

Spotlight

FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.



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



Behind every pound of food delivered is a driver like Tony Brewster, helping move us closer to a just and compassionate Georgia where every neighbor lives with dignity and opportunity.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Summer food support to more than 3,300 neighbors
- A Neighbor's Story: From housing instability to business owner
- A HEALing Partnership: Mobile health care coming to Chamblee
- SVdP On the Road: Donor support upgrades the SVdP fleet

From the Director

Friends,

Whether you pulled this copy from your Morning of Hope gift bag or your inbox...Thank you for opening doors to unlimited possibilities for our neighbors. You define what it means to Love Your Neighbor.

It was a busy summer at St. Vincent de Paul. Vincentians walked through many doors, and the Chamblee Service Center opened its doors to thousands of neighbors facing challenges to household stability. Neighbors saw the heat drive up their utility bills, food and care costs increased with kids out of school; and they faced emergencies that one neighbor summed up as, *"always happening at the worst possible time."* We responded to her immediate need and so many others.

I'm pleased to share the Help and Hope you delivered and highlight expanded program capacity made possible by your support. Celebrating the 5-year anniversary of our 2020 Hope Transformed Capital Campaign and the transformation of the Chamblee Service Center reminds us of the impact of donor

generosity. It supports our neighbors with dignity and respect and the work of our 3,500 Vincentian members. Almost 1 million Georgia neighbors have been served since the doors re-opened.

We're not resting because research and practice confirm that self-reliance for neighbors rarely rests on a single solution. Individual and institutional support are already expanding pilot programs and incubating new ones with proven impact. Love for our neighbors begins with a belief in the doors of possibilities for crisis recovery and self-reliance. The neighbors sharing their journeys at Morning of Hope are living those possibilities, thanks to you.

You can give without loving, but it's impossible to love without giving. I join everyone at St. Vincent de Paul in thanking you for the love you continue to show for our Georgia neighbors in need!



Bea Perdue
Senior Director of Philanthropy

You can give without loving, but it's impossible to love without giving.

- unknown



Summer Food Insecurity Rises with the Heat

There are times during the year when those heading under-resourced households are more uncertain of having enough food or being able to acquire enough food to meet the needs of their household members. For the Georgia neighbors calling on St. Vincent de Paul for food support, summer is one of those times. There are several contributing factors that consistently leave our neighbors lacking sufficient funds to feed their families.

Those with children can no longer rely on summer supplemental aid that ended in Georgia last year. The aid was meant to ensure that children receiving free and reduced-cost meals at school would have resources for food directed to their homes during school breaks.

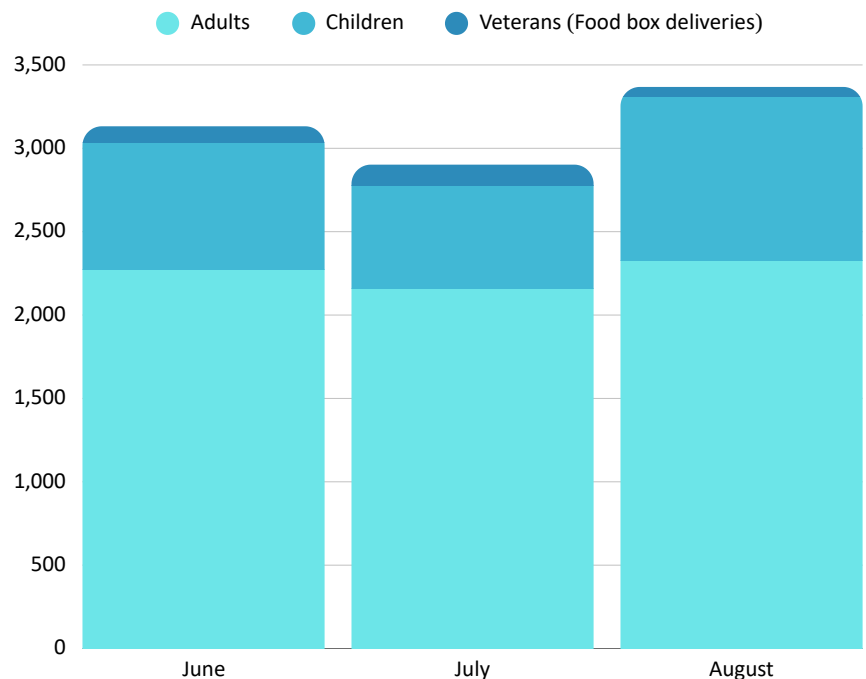
Everyone can relate to the increase in utility bills associated with the Georgia heat, but we don't always think about the usage increase associated with kids spending more of their time at home versus school. The U.S. Energy Information Administration analysis for summer 2025 projected a 6.2 percent increase for home cooling over last year. For many of our neighbors, even a \$30 monthly increase can result in difficult choices between paying their utility bill and meeting other critical household needs, including food.

