



# Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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*Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston*

2403 Holcombe Blvd. Houston, TX 77021

**Annual Report**

**October 2021 - September 2022**

**Underserved Communities Program**

## I. THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (UCP) VISION

To create healthy, vibrant Conferences serving at-risk and distressed areas of Galveston-Houston.

## II. MEASURING THE PROGRAM IMPACT OF THE UCP

The Distressed Communities Index (DCI) is a tool for measuring the comparative economic well-being of U.S. communities and helps explain current disparities. It is derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's Business Patterns and American Community Survey for 2016-2020, which sorts zip codes into categories of well-being- prosperous, comfortable, mid-tier, at risk, and distressed. The measures for a community's economic well-being were based on the housing and poverty rates, education and median income level, numbers of adults not working, and the changes in establishment and employment. Thus, UCP was strategically designed and launched in the latter half of fiscal year 2021-2022 to address the immediate needs of people residing in at-risk and distressed areas of Galveston-Houston.

## III. HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

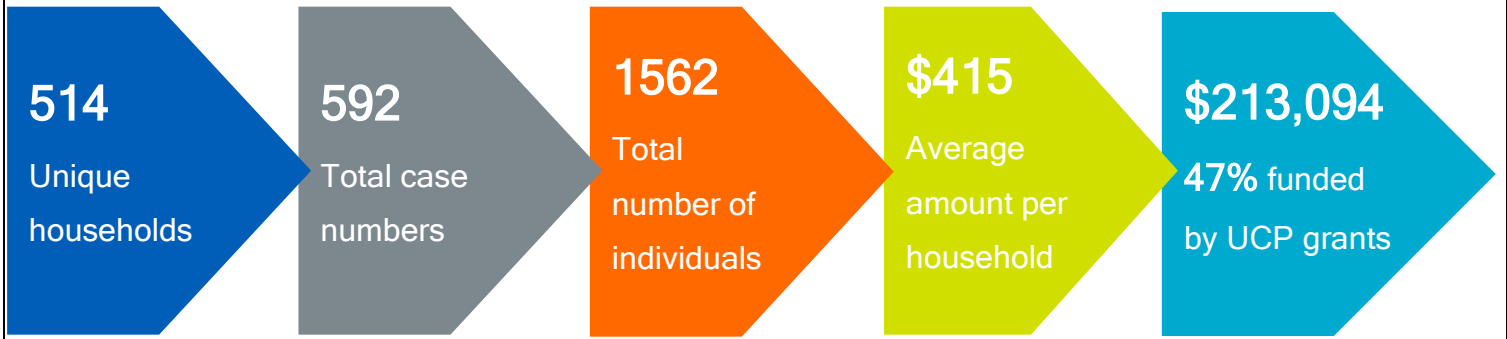
People across our ten-county area have experienced many adverse effects of Covid and national inflation. The number of people deemed homeless in the Houston region has been cut by 63% since 2011. Prior to this time, Houston had one of the largest homeless populations in the country. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has historically collaborated with other non-profits and governmental agencies to reduce housing insecurities and vulnerabilities, which has ultimately reduced the homeless population. A significant contributor has been the UCP program. To keep people in their homes and evade eviction notices, efforts in fundraising activity on behalf of this program was greatly increased through messaging and approaches to new funders who had not given previously. Key stakeholders, including the Marek Family, became actively involved in strategies with donors. As a result, many more UCP funds were available for distribution to Conferences to aid Houston homeless prevention efforts. By increasing the Conferences' ability to provide immediate relief to people in need, less people ended up homeless. With six Conferences providing more than \$100,000 of direct aid towards neighbors' basic needs, the UCP model yields optimism for program expansion. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul looks forward to building on this accomplishment and continuing this direct aid program. We thank all those who supported the efforts and contributed to its success!



