



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024 AGM**

### **OZANAM**

- Conferences continued to increase visibility and activities within their parishes through: door collections following Mass, Parish Bulletin ads and articles, collections drives in partnership with the Knights Of Columbus and connections with the Parish Youth groups.
- Celebrated the Feast of St. Vincent DePaul at St. Pius
- Held an Advent retreat at St. John's College led by Spiritual Advisor Carolyn Boerboom with participation of the St. John's Worship Band and Chaplain Andrew Hall
- Interfaith connections – maintained support for St. Andrew's Soup for the Soul
- Community connections – increased number of active referral partners to 19 by adding: Brantford Native Housing, Brantford Regional Indigenous Support Centre (BRISC), Safe Families Brantford, and Why Not City Missions
- Established a connection with Conestoga (Brantford Campus) to assist International Students
- Organized a meeting for the Particular Presidents in the Diocese with Bishop Crosby

### **VINCENTIAN WORKS**

- Maintained level of support for our neighbours despite a large spike in demand. The value of vouchers redeemed at the store increased from \$116,965 in 2022 to \$145,678 in 2023. At the same time, grocery gift cards increased from \$105,963 in 2022 to \$150,715 in 2023.
- The demand for the Bed for Every Child Program also increased sharply, from 162 beds in 2022 to 265 in 2023.
- 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 generated 18,000 pounds of food.
- Hosted BHNCD SB staff on September PA Day at the Store
- Held an Ontario Trillium Foundation Recognition event at the store in June, attended by Brant MPP Will Bouma which received local media coverage.
- Held an anniversary celebration and barbeque at the store in October



## **DEVELOPMENT**

- Increased number of volunteers at the store and in the conferences
- Held a highly successful Formation Day in November led by the Housing Champions Committee. The event received recognition from SSVP Regional and National
- Held an extremely well-attended Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in April with the theme “Together in Thanksgiving”
- Paid off \$10,000 of the one remaining outstanding loan from the Diocese used to purchase the store. The total owing is now down to \$90,000.
- Revised by-laws to conform to ONCA
- Received a \$24,000 Community Resilience Grant from the Canadian Community Foundation to improve cyber security for the organization. Implementation is ongoing.

## **FUTURE CHALLENGES**

- The need of our neighbours continues to be high in 2024. In 2023, we increased our support to the Conferences from \$40,120 in 2022 to \$77,000. It is on pace to be higher in 2024. In addition, store sales appear to be impacted by the tightening of the economy. Consequently, we are currently taking the precaution of freezing our donations to causes outside of SSVP Brant.
- 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 replace the heat exchanger in the fall. We are currently exploring grant possibilities for the roughly \$35,000 required for this project. We also need to repair the retaining wall at the rear of the parking lot. Finally, we need to replace the roof of the store, likely within 3-5 years.