



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

2403 Holcombe Blvd. Houston, TX 77021

FY24 REPORT

October 2023 – September 2024

Underserved Communities Initiative

I. IMPACT SINCE INCEPTION

In efforts to achieve the organizational goals of creating **healthy, vibrant Conferences** and **increasing the mission's impact** by serving at-risk and distressed areas of Galveston-Houston, the UCI grant program launched in May 2022.

The requirements to enter the program are to:

1. Serve **at-risk** and/or **distressed** zip code areas of Galveston-Houston.
2. Use the **Case Management System (CMS)** software for recording home visit data.
3. Have a minimum of **8 - 11 active members** and be committed to continuous recruitment activities to welcome Spanish speaking and less than age 60 members; and
4. Complete the **revitalization** process in the previous 6 months OR performed a **Conference Assessment** within the past 3 years.

Phase I of the program is designed to **improve the financial capacity** of Conferences.

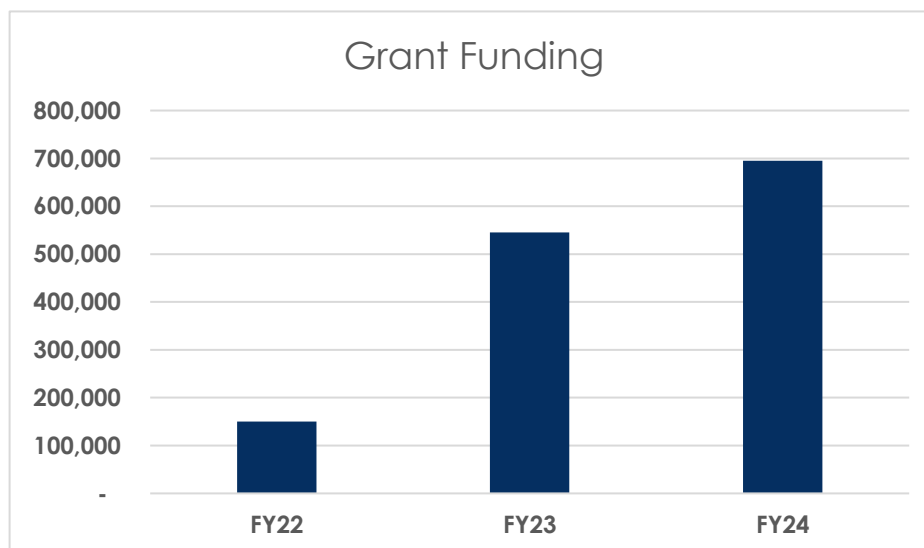
- **Holy Family (Galveston) - \$10K per month**
- **St. Monica (Acres Homes) - \$10K per month**
- **St. Patrick (Kashmere Gardens) - \$10K per month**
- **St. Thomas Apostle (Huntsville) - \$5K per month**
- **St. Thomas More (Westbury) - \$10K per month**

Phase II is designed to **improve both financial and human capacity** issues that hinder Conferences from becoming healthier and more vibrant to serve Galveston-Houston.

- **St. Ambrose (Northside) - \$5K per month**
- **St. Mary Purification (Third Ward) - \$5K per month**
- **St. Philip Neri (Sunnyside) - \$5K per month**
- **St. Thomas Aquinas (Alief) - \$5K per month**

St. Ambrose and St. Philip Neri experienced a pause in funding due to a decrease in home visits.

