

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 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.

TOWN HALL
DEC 15

OZANAM ORIENTATION
ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
JAN 13

OZANAM ORIENTATION
GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
JAN 27

SVDP GEORGIA CALENDAR

CHRISTMAS DAY
DEC 25
CONFERENCE SUPPORT CENTER CLOSED

CHRISTMAS EVE (OBSERVED)
DEC 26
CONFERENCE SUPPORT CENTER CLOSED

NEW YEAR'S DAY
JAN 1
CONFERENCE SUPPORT CENTER CLOSED

NEW YEAR'S EVE (OBSERVED)
JAN 2
CONFERENCE SUPPORT CENTER CLOSED

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

Merry Christmas

The true joy of Christmas is the love of Christ, shared with family and friends. Our prayer for you, is that you find the peace of Christ, the blessing of hope, and the joy of His love in the coming year.



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

Dear fellow Vincentians,

This is a wonderful time of year, as we look forward to the festivities of the Christmas season. It is also a wonderful time to brighten our neighbors' lives with our distribution of Giving Tree gifts and holiday foods to families. What a great experience to deliver bikes and toys to children that otherwise might not experience the wonder of Christmas.

It is also a great opportunity to reflect on our Vincentian vocation in light of the gospel. In one of my favorite Advent gospel readings – this year it is read on the Friday before Christmas – Mary (having arrived to assist her cousin Elizabeth) offers her beautiful prayer of thanksgiving, the Magnificat. The first line of this prayer is alternatively translated as "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord!" or "My soul magnifies the Lord!" Some scholars indicate that the latter is the truer translation, and it also seems to have a richer meaning.

You might ask yourself, how can anyone, even Mary, magnify the Lord? To magnify is to make greater. God is already omni-everything; how can any human make God greater? The truer meaning, knowing Mary's humility, would be "to make more visible," like a magnifying glass to the fine print on that lease agreement. What a great tribute, then, is the proclamation, "My soul magnifies the Lord!" In no one is it more true than Mary, who literally made God more visible by bringing him to human form. It's also a great goal for us - how can we "magnify the Lord"? How can we, like Mary, make the Lord more visible, more tangible? We have the great opportunity through our St. Vincent de Paul work to "magnify" the Lord and make him more visible to those in need. What a great honor. To paraphrase St. Teresa of Avila, we are the hands and feet of Christ serving our neighbors. Hopefully they experience Christ in their interactions with us, as we experience Christ in them.

Thank you for all you do year-round to bring the love of Christ to those we serve. And as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus - the magnification of the Lord - let's pray that we may continue to magnify the love of Jesus in our work.

Very best wishes for a blessed and wonderful Christmas season,

Mike



AND MARY SAID:

"MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD,
AND MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOR;
BECAUSE HE HAS REGARDED THE LOWLINESS OF HIS
HANDMAID;
FOR BEHOLD, HENCEFORTH ALL GENERATIONS SHALL
CALL ME BLESSED;
BECAUSE HE WHO IS MIGHTY HAS DONE GREAT THINGS
FOR ME,
AND HOLY IS HIS NAME..."

LUKE 1:46-49

FORMATION & TRAINING

IT'S TIME FOR OUR LAST TOWN HALL OF THE YEAR | DEC 15

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

VIRTUAL ON ZOOM

Learn about our impact during Fiscal Year 2023, hear about updates in Vincentian Services, the Chamblee Support Center and hear about the success of our Pharmacy.

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

Join St. Vincent of Paul Georgia's
 Vincentian Support Center for a

Virtual Town Hall Meeting

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 15, 2023
12:00pm to 1:30pm

Learn about our impact during Fiscal Year 2023, hear about updates in Vincentian Services, the Chamblee Support Center and hear about the success of our Pharmacy.

Register Now
www.svdpgorgia.org/events/townhall



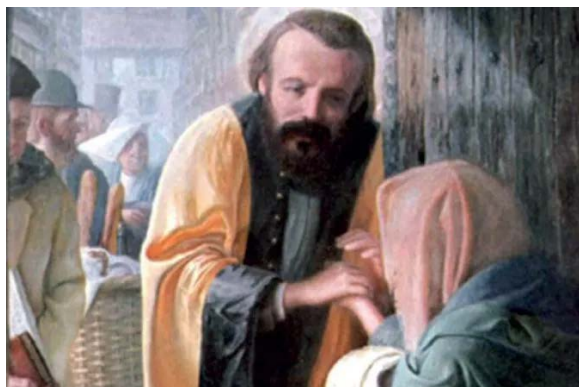
Tune in on Zoom

AGENDA

- Spiritual Reflection
- CEO Message
- Vincentian Services Overview
- Conference Fundraising
- Pregnancy/post-partum resources
- Warning Shelters
- Chamblee Support Center Update
- Pharmacy Update
- Open Discussion

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, JANUARY 13, 2024

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

*breakfast at 8:30am

ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

1440 PEARCE CIRCLE GAINESVILLE, GA 30501

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**breakfast at 8:30am*

GOOD SAMARITAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

55 CHURCH STREET ELLIJAY, GA 30540

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

THANK YOU TO HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH!

