

SEPTEMBER 2023



# 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.

FEAST OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
SEPTEMBER 27

AN OVERVIEW OF THE LANDSCAPE OF HOUSING AND  
HOMELESSNESS RESOURCES IN GEORGIA  
SEPT 28

OZANAM ORIENTATION  
CONFERENCE SUPPORT CENTER  
OCT 28

CONFERENCE ANNUAL REPORTS DUE  
OCT 30

OZANAM ORIENTATION  
ST. GERARD MAJELLA, FT. OGLETHORPE  
NOV 4

## SVDP GEORGIA CALENDAR

END OF FISCAL YEAR 2023  
SEPT 30

COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY  
OCT 9  
CONFERENCE SUPPORT CENTER CLOSED

1ST ANNUAL SVDP GEORGIA BLOCK PARTY  
OCT 14

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

## FEAST OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

### SEPTEMBER 27TH

Please join us in celebrating our Patron Saint and come together for reflection and fellowship.

#### WHEN:

Wednesday, September 27th

3:00pm to 5:00pm

\*3:30pm - Special homily given by Deacon Bill Boyd, Council Spiritual Advisor

#### WHERE:

SVdP Georgia Conference Support Center

2050-C Chamblee Tucker Road Atlanta, GA 30341

NO COST TO ATTEND  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

REGISTER



# A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MIKE MIES | [MMIES@SVDPGORGIA.ORG](mailto:MMIES@SVDPGORGIA.ORG) | 678-892-6180



Dear fellow Vincentians,

Happy New Year! Yes, it is that time of year. One fiscal year ending September 30, and a new year beginning October 1. And we know what that means – time to make sure all cases are closed in CMS, all volunteer hours and food values recorded, and annual reports submitted.

More importantly, it is the time of year when we have leadership changes in many Conferences and Districts. To the many Conference Presidents whose three-year (or six-year) terms are ending, THANK YOU for your dedicated leadership. The Conference President is perhaps the most important role in the entire Society. It is the Conference President that selects the other officer positions and appoints the Spiritual Advisor. It is the President's duty to ensure that the Conference is promoting the three essential elements – Spirituality, Friendship and Service – in all its activities, casework, and special works. It is a great responsibility, and we thank you all for your service. Likewise, we thank all who have served as Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Spiritual Advisor and whose terms are ending. Each of you has played a critical role in the work of your Conferences and the growth of your Vincentian members.

I would also like to thank all of you who are assuming servant leadership roles in your Conferences. Thanks to all the incoming Conference Presidents for accepting the invitation to lead, and for the leaders you have selected to support you over the next three years. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist you in any way. For those of you who have not yet gone through the training for your office, please review the [online training](#), or contact Gina Wilson ([gwilson@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:gwilson@svdpgeorgia.org)) for training materials.

Finally, I would like to particularly thank our three outgoing District Presidents. Leo Payne (District 3, Gwinnett), Charles Jones (District 4, Atlanta Intown), and Bill Wangerien (District 5, Southwest) are all ending six-year terms. I have had the honor of serving with each of them as a fellow District President and Board member, and can attest to their dedication, commitment, and servant leadership. I know they will each continue to serve as Vincentians, and we are grateful for that. Congratulations to our incoming District Presidents: Danny Sequeira (D3), Bruce Durkee (D4), and Yolanda Tatnall (D5). We appreciate your willingness to serve and to represent your Conferences and Vincentians. District Presidents play a crucial role in supporting the Conferences in each District Council and representing them on the Archdiocesan Council Board. Thank you for taking this important leadership role.

Peace,

# FORMATION & TRAINING

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE LANDSCAPE OF HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS RESOURCES IN GEORGIA | SEPT 28

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023**

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

## VIRTUAL ON ZOOM

Join us to to learn about the Continuum of Care homelessness system in Georgia, and also, about the landscape of affordable housing – how is it funded? who are the partners? where is it being developed? how is it being developed?

All Vincentian Caseworkers are encouraged to attend this Webinar. This webinar will be recorded and made available on the member website.



**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

## OZANAM ORIENTATION | TWO DATES AND LOCATIONS!



Whether you've been a Vincentian for two days or two decades, this Ozanam Orientation offers you an opportunity to be inspired, informed, refreshed and renewed in what it means to be a member of the Society, and how that membership is to be lived in the Conference and everyday life. Throughout the sessions we will cover the topics of Mission, History, Spirituality, Structure and Home Visits in a lively and interactive way.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023**

**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

\*breakfast at 8:00am

## CONFERENCE SUPPORT CENTER

**2050 CHAMBLEE TUCKER ROAD ATLANTA, GA 30341**

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023**

**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

\*breakfast at 8:00am

## SAINT GERARD MAJELLA CATHOLIC CHURCH

3049 LAFAYETTE ROAD FORT OGLETHORPE, GA 30742

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

# GEORGE THOMAS RETIRES AFTER 30+ YEARS

On August 31, 2023, we celebrated George Thomas upon his retirement after being a dedicated employee of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia for 31 years. Many existing and former employees all came to celebrate this remarkable individual. Thank you for your loyalty, commitment and passion in serving others! We wish you nothing but success and happiness George in this next phase of life's journey! You will be greatly missed, but your impact will forever remain a part of our organization!



