



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Our Mission

Inspired by Gospel values, we grow spiritually through person to person service to all in need in our community. Our actions promote the dignity of the person, alleviate suffering and distress, while addressing the conditions that cause them through systemic change.

Our Vision

We are a community actively living our faith by loving and providing hope to our neighbors. We envision a future where access to financial and social resources is not limited by where one lives.

Our Essential Elements

Spirituality. Friendship. Service.

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present to you our Annual Report for the fiscal year 2023, which encapsulates the impactful journey and achievements by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. As we reflect on the past year, it is with immense gratitude and pride that we share the remarkable progress we have made, thanks to the unwavering support of donors, partners, and our dedicated team of Vincentian volunteers.

Our commitment to making a positive impact in our local community has resulted in significant strides. We are delighted to report that 56% of all funding was spent on direct aid to prevent homelessness and keeping utilities operational for over 11,000 families in our 10-county service area.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our major donors whose generosity and commitment have played a pivotal role in fueling our mission. Your contributions have been instrumental in driving our initiatives forward, and we are immensely grateful for your trust and support.

Our report features four inspiring success stories that exemplify the transformative impact of our work. These stories highlight the resilience, determination, and positive outcomes experienced by individuals or communities directly affected by our programs.

A transparent and accountable financial overview is a cornerstone of our commitment to integrity. The enclosed financial summary provides a comprehensive view of our fiscal responsibility and stewardship.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming initiatives that will allow us to expand our reach and deepen our impact. We invite you to join us on this journey as we continue to strive for excellence and positive change.

To sustain and enhance our efforts, we have set ambitious fundraising goals for the coming year. Your continued support is vital to achieving these objectives and making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our success. Your support, whether through time, resources, or advocacy, has been invaluable.

We invite you to delve into the pages of our Annual Report to gain a deeper understanding of the impact we have collectively achieved. We remain committed to our mission and look forward to the continued collaboration that will drive positive change in the years to come.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Sincerely,



Ann Schorno
Executive Director



Gerardo Rivera
Board President

BOARD MEMBERS

Gerardo Rivera
President

Michael Zarich
Vice President

Ajoy Menezes
Treasurer

Connie Steward
Secretary

Deacon Charlie Buhay
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District 3 President

Janice Chatham
District 4 President

Ladd Puskus
District 5 President

Robin Riley
District 6 President

Patricia Marin
District 7 President

Sister Maureen O'Connell, OP
At-Large Member

COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Ann Schorno
Executive Director

Val Senegal
Chief Program Officer

Kirk Vogeley
Director of Finance

Pura Santangelo
Director of Vincentian Services

Daniella Marquez
Director of Development



1. Keeping people, like Denise Johnson, housed. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul provided over \$3.6 million in rental assistance in 2023 to help 6,800 families avoid homelessness.

2. Alleviating hunger for 27,000 families. With 16 food pantries in our food network, serving 10 counties in the greater Galveston-Houston area, our neighborhood-based pantries provided families with access to nutritious food.

3. Promoting systemic change. Our Resiliency program: “Getting Ahead” is an innovative 16-week program designed to empower individuals facing economic challenges to build lasting resilience. In 2023, 36 individuals participated and successfully completed the program, more than double the number of participants from the previous year.



4. Living our mission. Our dedicated volunteers invested over 144,000 hours of their precious time to serving our community and neighbors in need, which is equivalent to 69 full-time staff and over \$4 million in value.

5. Creating The Legacy. The 2023 ‘Creating the Legacy’ dinner raised record-breaking funds. With over \$550,000 raised, the event was the most successful fundraising dinner to date in Council history. The event was co-chaired by Katherine and Dr. Brian Parsley, and Brenda and Nick Lanza.

6. Gathering at the National Assembly. The SVdP National Assembly is a unique opportunity to come together with hundreds of Vincentians from across the country. We are grateful for our Houston area members who traveled to the St. Louis assembly full of shared knowledge, experience and the Vincentian charism.



7. Renewing joy through service. Vincentians gathered at the 2023 General Assembly themed “Renewing Your Joy in Service” for camaraderie and connection, and to learn from keynote speakers James Davis, Spiritual Advisor for the South Central Region, and Tim Williams, Director of Formation for the National Council.