We know these are just two factors that are likely to increase food insecurity for children. The USDA reminds us that if children are experiencing food insecurity in a household, the adults are just as likely to be experiencing the same. St. Vincent de Paul answered the calls for food support from neighbors across Georgia.

Chamblee Summer Food Support

June	99,655 lbs.	\$196K value
July	115,000 lbs.	\$227K value
Aug	98,015 lbs.	\$193K value

Total Summer Food Support
312,670 lbs. \$616K value



Georgia Rep. Scott Hilton Visits Chamblee Service Center

Scott Hilton has been a dependable advocate in the State House on issues that affect women. His leadership helped lead to increased funding for women's health to address maternal mortality, new legislation to provide more support for pregnant mothers, extended paid parental leave, and protection of IVF access in Georgia.

This summer, Representative Hilton visited the Chamblee Service Center. Our board chair, executive director, and director of housing initiatives had an opportunity to share the impact of the St. Vincent de Paul mission on underserved Georgia households, primarily headed by women.

"St. Vincent de Paul is changing lives in our community every single day. As a policymaker, I was honored to tour their facilities and learn about how I can support their great work. St. Vincent de Paul embodies what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our world today." - Rep. Scott



Author Brian Goldstone Talks Housing Instability with Atlanta Leaders



2025 Morning of Hope Pre-event

What about the hidden homeless?

Where are we making progress?

How do neighbors overcome barriers to stable housing?

What policies are impacting the housing crisis?

Who benefits from unsafe extended stay motels?

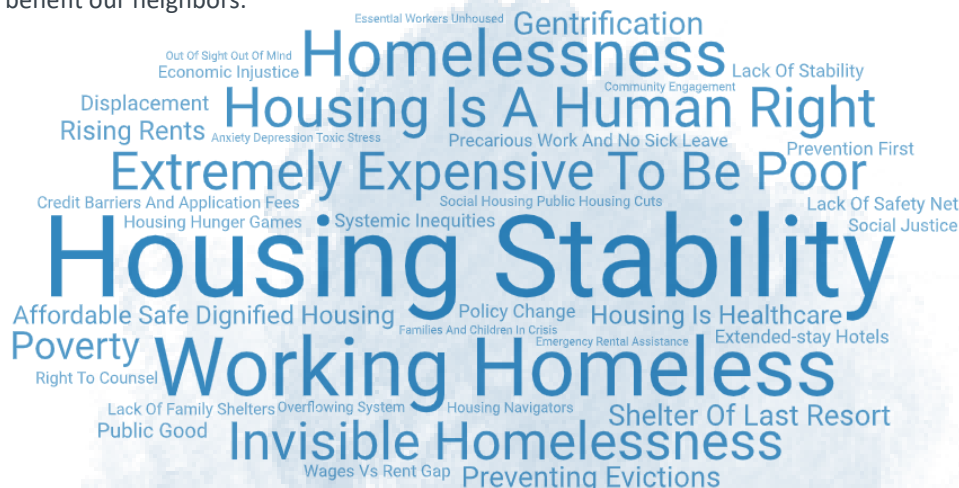
Why are working people homeless?

What can we do NOW?