Val Senegal, MA  
CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER



Ann Schorno  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

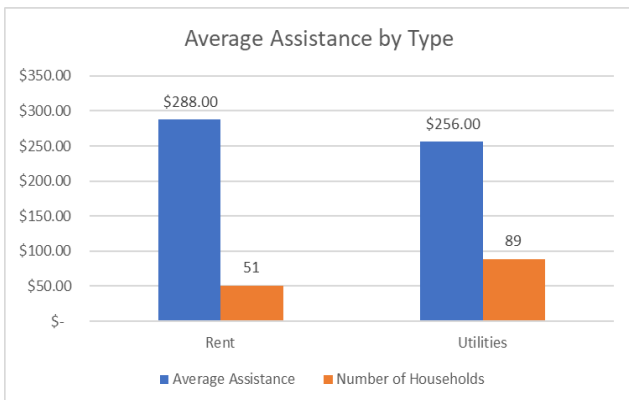


#### IV. INCREASED CONFERENCE CAPACITY

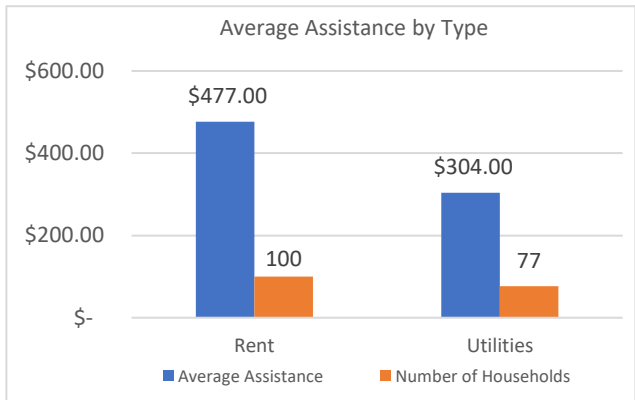
With 57 Conferences operating throughout our ten-county area, six serve primarily at-risk and distressed areas. Each of the six had a sufficient number of dedicated Vincentians ready to achieve the program’s mission but lacked financial resources to provide immediate relief to neighbors in need. As a pilot project for an effective program launch, assistance was provided to neighbors in Northside Village - 77009, Kashmere Gardens - 77026, and began in May of 2022 through the St. Patrick’s Conference. These areas have a per capita income of less than 21,000, and less than 2% of the population receiving cash government assistance.

In Northside Village, 38.8% of children and 23.3% of seniors are living below poverty; 48.3% spend more than 30% their income on rent. Only 45% of the population have homeownership. In Kashmere Gardens, 43.3% of children and 17.3% of seniors are living below poverty; 61.8% spend more than 30% income on rent. Only 36% of the population have homeownership. UCP funding made a significant impact in the amount of aid this Conference was able to provide those in need residing in these two distinct areas of Houston.

BEFORE MAY 2022 (7 months)

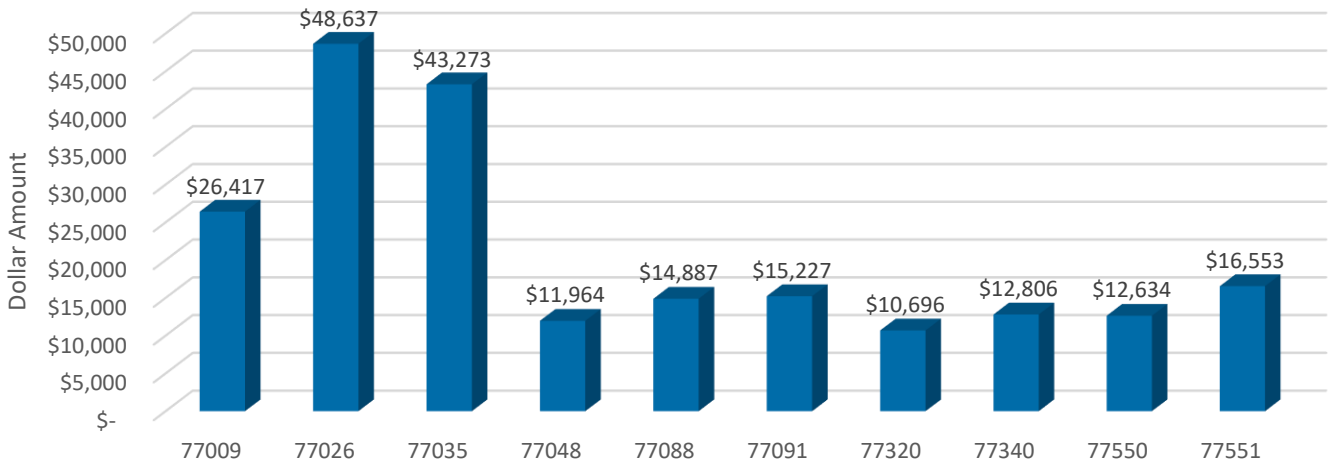


AFTER MAY 2022 (5 months)