8. Continuing formation and training. The Society hosted three Ozanam Orientations in 2023 and welcomed 175 new members into our Vincentian family.

9. Celebrating friendships. During National Volunteer Week, the Society celebrated with a Vincentian Appreciation Celebration! It was beautiful to see members council-wide gather and share our essential elements together: spirituality, friendship, and service.

YOUR 2023 IMPACT

Together, with the support of our donors, community partners and Vincentian members with boots on the ground, we faithfully served thousands of neighbors during their time of need. Thank you for standing with us and being an essential part of the impact we're making across the Galveston-Houston area. We cannot do this without you!

\$12.9 million

GIVEN IN DIRECT AID IN 2023

98,000

INDIVIDUALS SERVED

\$5 million

RENT & UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

29,000

HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED

16

FOOD PANTRIES SERVING
OUR COMMUNITY

94%

OF EVERY DOLLAR RAISED WENT TO
PROGRAMS AND DIRECT AID



Gratitude in Action: Unveiling the Power of Your Generosity

We extend sincere appreciation to our major donors for transforming lives in 2023. Service to others relies on these community leaders and the work of many. Thank you for your trust as every gift brings hope into the lives of our neighbors in need.

THE ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH A. FIORENZA ENDOWMENT

The Fondren Foundation
The Gremillion Family
Gross Family
Marek Family Foundation
Jan and Bruce Marek
Kathy and Paul Marek
Reinnette and Stan Marek
Pat and Gene Reed
Scanlan Foundation
Boone Schwartzel
Raye G. White

CREATING THE LEGACY EVENT UNDERWRITERS

Underserved Communities Initiative Level
\$100,000+

David E. Harvey
Stan Marek
Gene Reed

Home Visit Level
\$50,000

Strake Foundation

Resiliency Level
\$25,000+

Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
The Lemming Family
Raye G. White

Vincentian Services Level
\$10,000+

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Ann and Clarence Cazalot
Beth Robertson

Food Network Level
\$5,000+

Deacon Charlie and Marie Buhay
Ellen and Paige Cokinos

Friends of Brenda Lanza
Susan and Kirby Greteman
Judge Joseph "Tad" and Susan Halback
Edgar Hancock
Peggy and Hugh Idstein
Ginger and John Niemann
Brenda and Nick Lanza
Stacy and Michael Medrano
Katherine and Brian Parsley
Pierpont Communications
Kathy and Rick Plaeger
Cathy and Gerardo Rivera
Linda and Matt Ryan
St. Anne Catholic Community
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Val Senegal
Caren and John Steffes
Paula and Steve Winter

COMMUNITY PARTNERS & LEADERSHIP DONORS

Major Giving \$5,000+

Anonymous
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Mary Ann Beachler
Alfonso Caballero
Harry S. and Isabel C. Cameron Foundation
Mark Chambers
Chevron Humankind Matching Gift Program
Dona and Albert Clay
The David Bobbie Colley Charitable Gift Fund
The Cullen Foundation
The James and Theresa Dechene Charitable Fund
Mary Pat DeLozier
The Dennison Family Foundation
Disaster Services Corporation
Donald Dominy
Robert Duffy
Buck Elkins

Elkins Foundation
David Finan
Janice and David Garvis
The George Foundation
Sheila Heimbinder
Henderson-Wessendorf Foundation
The Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation
Susan and Michael Holland
Houston Food Bank
Cathy and Mojtaba Irantalab
The Kalman Foundation
John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation
Lewis and Joan Lowenstein Foundation
M.D. Anderson Foundation
Marek Family Foundation
Frances McConnell
The Medallion Foundation Inc.
The Medrano Family Foundation
Laura and Chris Nevins
Robert L. Northrup
The John M. O'Quinn Foundation
Louise and Robert Parsley
Fred Pisciotta
T.R. Reckling
Cindi Ruder
Matthew Ryan
Robert Saltiel
Sanchez Family Foundation
The Sarofim Foundation
Service Corporation International
Shell Oil Company Foundation
Aimee and Wynne Snoots
Sterling-Turner Foundation
Strake Foundation
Randall Thompson
United Way Worldwide
Jessica and Eugene Voiland
Raye G. White
Patti and Paul Yetter

2023 'Creating the Legacy' dinner raised record breaking funds

On September 14, 2023, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston held its third annual 'Creating The Legacy' dinner at River Oaks Country Club benefitting our fund that supports the endowment and expansion of services to help those in need within our community.