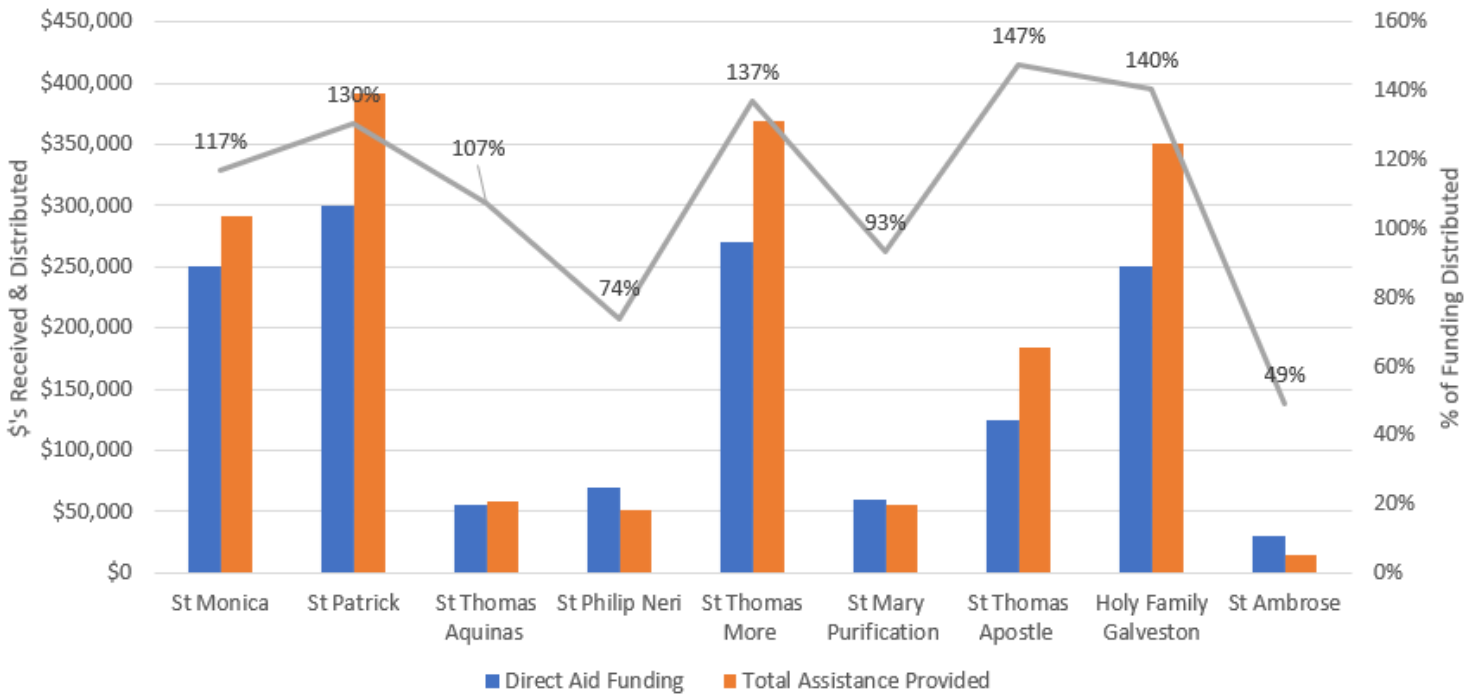
Phase III is anticipated to launch in fiscal year 2025 by opening two new Conferences. Projected these two Conferences to receive \$2.5K each month to launch their home visit program.