Mike Mies, Executive Director, stated “It’s unusual these days to have dedicated employees committed to an organization for 30+ years. It is an honor to recognize George Thomas on 31 years of service to St. Vincent de Paul Georgia and our neighbors in need. Thank you George for your commitment! Our SVdP warehouse will forever be recognized as the ‘George Thomas Warehouse.’ A well-deserved honor!”

We want to also recognize Sandra Bryant, who retired as our Kennesaw Thrift Store Manager and Leslie Long who retired as our Duluth Thrift Store Manager. We are truly honored to have such incredible employees work for and dedicate themselves to serving St. Vincent de Paul Georgia.

## SVDP GEORGIA PRAYER LIST

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

- Peg Hart for healing
- Kathleen Prudhomme for healing and recovery
- W Leo Payne for healing
- John Padeiro for healing
- Maggie Richardson for healing
- Robin Patton
- Eileen Parker
- Elizabeth Sirk
- Ginny Posid & family
- For the repose of the soul of Joe Skillin
- Victoria Oranika for healing
- Shirlee Wiener
- Linda Frary
- Scott Hamman
- 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 who 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.



LET'S CELEBRATE 120 YEARS OF HELP & HOPE!

ST. VINCENT de PAUL GEORGIA

**BLOCK  
PARTY**



11 AM - 2 PM • FREE TO ATTEND

**SATURDAY  
10.14.23**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**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

1ST ANNUAL SVDP GEORGIA  
CORNHOLE CLASSIC

★ RAFFLE + GIVEAWAYS



CRAFT BEER TASTING



MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT  
+ GAMES



OPEN HOUSE + GUIDED TOURS

MEET THE SVDP GEORGIA TEAM

SPEAKERS + SPECIAL GUESTS

**PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN YOUR FELLOW VINCENTIANS, COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED  
AS WE COME TOGETHER FOR THE 2023 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GEORGIA BLOCK PARTY!**

There will be an opportunity to connect with one another, take guided tours of the Chamblee Support Center, win great prizes, participate in fun activities and events...all while listening to the sounds of a LIVE DJ! Lunch will be available and complementary to all who attend! This is a family friendly event, and we hope you can join us!

REGISTER HERE

[SVDPGORGIA.ORG/BP](https://SVDPGORGIA.ORG/BP)



# GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON

BY DEACON BILL BOYD, COUNCIL SPIRITUAL ADVISOR | [BBOYD@SVDPGORGIA.ORG](mailto:BBOYD@SVDPGORGIA.ORG)

Through faith in God, Vincentians are called to journey with our Lord in our service with our neighbors. In our prayer life, we are reminded that John 3:16 is probably the most often cited Gospel verse in the entire New Testament. It is said that the entire New Testament can be summarized in this one verse.

"God so loved the World that He gave His only son, so everyone who believes in Him might have eternal life."

As Vincentians, this Scripture verse leaves each of us with a personal question to answer: How has the truth of what we are told penetrated into the depths of our heart? We see this verse sometimes on signs in cities, on street corners, in public gatherings and occasionally football players wear patches under their eyes with this verse.

The word, World is listed 78 times in the Book of John. This word can be a reference for the earth, the universe, large gatherings or humanity. In John 3:16, the word world means all of humanity. Thus, God so loved all of humanity that he gave His only son to each of us. The question we thus ask ourselves is, how has this truth penetrated our hearts. How has the love that we receive from God shaped our own lives in our calling as Vincentians?

St. Vincent DePaul reminds us in his example that as we serve our neighbors, we should learn to love like God loves each of us. St. Vincent reminds us that we are created by our Lord to live and function according to gifts coming from God's self. How am I to love in Return? What makes sense except to do as God does, to give as God gives? What would be right except to offer all that we are and all that we have for others?

How has the love we receive from God penetrated our hearts? A recent example of where have seen someone impacted by realizing that God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, occurred at a recent retreat at the Ignatius Retreat Center.

During a 2-day retreat for men that are homeless and in halfway houses, as they are working to change their lives, I met a man named John. John was from a "broken home" and John felt there was more to life than his current brokenness. At the end of the first day, John and I were chatting, and we walked by an Adoration Chapel. John had never seen an Adoration Chapel and discussed how he was learning to put prayer into his daily routine. John stayed for a while in prayer that evening.