This year, the honoree was the Scanlan Foundation which recently celebrated its 75th anniversary furthering the mission of the Catholic Church in Texas.

"We were excited to be able to share an update on our Underserved Communities Initiative which is being funded from proceeds from our endowment and from this evening's proceeds," said Ann Schorno, Executive Director.

The event was co-chaired by Katherine and Dr. Brian Parsley, and Brenda and Nick Lanza. Over \$550,000 was raised through significant underwriting and a generous crowd that contributed the night of the event, making it a record fundraiser for the Society.

Established by the Marek Family Foundation in 2021 in honor of Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, the goal for the endowment fund is to generate \$1 million annually to ensure the expansion of services for the future.

Since the inception of this initiative, the Society has built capacity in six underserved communities, distributing over \$800,000 in direct aid.

Scan the QR code to see the impact of Creating a Legacy at work!



Looking Ahead

As a volunteer-based agency with a dual mission, we help those we serve achieve a better quality of life for themselves and their families, and help our members grow spiritually through service to our neighbors and communities in the Greater Houston area.

Composed of 56 parish-based groups called Conferences, these independent groups of five to 100+ people put their faith in action by responding to the needs of people in their local community.

Our small yet efficient structure facilitates direct connections with individuals in need, while also providing access to a wealth of support resources and collaborative partnerships with social agencies, enabling us to empower the needy towards self-sufficiency.

The low administrative cost in our volunteer-based structure allows us to deliver the fullest services to our neighbors in need. Of the funds we raise each year, 94% goes directly back into the community through support of our programs.

To better serve our neighbors in need, we recognize the need for our members to reflect the diverse population of the greater Galveston-Houston area and to expand our services to additional underserved communities in distressed areas.

STRATEGIC GOALS TO ACHIEVE BY 2025:

Increase membership among younger and more diverse members

40% OF MEMBERS WILL BE AGE 60 AND YOUNGER

Expand presence in underserved communities

FUND 12 CONFERENCES IN DISTRESSED AREAS

Grow and support resiliency programs

178 INDIVIDUALS WILL GRADUATE FROM 'GETTING AHEAD' PROGRAM

Develop additional volunteer opportunities to attract and retain members



“Bless you all for helping me during this unfortunate time of my life. The VA caseworker told me she had a backlog of cases and I’m so far down that it was completely discouraging to continue trying to seek help from them. I pray you all are as blessed as you’ve been able to bless me.”

Because of your generous support, our Vincentians at the St. Thomas Aquinas conference helped keep 95-year old veteran Robert in his assisted living residence. His \$1707 monthly income was not enough to cover the bill of \$2500. This shortage of \$793 was prayerfully considered and decided upon by the two Vincentians who visited his home. Funding for this aid was made possible through a grant through our Underserved Communities Initiative.

The Underserved Communities Initiative (UCI)

The Underserved Communities Initiative began in 2021, as a response to our vision: *"We envision a future where access to financial and social resources is not limited by where one lives."*

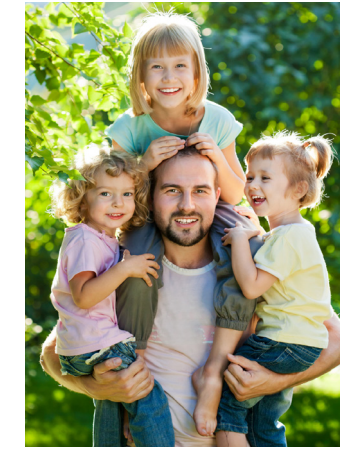
Leveraging data from the Distressed Communities Index, a tool for measuring the comparative economic well-being of U.S. communities, a grant funding program for Conferences was launched in May 2022 to address disparities across the Greater Houston area.