Genie Gushee and a group of parishioners at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Atlanta, Georgia, spearheaded a heartfelt initiative to assemble and distribute over 100 homeless kits. Their thoughtful contribution made a significant impact on the lives of those who are less fortunate in our community - the CSC was able to hand out the entire supply in two days! We are sincerely thankful for Holy Cross' support and partnership in the SVdP mission to make a positive difference.



GIVING TUESDAY WAS A SUCCESS!

We are grateful for all of supporters on Giving Tuesday! All of the generosity couldn't be timelier as we are already seeing an increase in requests for HELP over this time last year. Our supporters inspire HOPE for families who walk in our doors to get a warm coat, assistance with paying utility bills, and food for their pantries as the winter season creates added hardship. We couldn't serve them without you!

SVDP GEORGIA PRAYER LIST

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

- Grady Story for healing and recovery
- For the repose of the soul of Doreen Anandappa
- For the repose of the soul of Bob Gallagher
- For the repose of the soul of Dan Maddox
- Elizabeth Sirk for healing
- For the repose of the soul of Eileen Parker
- For the repose of the soul of Paul Yosik
- For the repose of the soul of Kathy Mooney
- 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.



svdpgeorgia.org

WORKFORCE WEDNESDAY

4TH WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH • 10 AM - 1 PM

St. Vincent de Paul Georgia | 2050-C Chamblee Tucker Road Atlanta, GA

JOIN US TO CONNECT WITH COMPANIES HIRING FOR:

Healthcare
Restuarant
Retail
Warehouse

Office/Clerical
Military
Career Training Programs
& more!



SVDPGORGIA.ORG/WORKFORCEWEDNESDAY

MOTEL TO HOME GUIDELINES

Just as a reminder, in order to qualify for the program, the following criteria is mandated for applicants.

- (1) An applicant must show enough verifiable income coming into the household to meet rent and other household expenses.
- (2) The applicant's income must be verified in writing through pay stubs, letters of employment, benefits letters, etc.
- (3) The applicant has to show a hotel stay for 30 days or more and provide 30 days of hotel receipts to apply - not necessarily 30 consecutive days, but the stays must be in the past 3 months.
- (4) After initial intake, the applicant must provide copies of IDs, social security cards, children's birth certificates and at least 4 weeks of verifiable income, as well as the hotel receipts.

Please note that SVdP Georgia does not fund housing approvals that will be over 40% of an applicant's monthly income to rent. This means if an applicant's income is \$3,000 per month, the rent cannot be more than \$1,200 per month (unless the applicant has a voucher to reduce his or her portion).

Prior experience has shown that in order for an applicant to succeed and be stable in his or her housing too much rent as a percentage of income is not sustainable in the long term.

If you have any questions, please email Heidi Eveleigh at m2h@svdpgeorgia.org or call 770-687-2601.

DIVE DEEPER INTO YOUR VINCENTIAN VOCATION

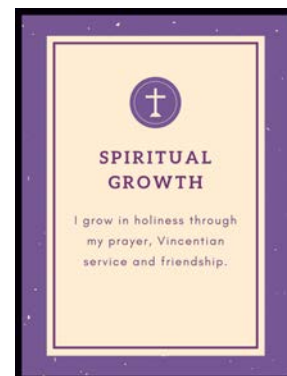
The SVdP USA member website has a Formation Resources section that offers documents and videos on reflection, retreats, training, as well as individual reading and study. To access any of the categories, simply click on the link below.

[VINCENTIAN REFLECTIONS](#)

[FRED TALKS](#)

[CONTEMPLATIONS](#)

[RETREATS](#)



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GEORGIA AND APTO SOLUTIONS ANNOUNCE INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP

St. Vincent de Paul is working with Apto Solutions to provide qualified families and individuals in need with the computer equipment necessary for their success.

The refurbished equipment will primarily be utilized for families in St. Vincent de Paul's Motel-to-Home program, and additional neighbors in need identified and recommended by caseworkers.