At the end of the retreat, John discussed how he felt the love of Christ in his prayer life and felt very positive in his continued faith journey. As I told John, Jesus loved him and was smiling and happy that John had returned to the love of Christ. John was very thankful as he appreciated how at the retreat that others prayed for him as he told me that no one had ever prayed for him.

So we come back to the question we are all asked in John 3:16, How has the truth that God so loved the World (each of us) that He gave us His only Son (Jesus), penetrated our hearts? Do we love like God loves? Do we give of ourselves as God gives to each of us? Do we pray with our neighbors as we live our Vincentian calling in serving others?

St. Augustine reminds us that to discover the character of a person, we only have to observe what they love. As we strive to love like God loves, we think about how God created each of us and He has been present throughout our lives. God Is the center of our lives. All that we are and all that we have are a participation in God.

As Vincentians, the question in John 3:16 is very personal. How has the truth penetrated our heart that God loves each of us so much that He gave us Jesus. What is the conversion of mind, heart and life is the Lord asking of each of us in our Vincentian calling? As we strive to love like God loves, let us remember the story of John as an example in helping our neighbors with their faith journey as we pray with and for them in bringing the love of Christ to our neighbors.

## LANDLORD ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM SEEKS YOUR HELP

The St. Vincent de Paul Georgia Landlord Engagement Program connects with mission-aligned landlords who can provide safe, affordable housing for those whom we serve. SVdP caseworkers refer tenants to the available rental units of Landlords who have joined the program, and the Motel to Home program caseworkers continue to provide support to the housed family and the landlord. The housed individuals and families are responsible for paying the full rent on their own. This program seeks to expand access to housing for our neighbors in need, as well as provide advantages to landlords who join the program.

The St. Vincent de Paul Georgia LEAP Program (Landlord Engagement & Advancement Program) is active and in need of volunteers to support its success!

We are seeking Vincentian volunteers to:

- Advertise the program to mission-aligned landlords and owners
- Determine which landlords are well suited for the LEAP program! This entails meeting with a prospective LEAP landlord and inspecting the property to ascertain if it is a well maintained and safe property.
- Accompanying neighbors to inspect their rental before they enter into a lease agreement, to help them identify maintenance issues that need to be addressed.

Volunteers can assist with all of these things, or just one, and can prescribe their hours and size of role and prescribe the neighborhood or town they would like to serve. Education will be provided to volunteers for each aspect these volunteer roles.

Please email [LEAP@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:LEAP@svdpgeorgia.org) with your name, phone number, location (town/city), how you would like to volunteer with LEAP, and any experience you have in this area or if it is new to you.

## CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL DRAFT DAY FOR NEW INTERNS



We were honored to be recognized as a Founding Corporate Work Study Partner as part of the 10th Annual Draft Day at Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School in August. We are excited to welcome our 5 new interns for the year and look forward to mentoring them in many valuable ways to include providing help and hope to our neighbors in need!

## GAS SOUTH - FUEL FOR GOOD ALLIES PROGRAM

St. Vincent de Paul Georgia is honored to be included in the Fuel for Good Allies Program by Gas South.

Gas South's Be a Fuel for Good give-back initiative

shares 5% of profits with organizations that align with the company's goal to help families establish strong foundations, meet basic needs and provide positive pathways for students.



There were 10 organizations throughout Georgia and Florida that received donations totaling more than \$2.2 million, and St. Vincent de Paul Georgia is honored to be selected to amplify and expand efforts to support critical needs in our communities. The organizations receiving donations in varying amounts through this program include::

- 100 Black Men
- Bert's Big Adventure
- City of Refuge
- Covenant House
- Gwinnett County Schools and Sol System
- Junior Achievement of Georgia and Florida
- Ser Familia
- Shepherd Center
- St. Vincent de Paul
- YMCA of Atlanta and North Florida

>> [Read more](#)

## LEGAL RESOURCES FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

For any type of legal question other than criminal anywhere in Georgia visit [Georgia Free Legal Answers](#) to submit inquiries online.

For help with landlord, tenant and eviction issues in Atlanta and Fulton County visit [AVLF](#) and fill out the online form. Other resources are available [here](#).



Help in Fulton, Dekalb, Cobb, Clayton and Gwinnett, call the following numbers.

- Atlanta and Fulton Co - 404-524-5811
- Cobb - 770-528-2565
- Clayton and South Fulton - 404-669-0233
- Dekalb - 404-377-0701
- Gwinnett - 678-376-4545
- Other Counties in Georgia – phone numbers for regions around the state can be found [here](#).