In fiscal year 2023, six conferences distributed \$702,200 in direct aid to 3,800 individuals in the following communities: Acres Home, Galveston, Huntsville, Northside Village/Kashmere Gardens, Southwest Houston, and Sunnyside.

Our goal is to more than double the communities served by 2025.

Jackson's Journey to Overcome Adversity

Jackson, a devoted 33-year-old father of three, struggled to provide for his family despite earning an associate degree in refrigeration mechanics and securing a job with a local HVAC company.



With sole custody of his kids and the added responsibility of caring for his ailing mother, financial strains were constant. Not receiving child support payments, coupled with his mother's mounting medical bills, pushed him to the brink. Additionally, his car was on the verge of collapse, exacerbating his stress.

Jackson reached out to the Holy Family parish conference in Galveston for help. Through their Underserved Communities Initiative, he received vital car repairs, easing a significant burden. Jackson's gratitude was palpable as he thanked the Society, "Thank you all for helping me during this rough patch in my life."



Cassandra's Courage: From Shelter to Stability

When our Vincentians first met Cassandra, she and her young child were residing in a women's shelter, having recently fled an abusive relationship out of state, leaving everything behind.

Cassandra shared her feelings of isolation and uncertainty about their future, revealing that she had contemplated suicide but persevered for her child's sake. Despite having a job, she had to take a leave of absence due to the challenges of their escape and relocation, putting her employment at risk.

As Cassandra prepared to transition from the shelter to an apartment, she faced financial hurdles and needed additional support to secure stable housing. Recognizing the urgency of their situation, our St. Thomas the Apostle conference provided \$800 in assistance.

Following up with Cassandra, our Vincentians discovered additional needs, including blankets, which were promptly provided. Visiting Cassandra and her child in their new apartment, our Vincentians witnessed firsthand how well they were adapting to their new life, and offered ongoing support and friendship.

UCI GRANT PROGRAM IMPACT

\$702,200
IN DIRECT AID

3,800
INDIVIDUALS SERVED

1,675
CHILDREN PREVENTED FROM EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

86%
NEIGHBORS SERVED ARE AFRICAN AMERICAN OR LATINO

\$611
AVERAGE RENTAL ASSISTANCE

6
UCI-FUNDED CONFERENCES SERVING UNDERSERVED AREAS

To learn more about our Home Visit program and the Underserved Communities Initiative, visit svdphouston.org/programs



The Road to Resiliency: "Getting Ahead"

Addressing systemic change through holistic support that empowers those we serve to make their way out of poverty and into self-sufficiency

Our Resiliency Program: 'Getting Ahead' is an innovative 16-week multi-tiered program designed to empower individuals facing economic challenges to build lasting resilience. Through a structured curriculum and supportive community environment, participants gain valuable insights, life skills, and resources to navigate and overcome adversities. The program's primary focus is on fostering financial stability, emotional well-being, and long-term self-sufficiency.

Key components include comprehensive weekly class meetings addressing financial literacy, emotional intelligence, and goal setting. By equipping participants with tools to navigate obstacles, the program aims to break the cycle of poverty and build a foundation for sustainable success. Collaborative partnerships with local organizations enhance the program's impact, offering a holistic approach to resilience-building.

This program not only transforms individual lives but also contributes to community-wide empowerment. As we strive to create positive change, we invite support from partners who share our commitment to building resilient communities.



From Struggle to Strength: Mary's Journey to Financial Empowerment



Mary faced the daunting challenge of unemployment, enduring over three months without income. Unaware of available resources, she struggled to overcome this difficult situation.

However, after engaging in the Getting Ahead program, Mary began navigating her circumstances and forging a new path towards financial stability.

Empowered by her experience, she actively refers others to the program, aspiring to become a facilitator herself and extend a helping hand to those around her.

Breaking Barriers: Christy's Path to Personal and Professional Growth

Christy found immense value in the Getting Ahead program, describing it as a catalyst for both personal and professional growth. Through the program, she gained insights into systemic poverty and acquired the tools to overcome it.

Despite remaining in her current job, Christy now possesses a better understanding of how to seek and recognize better opportunities.

Having completed the 16-week Getting Ahead program and the graduate program, Christy is contributing to the alumni program and helping others on their journey to empowerment.



