



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

St. Vincent Times SVDP Archdiocese Galveston-Houston Council

April 15, 2025 Issue

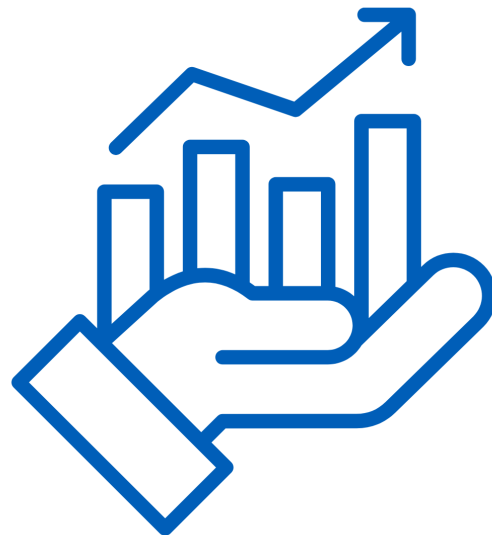
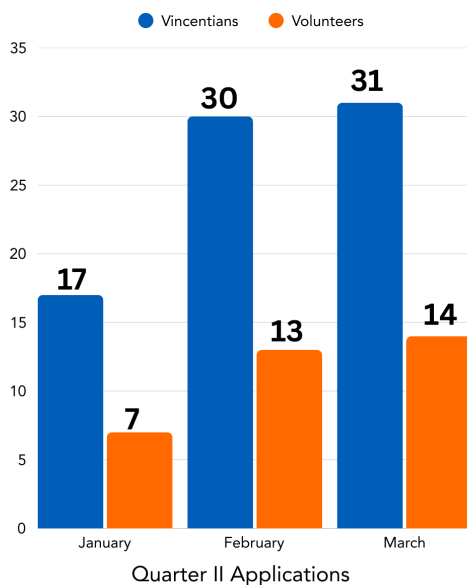


Rule 3.4 Fraternity and Simplicity

Meetings are held in a spirit of fraternity, simplicity and Christian joy.

Be the face of Christ. See the face of Christ.

Quarter II: January 2025-March 2025



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
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In Quarter II, Vincenian Services received a total of **112** applications.

As of March 30, 2025 **\$690,389** has been distributed to Conferences.

Whoever is kind to
the poor lends to
the Lord, and will
be repaid in full.

PROVERBS 19:17



Christ is near to the brokenhearted—because of you.

As we enter this Holy Week, we are reminded that Christ walked the way of suffering not just for us—but with us. As Vincentians, you walk that same road with our most vulnerable neighbors.

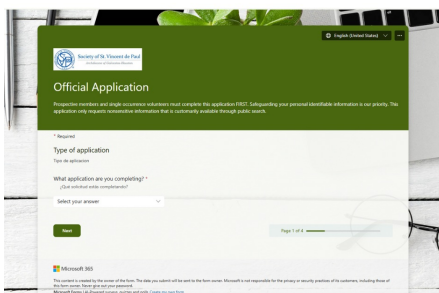
You meet them at their point of greatest need—whether it's a mother searching for how to make her paycheck stretch, a senior trying to budget enough for food, or a family praying to stay in their home.

Your Lenten gift is more than a donation. It is an act of mercy. A step alongside someone who feels abandoned. A beacon of hope that Easter light is coming.

Will you help us continue this mission of mercy as we journey toward Easter?

[Click Here to Make Your Lenten Offering](#)

MEMBERSHIP/VOLUNTEER APPLICATION HAS A NEW LOOK!



Please be aware that the Apricot application link is no longer active.

Launched on April 1, 2025, this Microsoft Office application is more user-friendly.

Click the link below to access the Microsoft Office application:

[MEMBERSHIP/VOLUNTEER APPLICATION](#)

We are each familiar with the calls to action required to address the many needs in the world. And we celebrate the profound joy that comes from growing in holiness through our response to Christ's call to feed



the hungry, clothe the naked, give shelter to the homeless, welcome the stranger, minister to the sick, and visit the prisoner. The work of every Vincentian and volunteer is a vital lifeline for countless people in need — individuals and families often standing at the brink of despair, searching for a glimmer of hope. Every year, we are faced with new challenges and opportunities. The world is constantly evolving. So how do we respond as we answer the call to serve? [CONTINUE READING HERE](#)



Upcoming getFED Topics:

Thursday, April 24, 2025
12:15PM-1:00PM
 "Celebrating Essential Elements"

Tuesday, May 13, 2025
7:00PM-7:45PM
 Guidance on Enforcement Agencies

[Click Here](#) to register for the next Formation Events.