Georgia Senior Legal Hotline for anyone over 60 in Georgia - 404-389-9992



## CHANGING OF THE GUARD - THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Council and the staff at the Conference Support Center, we'd like to thank each and every Conference leader whose term has come to an end this year. Leadership is essential to help make the Society a more effective source of help to the needy and allows fresh ideas to be brought into the operation of Conferences, and we appreciate each individual's contribution to our humble successes over the past few years.

Whether you are an outgoing President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Spiritual Advisor, we hope that you found growth in personal spirituality and fellowship through leading your Conference or District, as well as a broadened perspective and appreciation of the worldwide network of charity that was the vision of Bl. Frederic Ozanam.

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“LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE SOCIETY, AT ANY LEVEL, ARE ALWAYS TO BE ACCEPTED AS SERVICE TO CHRIST, THE MEMBERS AND THE POOR.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP IS DONE IN IMITATION OF JESUS WHO SAID: “FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME NOT TO BE SERVED BUT TO SERVE, AND GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.”  
— RULE: PART 3, STATUTE 11

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## JOB FAIR



**We have formed a fantastic Collaborative Partnership with Goodwill Career Services. A Community Job Fair partnership will take place the last Wednesday every month at the Chamblee Conference Support Center.**

Individuals needing a job or seeking a better job can CONNECT WITH COMPANIES HIRING FOR Healthcare, Restaurant, Retail, Warehouse & more!

## WEEKLY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



**Weekly**  
*Questions  
& Answers*

Are you receiving Frederic's E- Gazette? Each week, the National Council of SVdP USA publishes answers to questions submitted to them in the Frederic's E-Gazette. Those questions and answers have been assembled into a repository for Vincentians to easily access and quickly find answers. To access the full list of Q & A's, click [here](https://members.ssvpusa.org/weekly-qa/). This document has an index and is arranged by topic and sub topics with the date of E-Gazette publication. The index topics are arranged alphabetically by keyword for quick reference and easy research. You can also access the most recent weekly Q & A's online by clicking here: <https://members.ssvpusa.org/weekly-qa/>

# ENTERPRISE HOLDINGS FOUNDATION DONATION TO OUR PHARMACY

Thank you Enterprise Holdings Foundation #ROADForward and Daffany Fajardo Murphy for donating \$10,000 to St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy. Your generous donation will continue to enable us to provide social equity in healthcare by providing health services, health education, and no-cost prescription medication for low-income, uninsured and underinsured individuals in Georgia.



Access to affordable healthcare is a key determinant for household stability and quality of life for low-income individuals and families.

- Over 1.5 million people in Georgia do not have health insurance.
- 20% of uninsured individuals in Georgia go without medical care due to cost.
- 45% of Georgians fear a major health event could lead to their bankruptcy.

## DIVE DEEPER INTO YOUR VINCENTIAN VOCATION

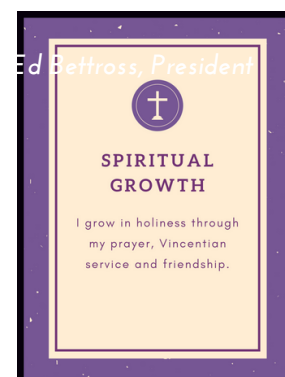
The SVdP USA member website has a Formation Resources section that offers documents and videos on reflection, retreats, training, as well as individual reading and study. To access any of the categories, simply click on the link below.

[VINCENTIAN REFLECTIONS](#)

[FRED TALKS](#)

[CONTEMPLATIONS](#)

[RETREATS](#)



# WELCOME TO THE SVDP GEORGIA TEAM!

## **Brian Dooling joins SVdP Georgia as our new Director of Marketing & Communications.**

Brian Dooling has worked for 35 years in sales, marketing and communication roles for companies such as International Paper, Southern Company, Allied Automotive Group, Unisource and U.S. Security Associates. He most recently worked at the Archdiocese of Atlanta for the past 5 years as Director of Marketing & Enrollment for the Office of Catholic Schools and Director of Stewardship & Development for the Office of Mission Advancement.

During his career, Brian also served 9 years as an officer in the United States Army Reserves, from which he retired honorably as Captain.

In his spare time, Brian is a founding member of Saint Brigid Catholic Church, where he serves on the Finance Council, Pastoral Council, is a Eucharistic Minister, a Guardian of the Eucharist for Perpetual Adoration, a member of the Men of Saint Brigid and a member of the Knights of Columbus. He just recently joined their St. Vincent de Paul Conference. He has also been very active in Mustard Seed Communities, where he has served on the Dare to Care Host Committee for over 15 years. Brian has been active in supporting Life Teen Camp Covecrest through the years as well. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for The Catholic Foundation of North Georgia and for Mustard Seed Communities.