PROGRAM IMPACT

*SINCE FRUITION (2021)

73 PARTICIPANTS

86% GRADUATION RATE

70% GRADUATES IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT

60% INCREASED INCOME AFTER COMPLETING PROGRAM

72% IMPROVED HOUSING SITUATIONS

To learn more about our Resiliency Programs, scan this QR code or visit svdphouston.org/sci



SERVICES PROVIDED IN FISCAL YEAR 2023

Volunteer Services Provided

Number of volunteers*	1,700
Volunteer hours/FTE (full-time equivalent)**	144,000/69 FTE
Volunteer miles***	283,000
Paid staff/three locations	24

Location of Our Services Provided

Number of conferences (chapters)	56
Percentage of parishes with SVDP	38%
Percentage of zip codes served	68%

Counties served:

Austin, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Harris, Montgomery, San Jacinto, Walker, Waller

Meals Provided

Number of food bank pantries in the parishes	16
Pounds of food distributed	3.4 million
Dollar value of food****	\$7.1 million
Number of meals served	2.1 million
Number of households assisted	27,000

Utilities Support Provided

Value of utility support	\$1.3 million
Number of households assisted	4,500
Average payment to household	\$239

Housing

Dollar value of housing	\$3.6 million
Number of households assisted	6,800
Average rental payment	\$456

Totals

Direct Aid	\$12.9 million
In-kind	\$6.7 million
Financial Assistance	\$6.2 million
Unduplicated individuals	98,000
Unduplicated households	29,000
Duplicated individuals	331,000
Duplicated households	95,000

*Volunteers provide direct service through parishes, in the thrift stores and warehouses.
 **In-kind volunteer worth is valued at the IRS amount at \$31.80 per hour.
 ***Volunteers pay their own gas – the IRS value is \$0.14 per mile.
 ****The majority of the food is in-kind or discounted for purchase at local food banks.



In 2023, with the support of our generous donors and community partners like you, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul raised over **\$16.3 million** from a diversified funding base.

REVENUE

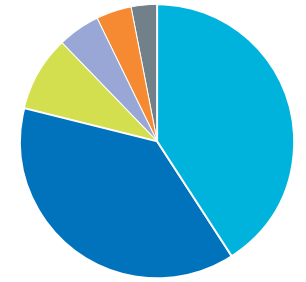
Contributions In-Kind	6,732,436
Individuals	6,230,043
Foundations	1,425,086
Store Revenue	782,814
Special Events, Net	661,924
Government Grants	62,219
Church & Civic Contributions	261,399
Corporations	45,970
Investment Returns	144,851
TOTAL REVENUE	\$16,346,742

EXPENSES

<i>Program Services</i>	
Vincintian Services	12,456,904
Food Network	547,540
Thrift Stores & Voucher Ministry	985,617
Resiliency	175,372
Underserved Communities	708,814
Total Program Services	\$14,874,246
<i>Supporting Services</i>	
Management and General	368,453
Fundraising	547,394
Total Supporting Services	\$915,847
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,790,093

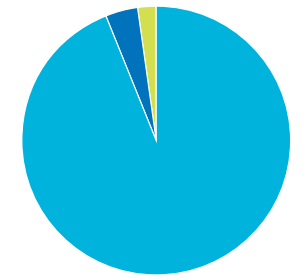
Fiscal year ended September 30, 2023. (Audited Financials)

Sources of Funds
\$16.3 Million



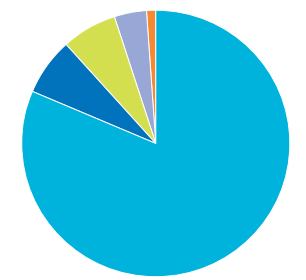
Contributions In-Kind	41%
Individuals	38%
Foundations	9%
Store Revenue	5%
Special Events, Net	4%
Other	3%

Organization Expenses
\$15.8 Million



Program Services	94%
Management and General	4%
Fundraising	2%

Program Expenses
\$14.9 Million



Vincintian Services	84%
Thrift Store and Voucher	7%
Food Network	4%
Underserved Communities	4%
Resiliency	1%

Vincentians: Living the Mission

Within our organization, Vincentians are the dedicated individuals who embody the spirit of compassion and service. Guided by their faith and called by God, they serve as the hands, heart, and feet of our mission, reaching out to those in need regardless of background or circumstance.

