeth for food and clothing voucher.