Dooling received a B.A. in English from Boston College and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. He also has a Certification in Catholic School Management from Villanova University. He and his wife Lisa reside in Johns Creek. They have been married for 30 years, have 5 children, two Golden Retrievers named Reagan and Clover and a cat named Max.



BDOOLING@SVDPGORGIA.ORG

## **Brittany Kirby is promoted to Senior Thrift Stores Manager.**

Brittany is in the newly created role of Senior Thrift Store Manager and will be leading efforts to standardize practices across all SVdP GA Thrift Stores and help the managers develop new ways to increase profitability of their stores. A native of Las Vegas, NV, Brittany was most recently the manager of our Lawrenceville Thrift Store where she increased volunteer participation, expanded store hours and improved the store's revenue. Brittany has held various leadership roles in retail management for the last 17 years including 9 at Goodwill (in Georgia and Nevada). Prior to joining SVdP, Brittany spent 5 years at Journeys Shoe Store as a District Training Manager. Brittany has a degree in education from the University Of Phoenix and thought she wanted to be a teacher, but as she started volunteering she noticed that giving back was a passion. Working for St. Vincent de Paul allows her to do that! When not working, Brittany enjoys traveling, playing basketball (a second passion) and spending time with her family. She is thrilled to expand her horizons in this new role.



BKIRBY@SVDPGORGIA.ORG

# WELCOME TO THE SVDP GEORGIA TEAM!

## Bea Perdue joins SVdP Georgia as our new Senior Director of Philanthropy.

Bea Perdue brings more than fifteen years of combined higher education and non-profit strategic fundraising and leadership experience. As the organization's chief fundraising officer she will be charged with leading a team focused on expanding financial and public support for the SVdP mission.

Bea brings a high level of energy and passion combined with strong determination that has served an array of organizations. Most recently she served as Senior Director of Development for Worldreader, a global digital reading non-profit, tasked with building and launching a US fundraising operation. Additionally, she has held leadership roles in Atlanta, serving Atlanta Habitat for Humanity and MedShare.

She began an advancement career in higher education as part of a revitalization team assembled by Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole at Bennett College. The success of these efforts led to her role as the inaugural Development Director for the newly established College of Behavioral Sciences at Middle Tennessee State University.

As a certified DE&I Consultant, Bea shares her knowledge and expertise within and beyond fundraising to build broad bases of support for missions and to address our communities most pressing needs. She is a tireless mentor and collaborator throughout her local and global community.

As a life-long learner she enjoys reading, travel and appreciating art in her spare time.



[BPERDUE@SVDPGEORGIA.ORG](mailto:BPERDUE@SVDPGEORGIA.ORG)

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## Gina Wilson joins SVdP Georgia as our new Manager of Vincentian Services.

Gina is the newest addition to the Programs and Services team. She is an active Vincentian at the Holy Cross conference in Atlanta, GA, where she will begin her first term as Conference President in October.

Prior to her current role at SVdP, Gina spent over a decade as a disaster grant contractor, assisting survivors with funding to rebuild their homes and engaging with government entities and municipalities to reconstruct schools, hospitals, and other critical facilities after catastrophic events. During the pandemic, she worked with the SVdP Council to administer CARES Act grant funding and provide training to conferences on guidelines for grant use in addition to taking on grant casework. Gina has received a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with concentrations in Fraud Investigation and Justice Advocacy from Bay Path University in Longmeadow, MA, as well as a Masters in Communication and Behavioral Analysis from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX. She considers herself a lifelong learner and has received certifications in data analytics, cloud computing, servant leadership and active listening.

Gina, a transplant from Massachusetts, enjoys traveling (forty-seven states, twenty-four countries and still counting!), reading and testing out new recipes. As a novice dressmaker, when not in the kitchen, she is usually in front of her purple sewing machine. Gina and her husband reside in Tucker with their pit terrier, Templeton.



[GWILSON@SVDPGEORGIA.ORG](mailto:GWILSON@SVDPGEORGIA.ORG)



# WELCOME TO THE SVDP GEORGIA TEAM!

## Paolo Gatica joins SVdP Georgia as the new eCommerce Manager.

Paolo E. Gatica just recently joined St. Vincent de Paul Georgia as the eCommerce Manager. In this role, Paolo is in charge of all items received, processed, accepted/rejected, photographed, listed, posted, and shipped for our organization's new eCommerce platform. His goal for this position is to add a new group of clientele for our thrift stores to enable them to thrive and flawlessly continue the wonderful job they do for our organization and our community. Paolo had previously worked for Cash America Pawn for close to 10 years, starting as a part time pawn broker at 18 years old and eventually working his way up to running the same store where he had started. He has worked with all things from basic electronics, musical instruments, TVs, and microwaves; to high end jewelry, diamonds, precious metals in both jewelry and bullion. He is certified in title loans, pawn loans, jewelry loans and firearms transactions of any kind. In the many years he has worked at the pawn shop, he has learned an abundant amount of information that he hopes will assist him in new role at SVdP.



