



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul
St Michael Conference
2025 Report to St Michael Catholic Community**

The Society of St Vincent de Paul, St Michael Conference, was established 32 years ago, in January 1994.

The Mission of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is to live the Gospel message by serving disadvantaged individuals within our parish boundaries with respect, justice, and joy ... regardless of creed, ethnicity, or point of view. Members meet regularly to pray, deepen their understanding of the Society, share ideas, discuss challenges encountered in serving the poor, and develop fellowship. Our funding is entirely derived from the parishioners of St Michael Catholic Community who donate with great generosity, kindness, and thoughtfulness, for which we are eternally grateful.

Area of Service

St Michaels Conference in Calgary helps and supports the families in the communities of Cougar Ridge, West Springs, Aspen Woods, Patterson, Coach Hill, Wildwood, Spruce Cliff, Shaganappi, Rosscarrock, Westgate, Christy Park, Strathcona, and Prominence Point. In 2025 we added Crestmont and Medicine Hill/Paskapoo Slopes.

Volunteers

We currently have **56** active members serving in various capacities (e.g., home visitors, food purchasers and larder committee, phone coordinator, banking director, or special advisor). Our executive team is comprised of the President, a banker, a treasurer, and a secretary. In the past year, our dedicated team of volunteers has contributed over **2464** hours (14% increase from 2024) to serving the needs of the less fortunate in our community. Two of our current members, **Paulette Crawford** and **Paula Smith** were *founding* members of the St Michael SSVP conference 32 years ago. They enthusiastically continue to donate their time and talent in serving the poor and providing guidance, support, and mentorship to those of us who gratefully benefit from their experience and expertise.

We are also blessed to have **Father Kelvin Chukwurah** as our Spiritual Advisor, who fosters the spiritual development of our members.

Challenges in 2025

Financially, we are challenged by high food costs and high need within the community. There was a 14% in food hamper requests in 2025 from 2024.

In 2025 resumed assistance with rent and utility requests and provided considerably more aid for rent/utility assistance than any other parish or Conference in our Western Calgary peer group including St. Peter's, St. Bernard's, Holy Name and Sacred Heart.

Our operation focused on food assistance in the local community, supported the refugee family as per our commitments, and provided assistance to St. Bernard's SSVP who are struggling financially while surrounded by critical need in the Bowness area.

Donations

Our operation would not be possible without the generous donations of our community. We greatly rely on the parishioners of St. Michael's Catholic Community for their ongoing support of our effort. In 2025 we received over **\$187,000!** Thank you for your generosity! Please be aware that going into 2026, one in ten Calgarians are either living on low income or below the poverty line. Calgary is the second most unequal city in Canada for income distribution. The SSVP work continues and relies on your support! Options on how to donate are provided at the end of this report.

Food Distribution and Home Visits

In the past year, volunteers visited **135** homes, providing support to **611** adults and **410** children, preparing and delivering **346** food hampers. Members always conduct visits in pairs, reaching out to individuals where they live: listening, encouraging, and hopefully being a friend. We also provided regular food support for a Refugee family.

"I just got a hamper dropped off to me and I am so grateful, I mean I don't even know how to say how appreciative I am of all that you gave to me like I'm just overwhelmed and I thank you so very much, I just want you to know that is appreciated so much. God bless you all, everyone that put any effort into this, I will truly do my best to contribute something to your cause and I thank you God bless you all and I'm just overwhelmed thank you so much."– Vincentian friend

Larder and Food Costs

We have a dedicated team, led by Lora Saccomani and Lana McFadden, to ensure our food larder is well stocked and ready for food hamper preparation. Over recent years our food budget has doubled, due to high demand and an increase in food prices. In 2025 we've spent and distributed over **\$41,000** in food. We are projecting a \$50,000 larder budget in 2026 to respond to the challenging economic climate.

Financial assistance

Although our core service is to provide food hampers, we also assist with rent, utilities, and other urgent needs as feasible. Over **\$24,000** was provided for rent and utility assistance in 2025. We made a decision to resume rent/utility assistance in 2025 that was paused in mid-2024. We also refer individuals or families to other community agencies better equipped to meet ongoing needs when the situation is beyond our ability to manage.

"Thank you so very much. This means so much for my family. We appreciate you so much. We now have some stress lifted as we know we will now be ok."– Vincentian friend

Twinning

"Twinning" is one aspect of Vincentian work where we reach out and share our resources and deepen our Vincentian spirit of friendship with our Brothers and Sisters in the solidarity of universally helping the poor. Our conference started a twinning partnership with SSVP Reina De La Paz Conference, Guatemala in 2015.