“The primary objective of this program is to elevate the standard of living of individuals and families that are progressing toward a life of self-sufficiency. Providing Apto Solutions’ refurbished equipment is an important part of this goal and we couldn’t be more excited to be partnering with Apto on this initiative,” stated Mike Mies, Executive Director, St. Vincent de Paul Georgia.

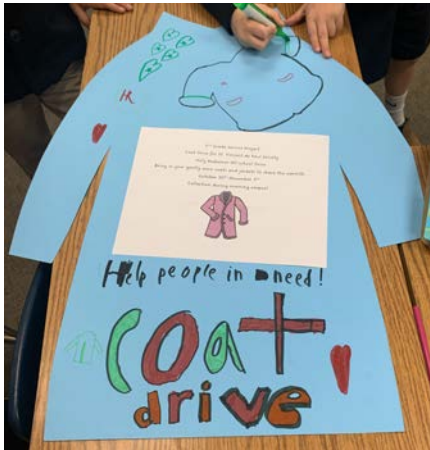
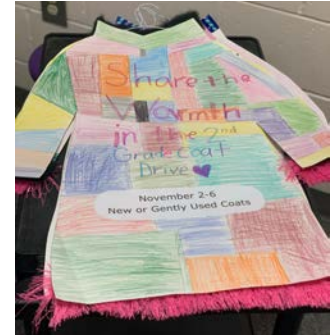
Apto Solutions works with major corporate clients and equipment manufacturers to facilitate data destruction, value recovery and responsible recycling of information technology at the end of its lifecycle. The goal of this partnership is to extend the life of donated PCs and have these computers serve as a catalyst for positive change, enabling St. Vincent de Paul to enhance its programs and expand its reach within the community.

“Apto Solutions believes in the transformative power of technology and recognizes the importance of ensuring everyone has access to the tools necessary for success in today's digital age. By partnering with St. Vincent de Paul Georgia, we are confident that this collaboration will make a meaningful difference and provide opportunities for growth and learning in the lives of those we aim to empower,” shared Jeff Jones, CEO, Apto Solutions.

If you have a neighbor that is in need of a device, please contact Gina Wilson, Vincentian Services Manager, at gwilson@svdpgeorgia.org.

HOLY REDEEMER'S SECOND GRADE CLASS BRINGS WARMTH TO THOSE IN NEED YET AGAIN

In a heartening display of generosity and community spirit, Holy Redeemer Catholic School's 2nd-grade students recently celebrated the 13th Annual Coat Drive, a cherished tradition that has become a beacon of warmth for those in need. This year's drive, marked by the collection of approximately 300 coats, not only highlights the enduring commitment of Holy Redeemer Catholic School to community service but also serves as a call for continued support from the wider community.



As each holiday season concludes with the success of the Annual 2nd Grade Coat Drive, Holy Redeemer Catholic School reaffirms its commitment to nurturing compassionate and socially conscious individuals. The coat drive stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of the school, where the seeds of kindness sown in the hearts of second-grade students blossom into a lifelong commitment to making a positive impact on the world.

While the 2nd-grade students and their families have already made a tremendous impact, we are extending an open invitation for additional coat donations. Please drop off new or gently used coats at the Chamblee Support Center, 2050 Chamblee-Tucker Rd, 30341. The Support Center accepts donations from 9:00 AM to 3:45 PM.



WELCOME TO THE SVDP GEORGIA TEAM!

Lisa Regan joins SVdP Georgia as our new Senior Director, Programs and Services.

Lisa Regan has been a Vincentian at St. Andrew Catholic Church for more than 10 years and has a huge heart for helping neighbors in need. Before assuming her role with St. Vincent de Paul Georgia, she was Executive Director at Pregnancy Aid Clinic (PAC), the Archdiocese-endorsed pregnancy resource in metro Atlanta. During her 5-year tenure at PAC, Lisa grew programs to help support and stabilize pregnant women and families with medical, advocacy and wrap-around support services.



LREGAN@SVDPGORGIA.ORG

Lisa's professional background includes building fundraising programs for Gospel Rescue Missions and homeless shelters around the country, as well as marketing and fundraising efforts for Catholic World Mission. Her professional foundation in advertising includes leading teams to develop ground-breaking marketing strategies for Delta Air Lines, The Southern Company and Georgia Power during tumultuous times of deregulation.

Lisa lives in Roswell with her husband, Tom; they have three grown children. She is thrilled to be on the senior team at St. Vincent de Paul Georgia and contributing to program expansion in the areas of housing, hunger and health.