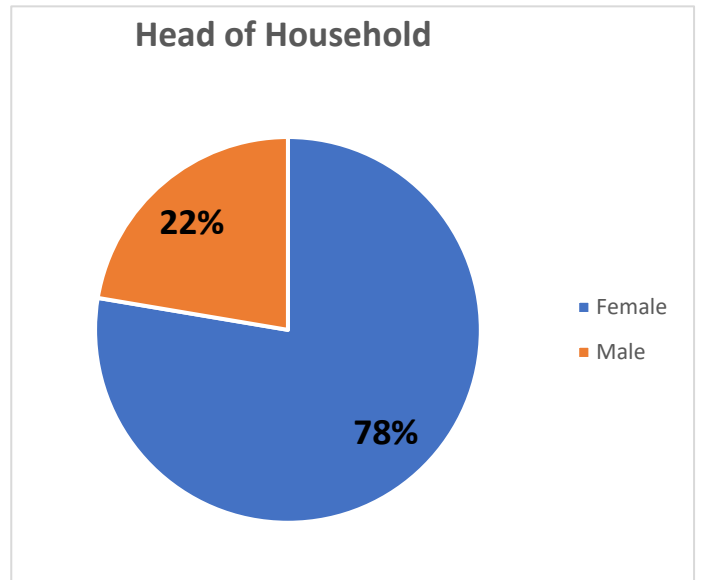
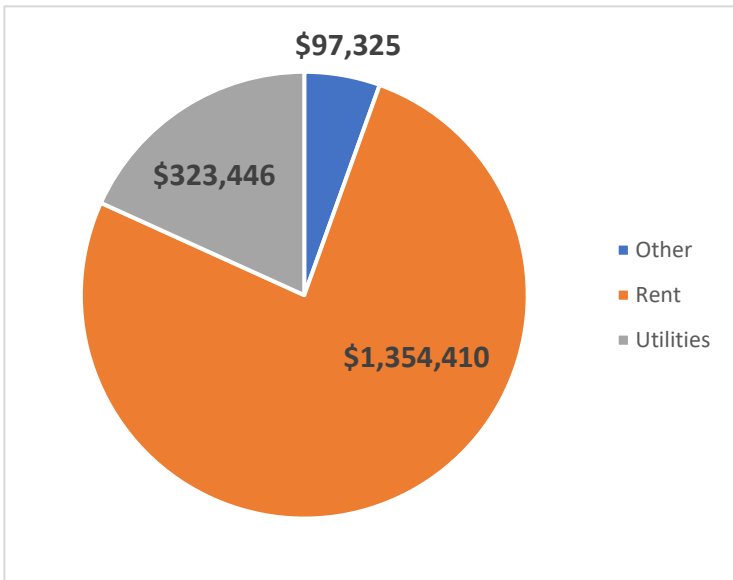
>\$1.3M
Grant funding to support underserved communities through the Home Visit program to decrease the financial hardship of Greater Houston area families.

363% increase in grant funding since inception

Performance 5/2022 - 9/2024



>\$1.7M to almost 10K people across Galveston- Houston



>4K Children were kept safe in their homes, schools, and communities because funding evaded displacement.

>3K households have been impacted by this program's funding since May 2022.

Mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and sisters are more likely to turn to the Society for relief during times of crisis.

II. FY24 COMMUNITY IMPACT

St. Mary Purification in **Third Ward** and **St. Thomas Aquinas** servicing **Alief** were added to the program in the Fall of 2023.

St. Ambrose in **Northside area** of Houston was added in the Spring of 2024.