[PGATICA@SVDPGEORGIA.ORG](mailto:PGATICA@SVDPGEORGIA.ORG)

Paolo was born in Paris, France, but raised in the Bronx, New York until about the age of 12 when his family moved to Georgia. He actually volunteered at SVdP when he was in middle school and has fond memories of serving. He currently lives in Woodstock, GA with his fiancé Alexis and their loving stray cat Stanley. In his free time, he enjoys seeing live music, learning new hobbies and trades as well as being an amateur leather worker. His mother's side is Lebo-Egyptian and his father's side is Chilean. Unfortunately, he speaks neither Arabic, nor Spanish, but his family does speak French. He is very sociable and enjoys chatting with just about anyone so be sure to introduce yourself when you get a chance.

## Elizabeth Ivey joins St. Vincent de Paul Georgia as our Development Coordinator - Data and Donor Analyst.

Elizabeth is a native New Yorker, but quickly started to consider Georgia home shortly after moving here. With over twenty years of professional experience in both business and non-profit organizations, she has gained valuable skills in customer service, bookkeeping, executive administrative support, IT support, staff supervision, and higher education fundraising. Prior to joining SVdP Georgia, she gained valuable experience working in the Office of Alumni Affairs at Morehouse College for five years and with MedShare International for three years. While at MedShare, Elizabeth was responsible for gift processing, accounting, donor acknowledgements and data management. Her daily actions are guided by Proverbs 3:27 NIV: "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act." When not working, Elizabeth enjoys cooking, reading, sketching, and exploring all things Apple in her leisure time.



[EIVEY@SVDPGEORGIA.ORG](mailto:EIVEY@SVDPGEORGIA.ORG)

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT! FORMATION & TRAINING RECORDINGS

**HOW YOU CAN HELP A NEIGHBOR IN NEED  
APPLY FOR A HOUSING VOUCHER  
[Recording & Resources](#)**

**TREASURER HANDBOOK TRAINING  
[Recording.](#)**

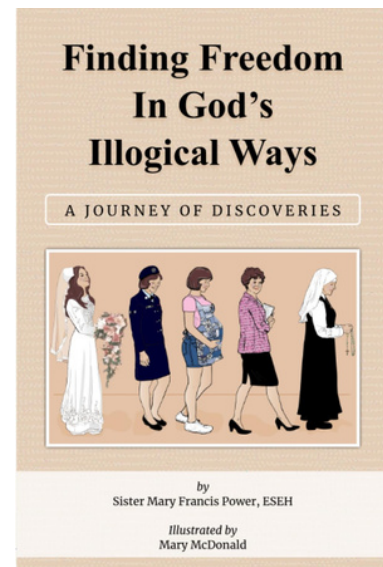
**CMS ANNUAL REPORT TRAINING  
[Recording.](#)**

# FINDING FREEDOM IN GOD'S ILLOGICAL WAYS: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERIES NOW AVAILABLE

Sister Mary Francis Power, who served as our SVdP Georgia Council Spiritual Advisor, has a newly-published book – Finding Freedom in God's Illogical Ways: A Journey of Discoveries. The book is available on Amazon in English ([www.amazon.com/dp/1959312081](http://www.amazon.com/dp/1959312081)) and Spanish ([www.amazon.com/dp/1959312138](http://www.amazon.com/dp/1959312138)). The audiobook version is available at many websites including Spotify, iTunes, and Google Play.

## OVERVIEW

*At the age of 56, she retired as a federal government manager, leaving behind a six-figure salary and great benefits, to make drastic changes in her life. Was this logical or reasonable? She had experience in accounting, finance, policy, procedures, real estate, supervision, and management. What was it that enticed a Veteran, mother, grandmother, and successful business woman, who still had a bright future ahead of her, to chase after something greater than the life she achieved?*



# GEORGIA ACCESS FOR HEALTHCARE



We recently started working with Georgia Access as a community Champion for its public awareness campaign this fall, which coincides with Open Enrollment for health insurance. More than 1 million Georgians are uninsured — Georgia Access is the state's program to assist Georgians in finding health insurance coverage to close this gap.

Georgia Access provides information about financial assistance for health insurance and will help Georgians shop for, compare, and enroll in health insurance coverage.

