

**From:** Bruce Berglund [Bruce.berglund@dbd.group](mailto:Bruce.berglund@dbd.group)  
**Subject:** Fwd: 167 Years of Helping Those In Chicagoland  
**Date:** March 19, 2020 at 6:20 PM  
**To:** Lora Dow [lora.dow@dbd.group](mailto:lora.dow@dbd.group)



Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Society of St. Vincent de Paul Chicago" <[lorraine@svdpchicago.org](mailto:lorraine@svdpchicago.org)>  
**Subject:** 167 Years of Helping Those In Chicagoland  
**Date:** March 19, 2020 at 8:15:22 PM CDT  
**To:** [bruce.berglund@dbd.group](mailto:bruce.berglund@dbd.group)  
**Reply-To:** [lorraine@svdpchicago.org](mailto:lorraine@svdpchicago.org)

## 167 Years of Helping Those In Need We Are Here To Help

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Chicago ADC has been actively helping those in need in the Chicagoland area for over 167 years. Our history and perseverance have provided us with the opportunity to have some experience during times like this. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has survived through two world wars, the Spanish Flu of 1918, stock market crashes, the Great Depression, and recessions just to name a few. Our mission and commitment to help others, led by God's grace and unbending faith is what brings us to these present times prepared to be prepared.



# **Time of Faith, Time to Take Positive Actions**

## **WE ARE HERE TO HELP!**

### **The Homeless, The Poor, The Hungry**

#### **What Can We Do?**

As the covid-19 virus takes center stage in how we are leading our daily lives, let us not forget our faith in God. Let us not forget that we are a strong community. Let us remain vigilant and mindful, and not forget that there are still those in need. We may be sheltered in our homes, which is the right thing to do, but we have the ability to help those in need in our community.

With all the uncertainty, one thing remains certain; there are going to be many members in our communities that will need assistance. Yes, our neighbors, friends, and strangers will reach out for help; and we will be there. The Society has sustained because of your support. That support provides us with the essentials we need to help our neighbors in need.

#### **What Can You Do to Help?**

Practicing social distancing by staying home is the best thing you can do. You are acting selfless to help those around you stay health, and hopefully preventing further spread of covid-19.

Reach out to a neighbor in need. Check on your neighbors make sure they have food, ask if they are feeling ok. Maybe just a phone call to let them know you are there. Many who live alone are lonely and may feel uncertain. A friendly voice can go a long way.

Stay calm, stay present, stay faith filled. Assuring those around you that you are there for them and reminding them of all the good in life will spread a little joy. Don't worry about tomorrow, stay in the moment and thankful that you have food, clothing, a home to be sheltered in, and people around you that you love. Pray and practice your faith through your thoughts

you love. May and practice your faith through your thoughts and actions throughout the day. Faith and positive attitudes are very contagious – and that you want to spread!

When the fog of uncertainty clears, the Society is going to have much work to do in helping those in need. As we self-isolate, our 2,000+ volunteer members are still reaching out and assisting those in need with safe protocols in place. It's amazing what can be accomplished, despite the obstacles when you are dedicated to helping others.

### **We Practice What We Preach.**

As an organization, one of our core values is that every life is important, to be valued and treated with respect and dignity. We made the decision to temporarily close our thrift stores to be responsible in doing our part to protect the health of our employees, their families, and our customers. As we progress through the next few days, or weeks and our communities are once again confident to conduct life outside the confines of our homes, our stores will be open, and we will be prepared to welcome in our customers, and resume to offer a wonderful shopping experience.

You, our dedicated supporters provide the clothing, household goods, furniture, and every item imaginable to provide our inventory. Our stores provide jobs, skill training, goods to those in need at no cost, essentials for those escaping situations of domestic violence, veterans who have gotten lost in the system, and those that find themselves homeless and need a helping hand.

During this time when we are participating in social responsibility in protecting the health of our communities, our drop boxes and donation doors are available to you for dropping off your donations of clothing, household goods, and furniture. We are practicing a protocol to align with precautions and measures as provided by the CDC.

[Click here for a list of donation Drop Boxes](#)

This weekend's Donation Drop Off Event  
St. Raphael the Archangel  
40000 N. Route 45  
Old Mill Creek, IL

[Click Here Store Donation drop off available with Social  
Distancing](#)

Other ways you can help? Monetary donations are always needed to help with the essentials that are provided through our conferences as direct services; assistance to the homeless, homeless shelters, food, assistance with rent, medical bills, utility bills, and other everyday items that those in need in our communities require for sustaining from day to day.

[Click Here for Financial Donations](#)

We ask that you support us in anyway possible during these times. With over 167+ years of experience, we are prepared to help those in need during this uncertain time.

God Bless Everyone

Harry Ohde,  
Volunteer President/CEO Society of St. Vincent de Paul Chicago ADC



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