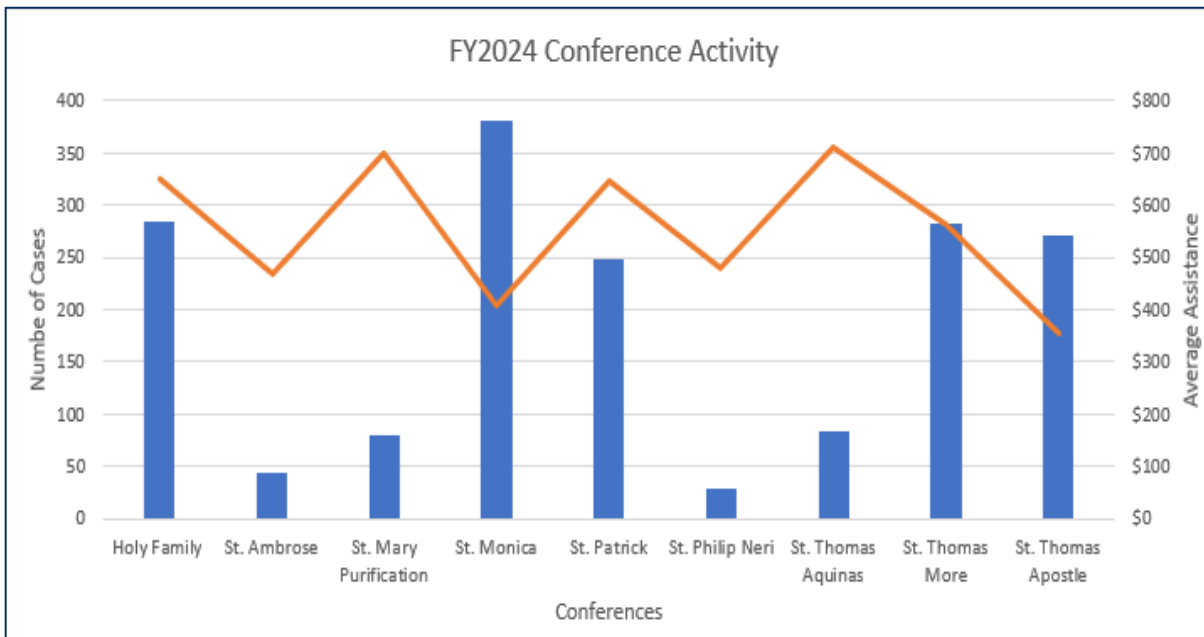
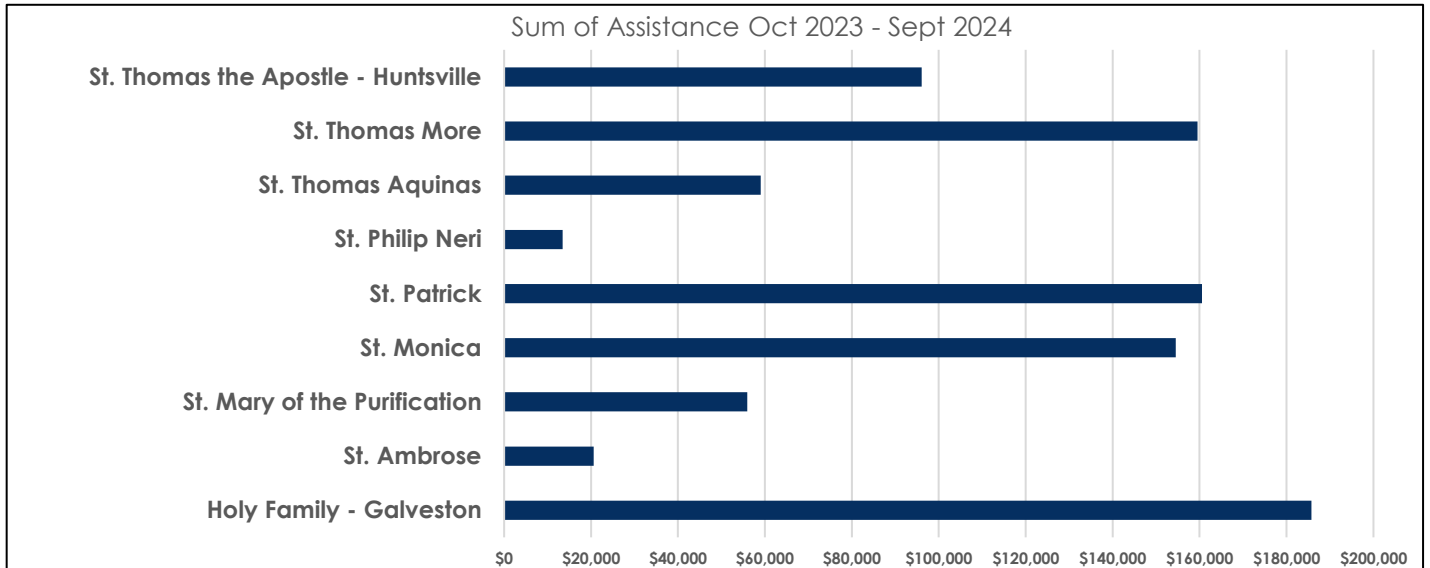
St. Philip Neri in **Sunnyside** returned to the program in April 2024.

Achieved a total of 9 conferences funded by the UCI grant program.