## We encourage you to join us and the campaign as community influencers!

If you [sign-up for their email distribution list here](#) and [register for their kick-off webinar](#) on Oct. 3, Georgia Access will share resources you need to inform your community members about Georgia Access and the importance of health insurance, including:

- Social media posts, graphics, and talking points about Georgia Access
- Invitations to informational webinars, trainings, and office hours
- Invitations to volunteer at in-person awareness events

Reach out to [outreach@GeorgiaAccess.ga.gov](mailto:outreach@GeorgiaAccess.ga.gov) if you have questions.

## NEW E-COMMERCE THRIFT STORE PLATFORM

For decades, St. Vincent de Paul Georgia has operated brick-and-mortar thrift stores throughout Georgia to sell gently used goods to further its mission of helping neighbors in need. Shoppers of all ages have found amazing items such as quality clothing, household goods, furniture and more. We are excited to announce that later this month, shoppers will have the opportunity to discover fabulous items online through our new e-commerce platform! The funds from this store will go directly to our programs and services that deliver hope and help to people in need.

### Your donations are appreciated!

In preparation for the e-commerce store kickoff, we are looking for donations of designer clothing, purses and handbags, shoes, jewelry, and other items of value (hiding in the back of the closet) that you may not normally donate to a thrift store. These quality items will sell better online than in a store, creating more direct aid assistance for our neighbors in need. You can still drop off these donations at one of our Thrift Stores and we will handle the logistics of getting the items on our eCommerce platform.

For more information or questions, please contact Brittany Kirby at [bkirby@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:bkirby@svdpgeorgia.org) or 678-892-6188.



## SPECIAL THANK YOU

For many years, our SVdP thrift stores in Duluth and Lilburn have been staples of the community and were supported by many wonderful and dedicated volunteers. While both stores have been recently closed for financial reasons, we wish to thank all those volunteers and staff members who made these stores successful over the years. Your committed service contributed important resources to our local Conferences. Thank you!

## PARTNERSHIP WITH HOPE ATLANTA

In an inspiring step towards combating food insecurity and hunger, St. Vincent de Paul Georgia and HOPE Atlanta, two organizations that have each served Georgians in crisis for more than 120 years, are thrilled to announce their strategic partnership.

Food insecurity remains a pressing issue that affects countless lives, with the recent expiration of COVID-era benefits further exacerbating the situation. Understanding the urgency of the matter, St. Vincent de Paul Georgia and HOPE Atlanta have united their efforts to create a holistic and comprehensive approach to addressing this critical concern.

“This partnership will enable our two organizations to pool resources, share knowledge and expertise, and amplify our collective impact in providing essential services to those in need. Together, we will work tirelessly to provide immediate relief and sustainable solutions to those facing homelessness and hunger in our Georgia community,” stated Mike Mies, Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia.



## 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 [vincentianservices@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:vincentianservices@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 [vincentianservices@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:vincentianservices@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:

[Staff Pharmacist, PRN](#)

[Thrift Store Assistant Manager \(Brunswick\)](#)

[Thrift Store Assistant Manager \(Kennesaw\)](#)

[Thrift Store Assistant Manager \(Stone Mountain\)](#)

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

[VISIT OUR CAREERS PAGE](#)



# CONFERENCE SUPPORT CENTER STAFF

## EXECUTIVE STAFF

### Mike Mies – Executive Director

678.892.6180 | [MMies@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto: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.

## FINANCE

### Cheryl King – Senior Director of Finance

678.892.6172 | [CKing@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:CKing@svdpgeorgia.org)

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

### Sue Hansen – Controller

678.892.6173 | [SHansen@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:SHansen@svdpgeorgia.org)

Sue manages the accounting department and oversees financial reporting and other financial duties.

### Anthony Dixon – Staff Accountant

678.892.6166 | [ADixon@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:ADixon@svdpgeorgia.org)

Anthony supports the financial accounting and reporting for SVdP Georgia.

### Ebony Baldwin – Accounting Clerk

770.687.2603 | [EBaldwin@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:EBaldwin@svdpgeorgia.org)

Ebony provides support to Thrift Stores and Conferences for financial reporting.

### Linda Gurrant – Purchasing and Reports Administrator

678.892.6165 | [LGurrant@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:LGurrant@svdpgeorgia.org)

Linda oversees purchasing and vendor management, and reporting for EFSP grants.

## DEVELOPMENT

### Bea Perdue – Senior Director of Philanthropy

678.892.6171 | [BPerdue@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:BPerdue@svdpgeorgia.org)

Contact Bea for donor information as well as information on Planned and Monthly giving.

### Ann Frazer – Corporate Giving Manager

770.687.2613 | [AFrazer@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:AFrazer@svdpgeorgia.org)

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

### Rene Bazel – Grants Manager

678.892.6175 | [RBazel@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:RBazel@svdpgeorgia.org)

Rene manages all grants related funding activities, including identification, writing and compliance.