In 2025 we donated \$4,000 to the SSVP Reina De La Paz conference who needed support for their coffee and bee projects to serve their community. Through our fraternal twinning with Reina De La Paz conference, we at St Michaels conference want to serve God's will and share our mutual resources through solidarity.

"We are very grateful for the financial support that SSVP St Michaels Conference provides to Reina de La Paz, otherwise, it would be impossible for this conference to help so many poor families in our communities with food and medicines. SSVP St Michael's Conference contributions, helps Reina de La Paz so much with the expenses to support the progress of both the coffee project and eventually the return to the Bee project." – President SSVP Reina De La Paz Conference

St. Bernards SSVP Conference Assistance

SSVP St. Bernard Conference supports the communities of Bowness, Greenwood, Montgomery, St. Andrews Heights, Parkdale, and Green Briar. In recent years SSVP St. Bernard's conference faced a growing demand for food hampers with dwindling donations. The conference provides 40-60 hampers per month. In May of 2024 the conference made an appeal to St Michael's conference and St Peter's Conference requesting a monthly support to keep them for closing their doors in October of 2024.

In 2025 St. Michael's conference has pledged their financial support of **\$1500/month** to help St. Bernard to continue the work of helping and meeting the basic need of food in their community. We will continue to support St. Bernard's in 2026.

St Michael's Conference also extends support to St Bernard's Conference by including **30 families** in need, each year in the Christmas Hamper program.

"I would like to mention again that having this extra help has made a world of difference in our ability to plan and provide for our clients. We no longer need to be thinking week to week if we can survive." -SSVP St Bernard Conference

Christmas Hamper Program

The **Christmas Hamper** program, made possible through numerous volunteer hours devoted by members of the Christmas Hamper Committee, is largely funded through the St Vincent de Paul Society: **\$62,700**. This year, over **409** parish volunteers prepared and delivered **169** hampers, serving **664** individuals, of whom **360** were children. Hampers consisted of nonperishable foods, gift cards and gifts for children.

The total value of the Christmas Hamper program this year was over **\$83,000** which comprised of cash directly expended, as well as donated gifts.

Parish schools supported the program with food drives and student volunteers. Special thank you to Colleen Fitzpatrick and her Christmas Hamper team, and the SSVP members especially, Barb Mulcahy, Lora Saccomani, Lana McFadden and Deana Helton our School's Liaison, the volunteers and the support of parish administration and staff in the success of this year's program.

Webpage

We have developed a webpage containing information on our service to the community, how to reach us in need, Vincentian spirituality, our programs, testimonials, additional resources for those in need, links to follow us on social media and an opportunity to volunteer and donate. <https://www.ssvpstmichael.ca/>

Finances	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Revenue	\$187,662.44	\$162,350.34	\$197,881.87	\$177,889.02	\$90,576.30	\$146,193.77
Total Expenses	\$163,547.65	\$140,691.01	\$166,828.98	\$232,819.90	\$110,582.75	\$98,438.45
Deficit/Surplus	\$24,114.79	\$21,659.33	\$31,052.89	(\$54,930.88)	(\$20,006.45)	\$47,755.32

Disbursements

Bank Service Charges	\$179.70
Bus Tickets	\$1,837.50
Christmas Hampers/Gift Cert.	\$62,726.96
Client Medical	\$823.48
Client Other	\$ 1,901.86
Client Rent	\$22,497.50
Client Transportation	\$ 200.00
Client Utility	\$2,779.55
Food Purchases for Larder	\$ 41,251.81
Gift card expenses	\$ 2,610.00
Global Merch Fee	\$317.00
National Support Fee	\$500.00
Paid to St's Mark/Bernard SVdP	\$19,000.00
SSVP Supplies	\$2,896.39

Twinning

\$4,025.00

\$ 163,547.65

Please look for more information about the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in the Church bulletin and our Website throughout our 32nd year!

Donations

As we look forward to another challenging year of serving our community. This would not be possible without your generous donations via these platforms:

- Cash and cheque: Envelopes located / dropped off at SSVP Food Chest in the Narthex
- Online: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-vincent-de-paul-society-st-michaels-conference/>
- Tip Tap machine
- Nonperishable food donations: SSVP Food Chest in the Narthex

Thank you very much! God bless!

“Help honours when, to the bread that nourishes, it adds the visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, the friendly shake of the hand that lifts up sinking courage; when it treats the poor man with respect, not only as an equal but as a superior, since he is suffering that which we would perhaps not be able to bear ourselves; since he is among us as the messenger of God, sent to put our justice and charity to the test, and to save us by our works.”

(Frederic Ozanam, from an article in l'Ère nouvelle, October 21, 1848)

Please contact **the Society of St Vincent de Paul** at 825-417-1720 or ssvp@saintmichael.ca or visit our website www.ssvpstmichael.ca you have questions or would like to join our Ministry.