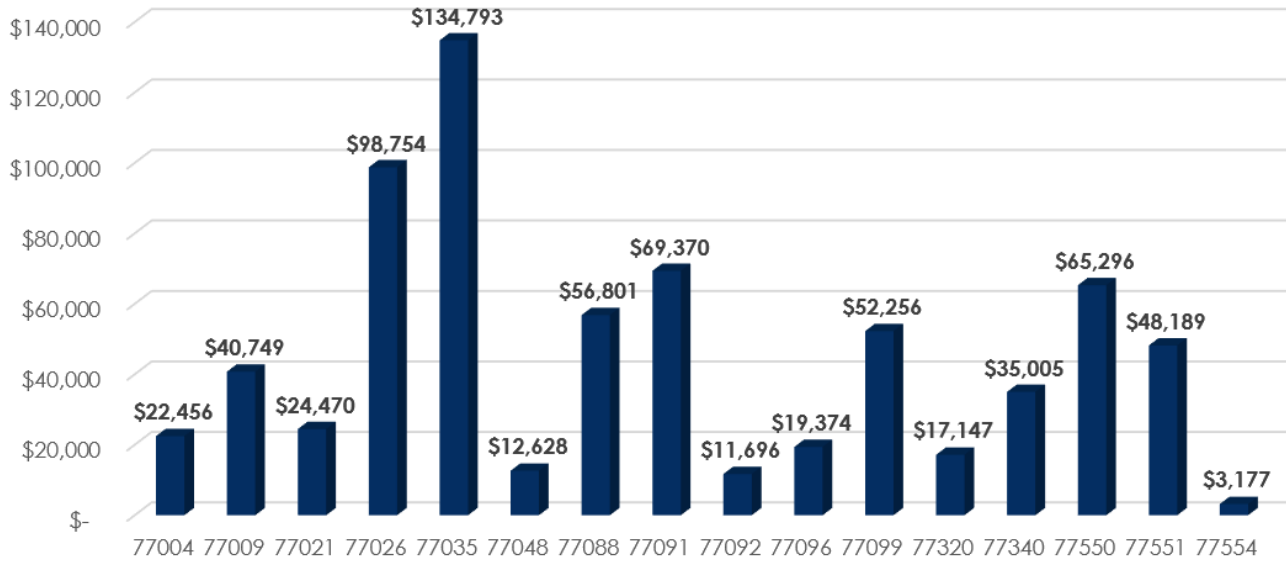
Each quarter, Vincentians performed **>400** home visit cases in underserved areas and provided **>\$200K** of financial assistance. **79%** rental assistance for families to **evade homelessness**.

Federally declared disasters, **Derecho Winds** and **Hurricane Beryl** resulted in several underserved areas being without power increasing the need for financial relief.



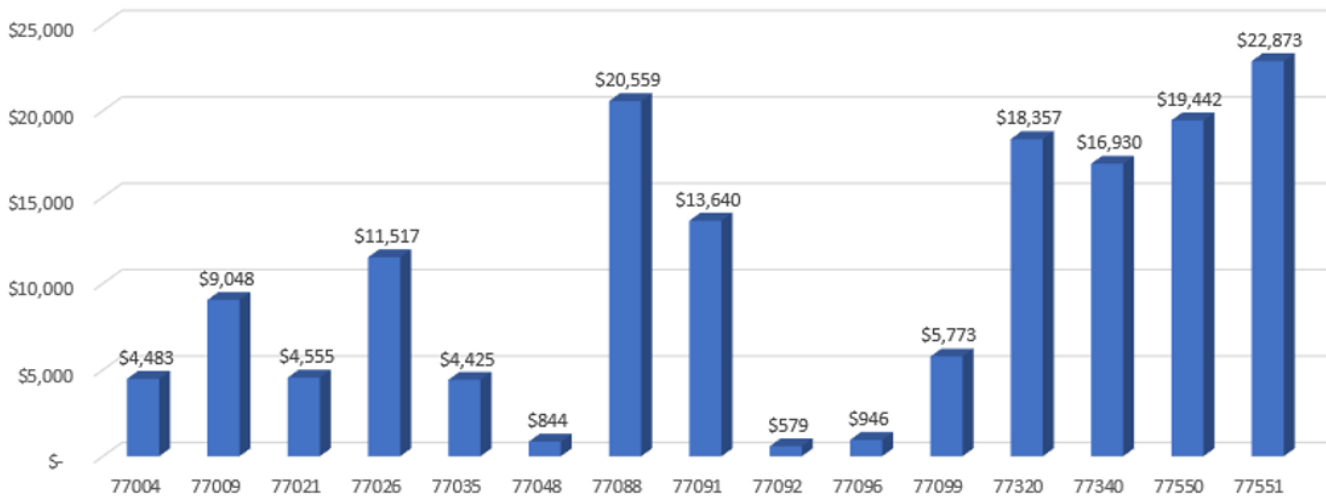
Acres Homes experienced the highest number of cases from Oct '23 – Sept '24