When the discussion ended, It was obvious that Brian Goldstone was moved. *"It was a rich conversation, and I wish we could do it more often, with more leaders. These are the people who are going to influence solutions to housing instability. St. Vincent de Paul gets it, with the work they do every day, and the partnerships they build for outcomes that help neighbors have a decent roof over their heads. I don't think that's too much for anyone to want."*

Brian relayed the experiences of homeless neighbors profiled in his book that moved the group. All had jobs that in the past would have assured safe affordable housing and all had faced numerous barriers to accessing services and help. Today they are suffering indignities and loss.

The Atlanta leaders in the room had thoughts and ideas. This was an opportunity to share them without concern for public disclosure. The passion they have for the betterment of people and communities in Atlanta and beyond, is sure to translate into actions that will benefit our neighbors.



MOH Host Committee Co-chairs Rita Breen and Louise Scott welcomed community members:

James Alexander
Mercy Housing

Shannon Ball
Enterprise Community Partners

Myra Bierria
Southern Company Foundation

Brandon Gardner
Kaiser Permanente

Erica Headlee
Home Depot Foundation

Terry M. Lee
Atlanta Housing Authority

Milton Little Jr.
United Way of Greater Atlanta

Mike Lucas
House ATL

Alan Mitchell
DeKalb County Government

Tracee D. Smith
PNC Bank

SVdP Brought Stable Housing and Business Inspiration

Willow & Lavender brings dignity, healing, and wellness.

A few years ago, Motel to Home neighbor Sonya Warlick wrote the book, *A King's Love for His Daughter*. She knows that without God's love and help from St. Vincent de Paul, she could be living a different story. When she thought about launching a handcrafted skincare brand, so many of her ideas came from a place of recovery and healing. As the founder of Willow & Lavender, she built her brand around softness, strength and legacy. Her target audience would be women navigating through housing insecurity, incarceration, and community re-entry.

She wants to affirm to women that circumstances don't have to dictate their presentation. *"When we take care of ourselves, we feel better, we look better and the people we meet think better of us. Despite everything I went through I didn't want to walk around with a bad attitude with my troubles sitting on my shoulders,"* Sonya shared. *"There I was with my two boys, no income, no job, living in a hotel room and certainly had no money for a day at the spa or products for self-care."*

Making it through COVID in the real estate business while homeschooling her boys had depleted her savings and maxed out her credit cards. As she searched for new employment while trying to keep her young sons housed and schooled, she and her boys spent six months living in hotel rooms, relying on the public library for safety, cleanliness, and information. It was there she found information on the Gwinnett Library Sponsored Business Plan Competition and decided to see if she could take the skin care products she was developing from items in her kitchen to an enterprise. She won the competition, earning a cash prize, mentoring, and a year-long Chamber membership with office space.

Her constant daily research also brought her to United Way 211 and a referral to Motel to Home. It took a few months to meet the program requirements, but in January she got the news from Motel to Home that she had been accepted.

A strong woman knows she has strength enough for the journey, but a woman of strength knows it is in the journey where she will become strong.

— unknown



Sonya Warlick Photo: Chamian Cruz/WABE



Sonya sat down with two other SVdP neighbors and single moms, Vanessa and Angelica, to share their journeys to stable housing and the doors they entered to endless possibilities.

"I was able to get food from their pantry and access other services that brought me and my boys to a place of stability. Everyone I encountered at St. Vincent de Paul was helpful—but most of all, they were kind. I want to support the organization and help other women they are serving today. I must give back, because they led me out of the darkest time in my life to the second chance I had prayed for."

Sonya W.

In 2026 Help St. Vincent de Paul

Bag 10,000 Pounds of Food Support

To Serve Georgia Neighbors in Need

Host a Food Drive and Join Us for the 2026 Hunger Walk

Unite with SVdP in the Fight Against Hunger

In January 2026, St. Vincent de Paul Georgia will launch its Drive to Bag 10,000 Pounds of Food, inviting supporters and partners to join the fight against food insecurity for neighbors in need.