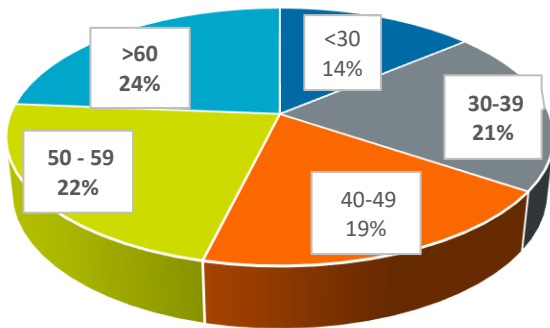


# V. UCP IMPACT DATA

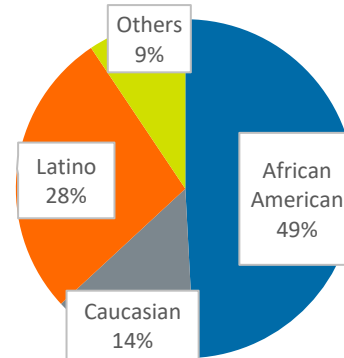
## Assistance by Zip Codes



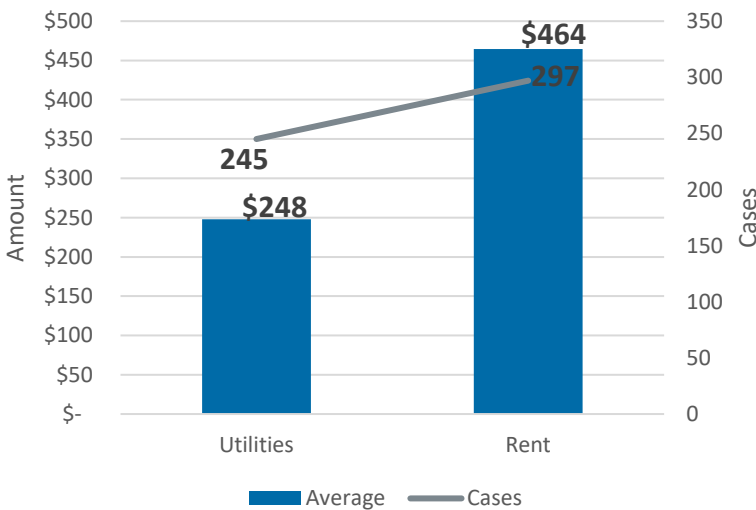
## Age Distribution



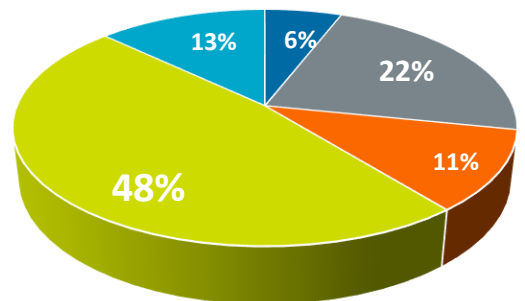
## Ethnicity Distribution



## Average Assistance

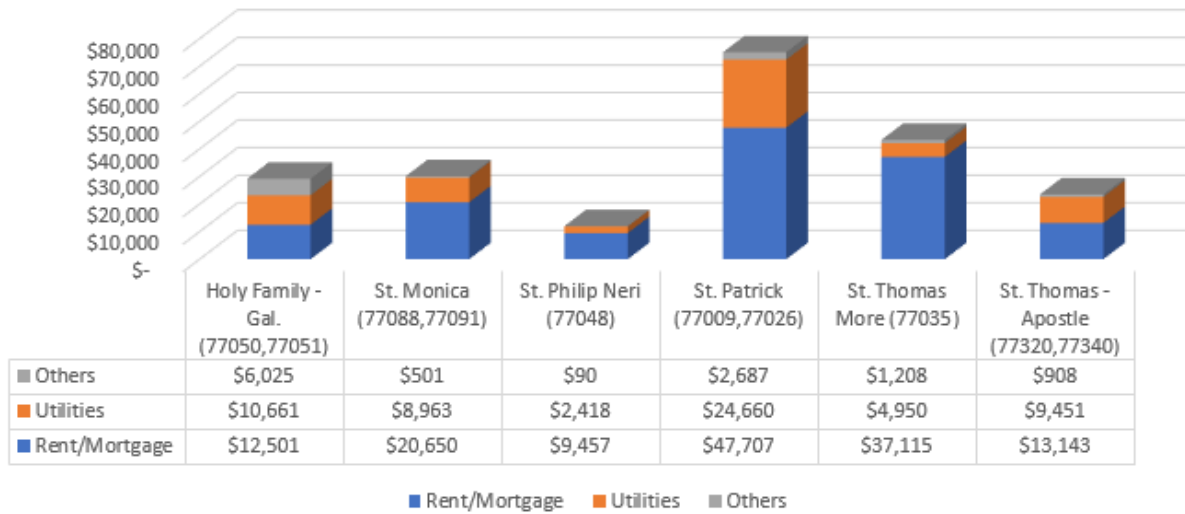


## Main Underlying Causes



■ COVID-19 ■ Fixed Income ■ Low Wages ■ Unemployment ■ Others

## Assistance by Type



## VI. UCP IMPACT STORIES



She left an abusive husband over a year ago. She has seven kids, and her emergency placement after leaving the marriage was in a dilapidated public housing unit where the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has historically helped numerous neighbors in need. Within months after moving into this public housing project, pipes burst and flooded the apartment. She lost most of her furniture and possessions. This caused displacement once again for three months in a hotel. The children slept in one room on air mattresses because the other bedroom is uninhabitable. She slept on the couch. Her rent was low, but she had to stop working eight months ago because her work-from-home job required high speed internet. The internet available at the public housing project was deemed insufficient and classified as "rural internet" despite the location being in the middle of Houston. She applied to become a manager at a Family Dollar Store at a pay rate of \$13 per hour, but there were transportation issues as she relied on public transportation to get to and from work. She would have been without help if it were not for funding of the Underserved Communities Program through St. Vincent de Paul. "I would have given up if you guys weren't here to help me," she told a Vincentian.

The St. Vincent de Paul conference at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church assisted approximately twenty families in September 2022. One family consisted of a mom with two children who was in need of assistance with rental payments. The family had recently moved following the death of the mom's mother, the children's grandmother. Assistance was needed because the family was about \$300 short of their \$600 monthly rent. Mom suffers from epilepsy, which prevents her from owning an automobile and significantly limits her employment options. The family receives \$840 in