Housing Assistance by Zip Code



**Avg housing assistance \$657
Homelessness Prevention**

Utility Assistance by Zip Code



**Avg utility assistance \$264
Keeping water and lights on so that children can be
clean, fed, and educated.**



5027 unduplicated individuals evaded homelessness and utility disconnections.

48% of the households served had children.

A survey of neighbors who received financial assistance from the Underserved Communities Initiative's grant program revealed that

>50% felt like their financial situation improved after experiencing the home visit.

III. PROGRAM IMPACT STORIES



Ed is 71 years of age and has worked in the construction field all his life. He retired at 64 due to a medical issue that kept him hospitalized for several months. His wife is 57 years old and cannot work in order to be able to care for Ed. The couple lives on Ed's social security payment of just over \$1,600 per month. The couple lives frugally and is typically able to make ends meet.

The recent storms in Walker County caused the couple to lose power twice and all food in their refrigerator and freezer. Additionally, the cost of having trees cleared from around their

home resulted in the inability to pay for Ed's medications. He was in the Medicare hole paying a 25 % cost for medications.

He contacted the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with a request for assistance and informed Vincentians that his prescriptions were at two different pharmacies. He had called around to get the best price, and the final cost both prescriptions was **\$386**. Vincentians were able to pay for one prescription on-line and a Vincentian met Ed at the second pharmacy to pay for the other prescription.

"Because Ed may be in the same situation next year, Vincentians recommended he visit the BCVAP office and apply for assistance. If successful, this should put him in a better financial position to pay in the future. If not, we will, God willing, assist him next year," the St. Thomas Apostle President stated.



The Johnson family purchased a trailer in 2023 on small plot of land after securing a job in real estate, and established a garden, as well as goats and chickens. Their goal was to live as self-sufficiently as possible. The land had no record of historical flooding, which is why they did not purchase flood insurance.

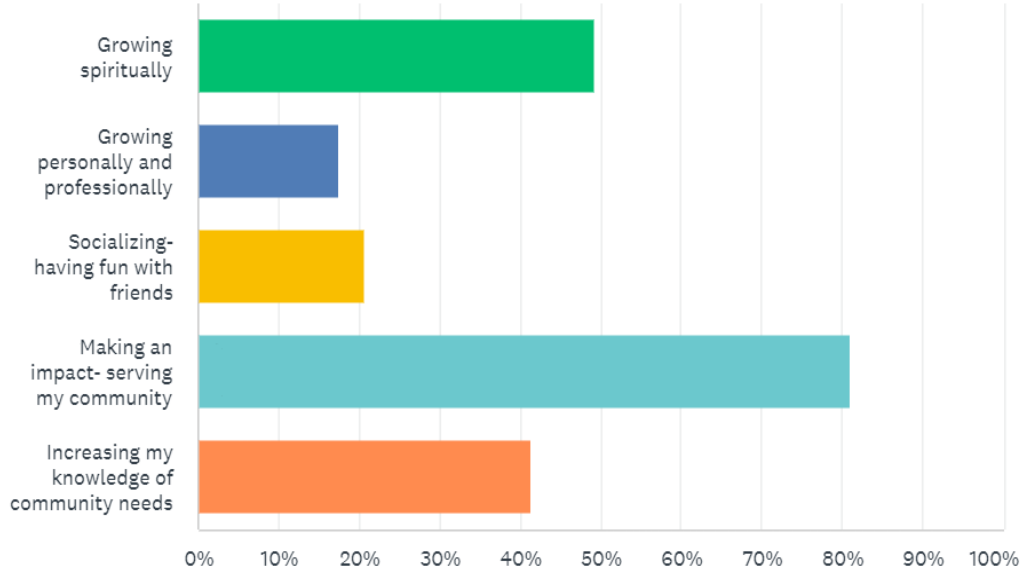
The home was flooded in the disaster; they lost the mom's car and many possessions including 14 goats and 70 chickens. Fortunately, dad's truck was off-site and had not flooded so he was able to still get to work. The pastor of their church provided them with a

house to live in while they discerned what to do next.