"This effort goes beyond the surge in food requests we've seen during the summer and year after year," says Adam Seely, Director of Food Initiatives. "Many essential items are not consistently available from our traditional suppliers, and this drive also responds to the many supporters who ask how they can help. We believe this is a great way for friends to make a difference, expand our collective impact, and enjoy the camaraderie of the Atlanta Community Food Bank Hunger Walk."

The drive will run through the first two months of the year and culminate at the 2026 Hunger Walk, where participants who help us reach the 10,000-pound goal will be recognized.

Companies, schools, churches, and community organizations are encouraged to participate. Each participating group will receive collection containers, and SVdP will provide pick-up and distribution of donated items across our 40+ food pantries.

Contact Malissa Lawton, mlawton@svdpgeorgia.org to get a head start on becoming a 2026 SVdP Food Drive Partner.



Building a Stronger Future: SVdP Welcomes New Board Leaders

Board Chair, Denise Fisher, understands how much a strong board is required to ensure that St. Vincent de Paul is poised to meet the demands of serving the growing number of neighbors who continue to call on the organization in their time of need.

"We have a limited number of seats available, after those pre-allotted to our District Presidents, so we must be judicious in our recruitment and invitations. The strongest board we can build has to begin with people who are passionate about our mission and can make a commitment to being highly engaged in efforts aimed at continuous organizational improvement. I feel that we've hit it out of the park with our recent board additions."

This year, the Board welcomed new board members, Charon Donaldson (QuikTrip), John Stiles (Gas South) and human services consultant Darlene Matthews.

A strong nonprofit board is built on several key pillars, including passionate and engaged members, clear communication and expectations, effective governance and strategic planning, and a commitment to the organization's mission and continuous improvement.

The Power of Partnerships

Fully Furnished Ministries Bless and Furnish SVdP Neighbors

In 2003, a group of volunteers with a simple idea set out to honor God by connecting families who no longer needed furniture with those who did. The furnishings didn't need to be in perfect condition, because they had teams of volunteers to restore it to like-new condition. They had no idea of the needs they would encounter over the next eighteen years. By 2021, the ministry added part-time staff for warehouse and outreach support, and later welcomed its first full-time Executive Director, John Dance. He was surprised, humbled, and honored that St. Vincent de Paul chose them as the 2025 Community Builder of Hope.

2025
Community
Builder of
Hope

Much like St. Vincent de Paul, Fully Furnished Ministries meets families in crisis. Apartment fires, hurricanes, floods, refugee settlements, family transitional housing programs, women fleeing abuse, veterans needing housing, and sometimes a family just needing a new start. Few neighbors they encounter have even the basics, so each year hundreds of families receive essentials like beds, tables, and dishes that help them create healthy, happy homes. Yet what lingers longest are the prayers and personal connections offered with every delivery.

"Fully Furnished Ministries is one of the best tools in our partnership toolbox", shared Vincentian member Krista Toddy. "They are there for our neighbors, when we've run out of resources. I have my own testimonies of how they have been there for neighbors, including grandparents taking in a grandson but unable to buy him a bed to sleep in. When a family we were able to place in stable housing didn't have a kitchen table to eat on, Fully Furnished came to their rescue. They take pride and extreme care with every item they bring through the door. I love the honor they give to God, by blessing the home and the people in it with prayer. We are blessed to have them as a partner."

Please join St. Vincent de Paul in thanking and recognizing Fully Furnished Ministries for the difference they are making in the lives of our neighbors in need.

HEALing Community Health Brings Quality and Compassionate Care to SVdP Neighbors

HEALing Community Health Dr. Verneda Curry (CEO) and Dr. Diana Wilson (Chief Medical Officer) attended the 2025 SVdP Corporate and Community Impact Luncheon in February. Before leaving, they had assured Health Initiatives Director, Dr. Samanta Ricks, that a partnership with St. Vincent de Paul was inevitable, and she had good reasons to think the same.