### Alyssa Speranza – Development Coordinator

678.892.6164 | [ASperanza@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:ASperanza@svdpgeorgia.org)

Alyssa is responsible for planning and executing donor and fundraising events and engaging donors.

### Elizabeth Ivey – Development Data Coordinator

678.892.6164 | [EIvey@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:EIvey@svdpgeorgia.org)

Elizabeth is responsible for donor database management and processing individual donations.

## VINCENTIAN AND VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

### Gina Wilson – Manager of Vincentian Services

678.892.6174 | [GWilson@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:GWilson@svdpgeorgia.org)

Gina coordinates, develops, and delivers training and formation for Vincentians and Conferences. Her primary focus is to support conferences and their operational needs.

### Meghan King – Community Engagement Manager & Volunteer Coordinator

678.892.6187 | [MKing@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:MKing@svdpgeorgia.org)

Meghan manages non-Vincentian volunteers for programs, Thrift Stores and special projects and events.

## CASEWORK

### Christa Frye – Council Casework Manager

678.892.6168 | [CFrye@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto: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.

### Eileen Parker – Case Manager

678.705.7828 | [EParker@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:EParker@svdpgeorgia.org)

Eileen coordinates casework at the Lakewood and Dallas Family Support Centers.

## PHARMACY

### Dr. Samantha Ricks – Director of Pharmacy

678.892.6181 ext. 1004 | [SRicks@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto: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.

### Lisa Kim – Graduate Pharmacist Intern

678.892.6181 | [LKim@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:LKim@svdpgeorgia.org)

### Chelsea Wilkins – Certified Pharmacy Technician

678.892.6181 | [CWilkins@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:CWilkins@svdpgeorgia.org)

## MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

### Brian Dooling – Director of Marketing & Communications

404.964.3167 | [BDooling@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:BDooling@svdpgeorgia.org)

Responsible for Marketing & Communications to help raise brand awareness, communicate all of our wonderful programs and initiatives internally and externally and grow our organization.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

### Elizabeth Langston – Receptionist

678.892.6160 | [ELangston@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:ELangston@svdpgeorgia.org)

Contact Elizabeth for food and clothing vouchers.

### Sonji Bates-Boston – Director of Human Resources

678.892.6160 | [SBatesBoston@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:SBatesBoston@svdpgeorgia.org)

Sonji oversees talent acquisition, benefits administration and organizational policies and procedures.

## HOUSING INITIATIVES

### Marisel Risner Sivley – Director of Housing

678.892.6185 | [MSivley@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:MSivley@svdpgeorgia.org)

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

### Laura Gibbs – Caseworker

678.892.6188 | [LGibbs@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:LGibbs@svdpgeorgia.org)

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

### Heidi Eveleigh – Program Manager

678.488.7241 | [M2H@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:M2H@svdpgeorgia.org)

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

### Tracy Neal – Motel to Home Caseworker

470.344.8422 | [TNeal@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:TNeal@svdpgeorgia.org)

Tracy performs casework for our Motel to Home program and rapid rehousing program initiatives.

### Alejandra Cadiz – Caseworker (bi-lingual)

[ACadiz@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:ACadiz@svdpgeorgia.org)

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

## HUNGER INITIATIVES

### Adam Seeley – Director of Hunger Initiatives

678.682.6168 | [ASeeley@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:ASeeley@svdpgeorgia.org)

Adam oversees all food related program initiatives including the CSC Food Pantry and Teaching Kitchen, as well as support to Conference-run food pantries.

### Krystiona “Krys” McLean – SNAP Case Manager

770.576.2615 ext. 1053 | [KMclean@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:KMclean@svdpgeorgia.org)

Krys oversees SNAP benefits eligibility screening, enrollment assistance, and education.

### Josephine Cole – Food Pantry Manager

[JCole@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:JCole@svdpgeorgia.org)

Josephine leads the day-to-day operation of the food pantry and its daily volunteers.

## FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

### Darrell Hooker – Senior Director of Operations

678.892.6176 | [DHooker@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto: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.

### Brittany Kirby – Senior Thrift Store Manager

678.892.6188 | [BKirby@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:BKirby@svdpgeorgia.org)

Brittany leads all of SVdP GA's thrift stores management. She also assists with scheduling for the Food Distribution program, Donation Boxes and recycling program, and coordinates food and clothing drives.

### Paolo Gatica – eCommerce Manager

[PGatica@svdpgeorgia.org](mailto:PGatica@svdpgeorgia.org)

Contact Paolo regarding donations and items for sale on our eCommerce platform.