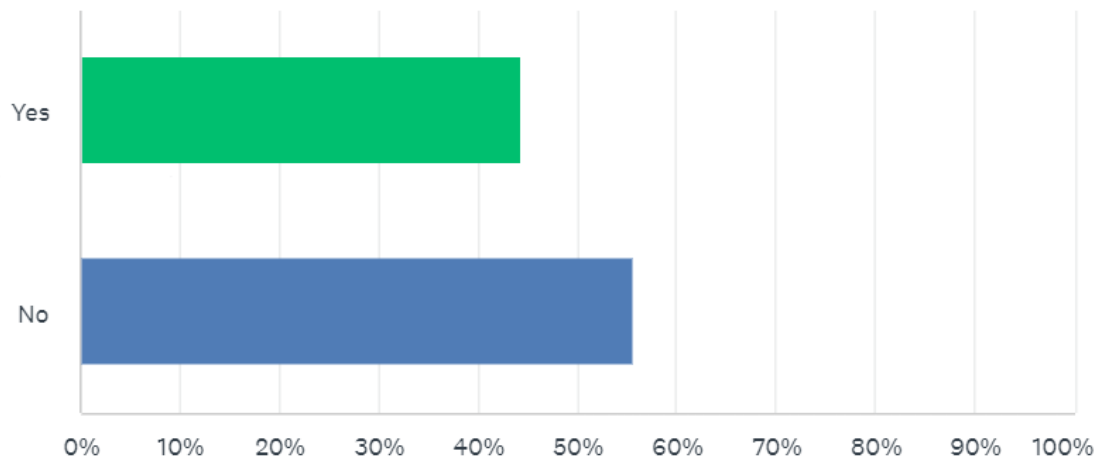
Initially, the conference provided **over \$100** in assistance to pay for groceries and a utility bill. Dad had to go out of town for work, but his truck needed heavy maintenance in order to make it safely out of town. The conference paid an **additional \$800** for the repairs and insurance. "We were able to provide this level of assistance solely because of the Underserved Community Program grant and additional funds we received from our parishioners for flood assistance," reported the Conference Vice President.

How is the Society progressing towards building healthy, vibrant conferences to continue increasing its mission impact? Over 60 Vincentians reported:

What do you like most about being a Vincentian?