"Beyond the alignment of our missions is a shared commitment to achieve excellence in patient outcomes," said Dr. Ricks. "Households headed by women make up our largest service demographic across the organization. HEALing's focus on women's health, combined with the pediatric services they offer, will provide easy access to care for mothers and their children. Every day we see neighbors bypass needed healthcare out of lack of convenience and having to make difficult choices between other critical household needs that exceed their limited financial resources."

In the pilot partnership program, kicking off this fall, the HEALing Community Health mobile unit will be on-site at Chamblee monthly. Doctors will see patients by pre-scheduled appointments. Pharmacy patients and other neighbors will have access to services at the mobile unit and HEALing health centers throughout Metro Atlanta. Beyond the pilot and assessment opportunities, Conferences within their service area will be able to schedule the mobile unit and refer neighbors.

HEALing Community Health, a federally qualified health center serving Metro Atlanta since 2013, bridges healthcare gaps with quality, compassionate care for all. The dedicated medical team works diligently to achieve excellent patient outcomes. The SVdP/HEALing partnership will open doors to better health for our neighbors.



The 2025 Impact Luncheon showed Dr. Verneda Curry and Dr. Diana Wilson the power of partnership in building stronger neighborhoods with SVdP.

Hope Was Transformed with \$7.5M

5 Years of Service at the Renovated Chamblee Service Center

In August supporters joined St. Vincent de Paul to celebrate the five-year anniversary of the reopening of the Chamblee Service Center. The property purchase and renovation of the facility was made possible by the 2020 Hope Transformed Capital Campaign, making it more responsive to the needs of local neighbors and the support needs of the 3,500+ Vincentian members across Georgia.

Campaign Committee Co-Chair Mike Petrik shared his reflections with the sixty reception guests, “We knew we were taking on a tremendous challenge, with the original campaign goal of \$6.5 million. But we had faith in the mission and faith that people and organizations of this community would join us to make life better for our neighbors in need. Despite our long service record in Georgia, many of those we initially called on had little knowledge of the impact of our mission. My fellow Campaign committee members and our leadership did a tremendous job of changing that. The success of the Campaign has opened doors for the support we are seeing today, and the continued support St. Vincent de Paul will need in the future.”

A commemorative plaque now hangs in the Center to recognize the success and contributors of St. Vincent de Paul’s first capital campaign.



More than
1 million
Neighbors Served

Campaign Committee

Joseph O. Blanco (Co-chair)

Michael T. Petrik (Co-chair)

BJ Green

Chris Millard

Rob Ortner

Louise Scott

Bruce Simmons

Terry Trout

Lisa Robinson



\$20.7M

in Nourishment to
Relieve Food
Insecurity for
Neighbors



Neighbors received
\$60.9M
in Rent, Mortgage
and Utility Assistance



74,154+
Prescriptions
Delivered

hope transformed
5 Year
ANNIVERSARY



\$127.6M

Programs and
Services Delivered



842

Families Housed
Motel to Home

WISH Supports Motel to Home Families

The members of WISH (Women in Service and Hope) chose to focus their service efforts on Motel to Home (M2H) because so many of the households served by the program, are headed by women. *"Many of us are moms, and I know that some of us have first-hand experience raising children as a single parent and others who made it through some difficult times to get to the stability and success we have today,"* shared a WISH member during their back-to-school bookbag project. *"I can remember what it was like, tackling the cost of supplies along with all the other bills, worrying how far I could stretch a dollar. I'm glad I can be a part of taking that worry away for our M2H moms and have a chance to work alongside my WISH sisters."*

WISH joined other supporters in making sure that all 120+ children in M2H households had the supplies needed to start the school year. Extra bookbags were provided to the Family Support Center for other neighbors who need assistance with school supplies.

Earlier in the summer, members of WISH were on hand to engage M2H kids while their moms attended a required Saturday financial education session. *"Many of our parents don't have extra resources to pay for babysitters, and it can be very difficult for them to give their full attention to the information shared if they're trying to manage their children at the same time. It's a big thing that the women of WISH are willing to take time out of their weekend to support our families,"* said M2H Program Manager, Heidi Eveleigh.