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/>

REMEMBERING LONG TIME EMPLOYEE EILEEN PARKER

Eileen J. Parker, a dedicated caseworker at St. Vincent de Paul Georgia, passed away peacefully in her sleep on October 25, 2023. Her departure leaves a void in the hearts of those who knew and cherished her, but her legacy of compassion, kindness, and tireless service will forever be etched in the memories of those she touched.

Eileen had a remarkable career as a caseworker at St. Vincent de Paul Georgia, where she dedicated nearly two decades of her life to serving the less fortunate with unwavering commitment and a gentle demeanor. Eileen became a beacon of hope for countless individuals and families facing adversity. Her genuine concern for the well-being of others, coupled with a remarkable ability to connect on a personal level, made her an invaluable asset to the organization.

A memorial service to honor Eileen's life was held on November 1, 2023, at HOPE Funeral Home, where friends, family, and colleagues came together to share stories, celebrated her accomplishments, and found solace in the memories of a life well-lived.

May Eileen rest in eternal peace and her family be comforted by Christ's love.



CHRIST THE KING COLLECTS OVER 3,000 LBS OF FOOD AND CLOTHING



The Cathedral of Christ the King SVdP held a food and clothing drive from October 14 to October 16, 2023. This event proved to be a resounding success, with an impressive 3,000 pounds of essential items collected, highlighting the incredible generosity and unity of the community.

ST. BENEDICT IN JOHNS CREEK HOSTS THEIR 10TH ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT SVDP FOOD PANTRY



On September 16th & 17th, parishoners and community members of the St. Benedict Catholic Church came together to benefit those in need of food. Donations were collected to benefit St. Vincent de Paul's Chamblee food pantry. Over the course of one weekend, 5,560 pounds of food were collected for distribution at the CSC.

This was the tenth consecutive year they hosted a parish food drive and they have collected close to 50,000 pounds of donations!



Rev. Fr. Paul Flood pictured with teens earning service hours as part of their Confirmation preparation from St. Benedict's Life Teen Program and the St. Vincent de Paul Conference member that organizes the annual event.

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 Gina Wilson, Vincentian Services Manager at gwilson@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 Gina Wilson, Vincentian Services Manager at gwilson@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:

[Assistant Food Pantry Manager](#)

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

[Pharmacy Patient Services Assistant \(Part Time\)](#)

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

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

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

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

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.

Linda Gurrant – Purchasing and Reports Administrator

678.892.6165 | 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

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

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

Rene Bazel – Grants Manager

678.892.6175 | RBazel@svdpgeorgia.org

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

Elizabeth Ivey – Development Data Coordinator

678.892.6164 | Elvey@svdpgeorgia.org

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

VINCENTIAN AND VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Lisa Regan – Senior Director, Programs and Services

770.576.4080 | LRegan@svdpgeorgia.org

Lisa has leadership responsibility for support of all 73 SVdP Georgia Conferences as well as the Council casework. This includes strategic community alliances and partnerships.

Meghan King – Community Engagement Manager & Volunteer Coordinator

678.892.6187 | MKing@svdpgeorgia.org

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

Gina Wilson – Manager of Vincentian Services

678.892.6174 | 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.

HUNGER INITIATIVES

Adam Seeley – Director of Hunger Initiatives

678.682.6168 | 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.

Josephine Cole – Food Pantry Manager

JCole@svdpgeorgia.org

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

PHARMACY

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.

Dr. Lisa Kim – Staff Pharmacist

678.892.6181 | LKim@svdpgeorgia.org

Chelsea Wilkins - Certified Pharmacy Technician

678.892.6181 | CWilkins@svdpgeorgia.org

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Brian Dooling – Director of Marketing & Communications

404.964.3167 | 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

Contact Elizabeth for food and clothing vouchers.

Sonji Bates-Boston – Director of Human Resources

678.892.6160 | 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

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

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.

Tracye Neal – Motel to Home Caseworker

470.344.8422 | TNeal@svdpgeorgia.org

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

Alejandra Cadiz – Caseworker (bi-lingual)

ACadiz@svdpgeorgia.org

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

CASEWORK

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.

Laura Gibbs – Caseworker

678.892.6188 | LGibbs@svdpgeorgia.org

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

Krystiona "Krys" McLean – SNAP Case Manager

770.576.2615 ext. 1053 | KMclean@svdpgeorgia.org

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

Betsy Cowell – SNAP Caseworker (bi-lingual)

BCowell@svdpgeorgia.org

Betsy assists neighbors with SNAP benefits eligibility screening, enrollment assistance, and education.

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

Darrell Hooker – Senior Director of Operations

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.

Brittany Kirby – Senior Thrift Store Manager

678.892.6188 | 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

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