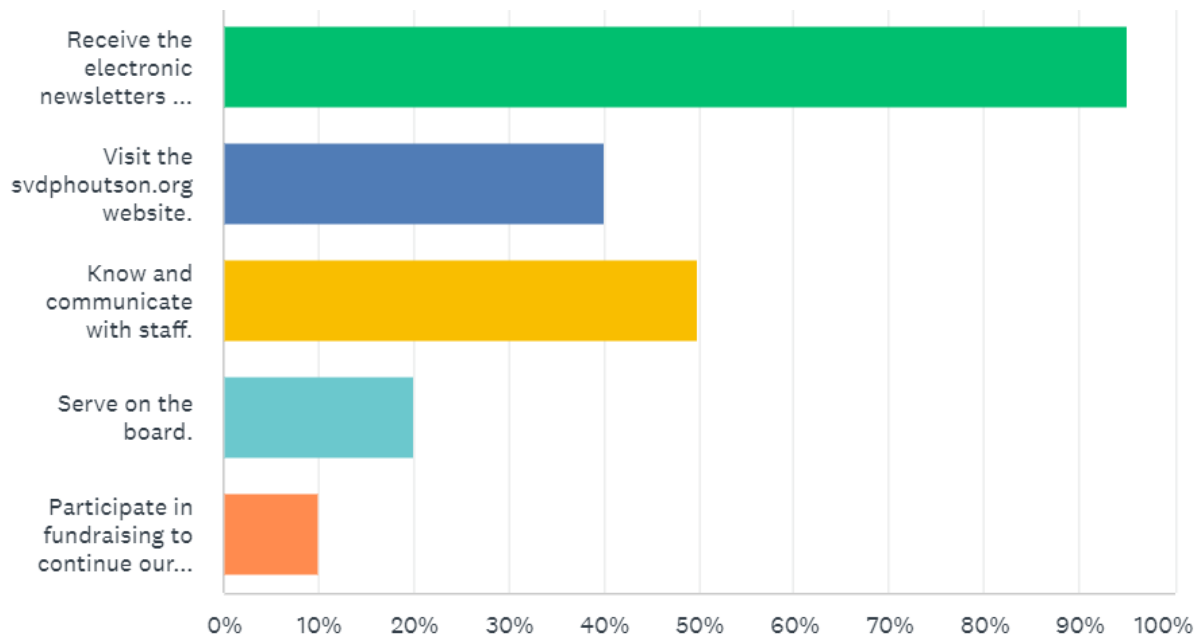


Have you recently attended any district meetings held by your Archdiocesan District President?

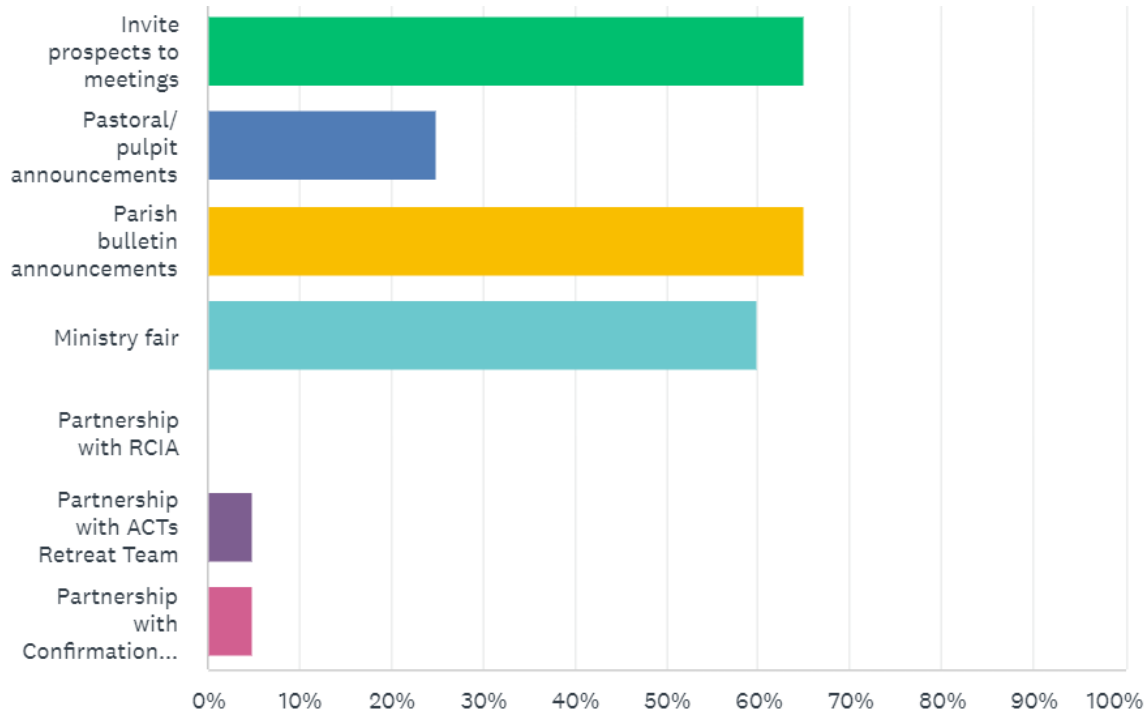


Schedule conflicts & personal bandwidth are the top 2 reasons members expressed why they could not attend.

Interaction with Council?



What type of recruitment activities does your Conference do?



Opportunity areas for members to focus on in FY25 are RCIA, ACTs retreats, and Youth ministries.

View the *Underserved Communities Initiative* videos by visiting the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocese of Galveston Houston** [YouTube Channel](#)