disability and \$300 in food stamps each month. The father does not contribute to child support. Volunteers contacted the property manager to inquire about the exact amount of rent due and discovered in addition to the rent amount of \$600, the family also owed \$120 on their deposit and \$23 for electricity. The total owed was \$743. Because of the *Underserved Community Program* funding, the entire \$743 was able to be paid to give mom some immediate relief in her situation. She was incredibly happy and broke down crying on the phone in gratitude. We also connected her to the local Housing Authorities in the hopes she could be eligible for subsidized housing. Vincentians prayed with mom before leaving and promised to stay in contact with the family.





This Houston neighbor is a parent of four children. She has lived in apartment complex for two years and has applied to several places for jobs but has not heard back yet. She lost her job due to complications of pregnancy. She is looking for a work-from-home or clerical position to accommodate her parental demands. She recently had a virtual interview for a job with Houston ISD. Unfortunately, she has used up all her savings and was in need of immediate relief when she came to St. Vincent de Paul. Her son receives \$700 a month in disability; she receives \$825 in food stamps and is getting WIC for the baby she recently had. Her rent is \$998 a month, but with utilities included it runs \$1,340 total each month. She owed rent for some of July and all of August and September. St. Vincent de Paul helped her to avoid eviction papers from being served to her with a monetary pledge, which was accepted by the landlord. She resides in the 77096-zip code area, and the *Underserved Community Program* funding made it possible to provide her with some

immediate relief during her difficult situation. As she cried in gratitude, "I am so very thankful for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul," she expressed to the Vincentians assisting her.

*"There are so few resources for people that are far behind in rent. We can help more people if we have more money. And if we have more reliable money, our conference would be more eager to aid those special circumstances people in need find themselves in during hardship."*

*~ St. Patrick Conference Vincentian*

## VII. PROGRAM ACTIVITY TIMELINE