Calendar of Events:

May	June	July
Guidance on Enforcement Agencies	<p>June 7, 2025 Ozanam Orientation (District 6) St. Anthony of Padua 7801 Bay Branch Dr., The Woodlands, TX 77382 8:30AM-2:30PM</p> <p>June 28, 2025 Advance Home Visit</p>	<p>VIRTUAL</p> <p>Ozanam Orientations: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 6:30PM-8:30 PM</p> <p>&</p> <p>Thursday, July 17, 2025 6:30PM-8:30PM</p>

	Training St. Cecilia 11720 Joan of Arc Drive Houston, Tx 77024 8:30am - 1:00pm	Summer Learning Series
August	September	October
Summer Learning Series	TBD	Leadership Training Begins!
November	December	January
TBD	TBD	TBD

View the **Formation** page on the Council website

GAP Announcements

As we prepare to graduate our latest cohort of Getting Ahead Participants, we want to remind you that referrals to the program are welcome. The ideal candidates are individuals who are facing challenges and are ready to make positive changes, rather than those in immediate crisis.

We will start assessing applicants in May, with the next session commencing in July. You can find the online application [here](#).

RSVP for Graduation Ceremony [HERE](#)



May 2025 Getting Ahead Facilitator Training Webinar

Wednesday, **May 14th 10:30 am–1:30 pm** CT and Wednesday, **May 21st 10:30 am–1:30 pm** CT

Conferences and Councils across the county are implementing Getting Ahead in a Just - Getting-By world, a comprehensive program that empowers individuals to build their own personal plans for economic security and create systemic change. The online Facilitator Training Webinars will equip you with the knowledge and resources to start a Getting Ahead program in your area or get involved with the Council Getting Ahead Program. Registration closes on **May 7th** to allow for ordering/shipping/reading books from aha! Process. Make sure you order materials as soon as possible.

[Register Here](#)

Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World is a licensed work of *aha! Process, Inc.* The National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a licensed provider of facilitator training for the Getting Ahead program.

Texas Only - HB 476 to Create Predatory Lending Controls

A message from Michael Pazzaglini, Regional Vice-President, South Central Region:

You know the faces behind the numbers—neighbors crushed by predatory payday and title loans, paying over 600% APR just to survive a rough patch. We're on the front lines, working tirelessly to bring about a **systemic change** in their lives by breaking the never-ending cycle of predatory loan debt.

HB 476 can change this. It's a bill that caps interest at 36% and adds fair rules—practical steps to ease the burden on those we serve. But it's stalled without a public hearing, and the clock's ticking toward April 28th. Your voice as a Vincentian carries weight—our representatives need to hear how this hits the people we stand with every day.

Please take five minutes: **call or write your representative**. Tell them you're a Vincentian and share a story of someone we've helped. This isn't just policy—it's our mission in action. Together, we can protect our neighbors and preserve our ability to serve. **Deadline for action is April 28th!**

RESPOND HERE!



Food Pantry Network Announcement

This announcement only applies to Conferences that operate a food pantry under the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocese of Galveston Houston and Houston Food Bank contract.

It's been three years since we started using *Agular: Case Management System (CMS)* to provide the data requested by Houston Food Bank.

HFB's preferred system, *Link 2 Feed*, has made several enhancements, while our system, *CMS*, has not made any improvements to the Food Pantry function to adhere to Houston Food Bank requirements.

L2F keeps up with changes in requirements by USDA, and these new developments at L2F support SVdP pantries making the switch to L2F, which provides the best interface for both parties.

It's important for food pantries to have a good user experience, which L2F offers.

HFB will provide training and technical support to implement L2F since they aim for all partners to be on this platform.

This will remove issues of nonconformance with applications during the annual audit; some of our biggest pantries, St. Paul, St. Mary in Texas City, and St. Rose of Lima, use L2F and have reported successes.

Please contact your CPL about switching to L2F by **October 31, 2025**.

We are continuing our commitment to the *Agular: Case Management System (CMS)* for Conference operations and financial functions.



How to Update Your Software

One of the simplest and most effective ways to protect yourself online is by keeping your software and apps up to date. Hackers are constantly searching for vulnerabilities to exploit, and software developers work just as hard to patch those security gaps. Regular updates help safeguard your devices and fix bugs alongside introducing new features. However, you can only benefit from the security fixes if you install updates promptly! [Read More Here](#)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



SVDP Archdiocese Galveston Houston Council

[Member Portal](#)



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



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