



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023 AGM

OZANAM

- Conference Presidents met with their respective Pastors to strengthen ties, assist with visibility and support
- Celebrated the Feast of St. Vincent DePaul at Blessed Sacrament
- Held an Advent retreat at St. John's College led by Spiritual Advisor Carolyn Boerboom
- Interfaith connections – maintained support for St. Andrew's Soup for the Soul
- Community connections – renewed and strengthened relationships with community partners by holding meetings with Salvation Army Housing Resource, Grand River Community Health Clinic, Live Well Brantford-Brant (including tour of Marlene Ave residence), Brantford Library Social Services Outreach

VINCENTIAN WORKS

- Established consistent level of grocery gift cards for our neighbours throughout the 5 conferences. In some cases, this increased how much neighbours received.
- Created a budget line for personal hygiene items. This increased the value of food vouchers redeemed at the store.
- Increased level of support despite large spike in demand. Value of vouchers redeemed at the store increased from \$78,633 in 2021 to \$116,965 in 2022. At the same time, grocery gift cards increased from \$76,975 in 2021 to \$105,965 in 2022.
- The demand for the Bed for Every Child Program also increased sharply, from 71 beds in 2021 to 162 in 2022.
- Despite the increases noted, we were able to maintain support for International Relief (Syria and Turkiye), our twinned conference in Trinidad & Tobago, Christmas Baskets, North of 60 and Canadian Food for Children

PROMOTION

- Continued to increase social media presence on Twitter, Facebook and SSVP website
- Promoted SSVP Brant in schools with highly successful Lenten, Halloween and Advent drives. Assumption's "We Scare Hunger" campaign received recognition at the SSVP National and Regional levels.
- Presented at St. John's College professional development day.
- Fostered relationship with S.C. Johnson, resulting in a Christmas Drive and staff presentation.
- Received Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant for an automatic door at the store



DEVELOPMENT

- Increased number of volunteers at the store and in the conferences
- Re-opened the store for donations and retail operations on Saturdays
- Held first Volunteer Appreciation Dinner since COVID
- Held very well attended Formation Day with the theme “The Faces of Those We Serve”.
- Established Board Prioritization Committee to determine future goals. This has subsequently led to the formation of an ad hoc Housing Advisory Committee.
- Paid off one of two outstanding loans from the Diocese used to purchase the store. The total owing is now down to \$100,000.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

- The need of our neighbours continues to increase in 2023. Gift cards, food vouchers and beds are all in greater demand through the first 5 months of this year. Although we budgeted more for passdowns to Conferences, it will be exceeded. This creates more than a financial strain, because home visits have also significantly increased.
- Increased electronic communication and record keeping has led to cyber security concerns. We have successfully applied for a federal Community Recovery Grant to have a cyber security consultant lead us through the development of safe practices and policies. The consultant will also provide training and the grant will provide for the purchase of necessary equipment.
- The housing crisis is impacting those we are called to serve. We look to our Housing Advisory Committee to offer suggestions about how we can best make a positive impact.
- Now that ONCA has been proclaimed, we will need to comply with its provisions by October of 2024. This will require a major revision of our by-laws at our next AGM. Aligning ONCA’s requirements with the Rule and our needs will present a challenge.
- We need to be mindful of future repairs to the Thrift Store and the future replacement of the truck. The most immediate need is to repair the retaining wall at the rear of the parking lot. We will also need to replace the roof of the store, likely within 3-5 years.