Join WISH and be a part of a fellowship of women dedicated to serving SVdP neighbors in need.
Contact Bea Perdue at bperdue@svdpgeorgia.org.

FROM JAN-JUNE 2025,
FAMILIES ACCEPTED INTO
THE MOTEL TO HOME (M2H)
PROGRAM **AVERAGED**
50% OF THEIR
MONTHLY INCOME
DEDICATED TO MOTEL
FEES. AFTER PARTICIPATING
IN THE M2H PROGRAM AND
MOVING INTO SUITABLE,
STABLE RENTAL HOUSING,
THEIR **AVERAGE MONTHLY**
RENT IS NOW 28% OF
THEIR INCOME!

FINANCIAL GAINS FOR
MOTEL TO HOME
NEIGHBORS



Back-to-School
Bookbag Project
Sponsored by Gas
South



Vincentians Judy Harris and Ron Sinnock preparing for a home visit.



Founding Members of the St. Mary's Conference in Rome, Georgia.

Love Comes to Our Rome Neighbors

A Vincentian Conference Established in Floyd County

St. Vincent de Paul Georgia's strategic plan emphasizes growing Vincentian membership and Conferences across the state. *"The needs of our neighbors combined with providing an avenue for parishioners to serve are at the heart of building SVdP Chapters. The areas of Georgia, with no Vincentian chapters, are served by Chamblee Service Center staff. This can limit the face-to-face interactions that we count on to address the long-term needs of our neighbors beyond the crisis of their first call for aid,"* shared Lisa Regan, Sr. Director of Programs and Services. *"Expanding our service capacity in Floyd County will benefit the neighbors who need us most."*

On May 10, 2025, St. Mary's Conference launched to serve all of Floyd County. With Father Porter's leadership and parish support, including a second monthly collection, the new Conference quickly grew to 16 active Vincentians focused on Home Visits. In just a few months, they have already served more than 131 neighbors.

"Going out into the field and meeting people in their homes is unique to being a Vincentian," shared Conference President Patrick Marks.

The home visits are incredibly rewarding and humbling. The families you meet ask for so little, yet you see how great their need is.

Patrick and his wife Karen have an established legacy of support at St. Mary's Catholic School via the Verso L'Alto Endowment Fund. The Latin phrase meaning "to the heights," will enhance student education experience beyond the classroom, funding enrichment speakers, field trips, and other unique learning opportunities. A strong desire to give back combined with his passion for expanding outreach to neighbors in need led Patrick to take on the role as inaugural president of the St. Mary's Conference.

St. Mary's Church, located in Rome, Georgia, has grown from a handful of members to 1,700 families today. From a simple wooden church on East First Street to the present facilities inspired by Gothic forms and monastic simplicity, the school has grown from 51 students in 1945 to 200 today. A legacy of faith and community have passed from generation to generation at St. Mary's - It seems like the perfect parish for St. Vincent de Paul Georgia's newest Conference.

In the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Rome is the largest city in Floyd County. Of the approximately 38,000 people who live there, 25% live below the federal poverty line, 17% of households are headed by women, and only 20% are educated beyond high school. The intersection of these demographics are predictors of neighbors who are more likely to experience household challenges during economic downturns and rising costs of basic needs.

We look forward to sharing the impact Vincentian members will have with neighbors in Floyd County.

St. Mary's
Mass to Celebrate

**The Feast of
St. Vincent de Paul**

Saturday
September 27, 2025

Patrick Marks
Conference President
Speaker

Vincentian Members
Lectors, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers

Father Paul Porter
Pastor
Blessing of Vincentians



MARILLAC MOMS

The Whitcomb Family Foundation Invites Your Support to Match their \$150,000 Gift Award

Program services will support mothers in building sustained family and housing stability, with:

- Case management
- Wrap-around services and coordination of access to community partners and government services
- Financial assistance to support stable housing and prevention (up to six months post-partum)
- Personal savings program and financial literacy education and coaching through the Housing and Savings Program (HANDS)
- Income enhancements and workforce development for professional support through the Income Advancement Program (IAP)
- Parenting education and life-skills coaching

The program honors Saint Louise de Marillac, co-founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and patron Saint of social workers, who dedicated her life to serving widows, orphans, and the sick.