Through personal visits, special works, and unwavering commitment, Vincentians bear witness to Christ's compassionate and liberating love, bringing hope and support to individuals facing crisis. Their unwavering dedication and selfless actions inspire us all to live with compassion and service at the forefront of our lives.

1,700
VINCENTIANS

144,000
VOLUNTEER HOURS,
EQUAL TO 69 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

283,000
MILES TRAVELED ACROSS OUR
10-COUNTY SERVICE AREA

To learn more about the Vincentian charism
or to become one, scan the code or visit:
svdphouston.org/vincentians



“The gift of being a Vincentian is difficult to put into words. It is hard seeing the suffering of another, but it is also a way we encounter Christ. It is through our acts of service that we are united with Christ and one another and this is why being a Vincentian is truly a gift!

—STACY MEDRANO, VINCENTIAN
& DISTRICT 3 PRESIDENT



Being a Vincentian has been a great experience, helping me to grow spiritually. Being close and vulnerable to those in need has brought me closer to God and to love with no limits, with total detachment and total dedication.

—GLORIA PASTRANO, VINCENTIAN

A Journey of Service: Celebrating 20 Years

REFLECTIONS ON COMPASSION, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston proudly celebrates a significant milestone in its history as we honor the 20th anniversary of Pura Santangelo, Director of Vincentian Services, a dedicated and unwavering member of our organization.



Q: Can you share with us how your journey with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul began?

A: My journey started during a challenging time in my life when I was seeking purpose. I found solace and meaning in serving others through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I started as a volunteer answering phones... and never left!

Q: How have you evolved within the organization over these two decades?

A: Over the years, I've grown to become deeply committed to our mission, embodying the values of compassion and service that define our organization.

Q: What has been your role as Director of Vincentian Services?

A: As Director, I've had the privilege of wearing many hats, from implementing new initiatives to ensuring the integrity of our services. It's been a fulfilling journey!

Q: How do you feel your leadership has impacted the community?

A: I hope that my leadership has made a positive difference, whether it's through spearheading outreach programs or advocating for volunteer safety. My goal has always been to serve those in need with compassion and dedication.

Q: Can you share a personal reflection on your journey and the organization?

A: These past 20 years have been incredibly rewarding. Each day, I'm humbled by the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives through the work we do here at St. Vincent de Paul.

Q: Is there a specific person who has played a significant role in your journey and career with the organization?

A: Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza was my biggest cheerleader. He offered endless support and guidance, and encouraged me throughout my journey at the Society.

Q: What is your vision for the future of our organization?

A: My vision is one of inclusivity and community empowerment. I want the Society—our conferences, Vincentians, and staff—to look like Houston. I hope to see us continue to grow and adapt to meet the evolving needs of our community, always guided by our core values.

Our Story

In 1833, Frederic Ozanam, a 20-year-old college student, and his friends began serving the poor in Paris, France.

This was the beginning of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Today, there are more than 800,000 members serving in 155 countries around the globe.

The Society arrived in the United States in 1845, where the first conference was formed in St. Louis, Missouri.

The first presence of the Society in the Galveston-Houston area was in 1871 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Galveston.

Today, there are 56 Conferences in the Galveston-Houston Council with more than 1,700 members growing spiritually through friendship and service to those in need.



Connect with us!

Stay connected with us on social media to be part of the action, get updates, and amplify our impact. Together, we can create positive change. Follow us now and help us spread the spirit of our mission!

Scan the code or visit:
svdphouston.org/connect



Our neighbors are our mission.

Our mission depends on the support of donors and community leaders like you.

Your contributions ensure direct aid for our neighbors in need throughout Greater Houston, alleviating suffering and distress, while addressing the underlying conditions through systemic change.

Further our mission today:
svdphouston.org/give



Thank you for your continued support of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

2403 Holcombe Blvd, Houston, TX 77021

Find out about events, activities, and the impact you help make possible!

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