Housing Mothers and their Babies

The 2022 Georgia Point in Time (PIT) Report showed a 43% increase in unsheltered individuals since 2019. Nationally, women and their children account for 45% of the homeless population.

Pregnant women and single mothers are especially vulnerable, facing wage and housing disparities, gaps in healthcare, inadequate maternity benefits, and the challenges of parenting alone. Nearly 80% of households served by SVdP in 2024 were headed by women. You can see the stress on their face when they don't know how they will feed their children, keep the lights on, or are facing an eviction and potential homelessness. Mental illness compounds these pressures. About 65% of homeless women experience mental illness, and nearly half live with major depression, which is double the rate of the general population.

In Georgia, 35,000 women cited financial hardship as the primary reason for terminating pregnancies. To respond, SVdP Programs and Services will launch **Marillac Moms**, a pilot program modeled after the highly successful CareSource *Healthy Beginnings at Home* model. The program will provide crisis resources for pregnant women and transitional housing for homeless mothers with children.



Generosity Expands and Upgrades the SVdP Fleet

Every day, St. Vincent de Paul trucks are on the road picking up food donations from retailers, delivering to warehouse storage and Conference pantries. We also get unexpected calls at the closing of exhibits and tradeshows for donations that exhibitors don't want to ship back. Everything we receive directly or indirectly serves to feed, clothe, house and heal our neighbors in need, and we work hard to accommodate every opportunity to support the mission, even when our fleet had major challenges.

"Our fleet was old, with several vehicles needing repairs that forced us to rent trucks," shared Operations Director Darrell Hooker. "As a statewide service agency, the miles add up quickly. Repairs strained our unrestricted and emergency funds, and retailers donating food cannot wait for a truck repair. Every item we receive carries a cost to manage it, and transportation issues created extra expenses and limited our ability to respond to partners ready to give."

In 2025, SVdP created a transportation fund to cover the daily costs of operating and maintaining our vehicles, including refrigerated truck rentals. Donors stepped in with generous support, and the fund remains open for designated gifts to sustain this critical work.

When asked *"what do you need most"* and *"how can we help,"* the answer was clear: newer, more reliable vehicles. The Holzgreffe Family and NetMOVE responded with vehicle donations that greatly expanded our transportation capacity. Their generosity has made a tremendous impact, and we are deeply grateful.

Opening Doors to Unlimited Possibilities for Our Georgia Neighbors In Need

2025 Year-End Campaign

There are many ways you can bring Help and Hope to our Georgia neighbors in need before 2025 ends.

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

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



Scan to make your gift today or visit svdpgeorgia.org/donate.

Join Us at Upcoming Events

Annual Block Party

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Enjoy lunch, games, music, raffles, and tours at this free community event! RSVP at svdpgeorgia.org/BP

Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Join SVdP on this global day of giving - volunteer, give, and spread hope.

Clark's Christmas Kids

November - December 2025



St. Vincent de Paul is the managing partner of this annual holiday gift drive providing Georgia's foster children with Christmas gifts through community donations and support.

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

The Host Committee Thanks You for Building a 2025

Morning of Hope



2025 Morning of Hope Host Committee

Rita Breen (Co-Chair)	Charles Jones
Louise Scott (Co-Chair)	Yolanda Jones-Thorton
Jane Bennett	Ben'a Klier
Jennifer Camp	Tara La Bouff
Charlotte Combre	Jay Mannelly
Tom Dailey	Pat McNulty
Drey Dennis	Phil Mooney
Charon Donaldson	Ann D. Pope
Tim Doyle	Shana Starks
Cynthia Edwards	Andrew Suesserman
Sue Hansen	Janice Wilson
Fritz Holzgreffe	William Wesley
Angela Ilse	

All event proceeds will be used when and where they are needed most to serve our Georgia Neighbors In Need.

Make Plans to Join Us on September 24, 2026!

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