



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
203 Park Ave. SE
Aiken, SC 29801

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Ministry 2022 Year End Report

We wish to thank the entire St. Mary Help of Christians parish for your continued support of our local chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This support comes from the parish itself, most notably in allowing us to use the building that serves as our pantry. It comes from you, the parishioners, in the financial support you provide on the fourth Sunday of each month, and for your food donations that made our Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket programs a success. It comes from St. Mary's School and others for the used grocery bags you bring to the pantry. And it comes from over 100 of you who volunteer your time and energy to operate our pantry. It is through all of this that we are able to continue to serve the needy in and around Aiken. Your support is proof that you are following the Lord's word: "Whatsoever you do for the least of your brothers and sisters, you do for me."

For the Year 2022 we provided groceries to 3,095 families (7,769 total people). Thanks to the ability to purchase food at a reduced cost from Golden Harvest Food Bank and to food received at no cost from many of our local supermarkets and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, we were able to provide approximately 265,000 pounds of food for a cost of \$50,350.

Because of your extremely generous donations throughout the year and because of the great need in our community, we were able to maintain our services in Aiken County by providing emergency financial support to avoid utility service shut-off, providing food to our families in need and providing our homeless assistance with food and hotel services in certain circumstances. St. Vincent DePaul provided \$194,672 of financial assistance to 730 families to prevent cutoff of vital utility services. We provided \$3,861 for prescription medications and assisted one family with \$500 to replace a septic system and eight families with \$2,850 for hotel room shelter.

Our Thanksgiving and Christmas basket program has been such a success every year. For the Year 2022 we provided 85 Thanksgiving Baskets and 60 Christmas Baskets. A big thanks goes out to all our volunteers who make this program work.

A special thank you goes out to youth of the parish for partnering with our Conference to provide 340 Sunday lunches to those in need each month. A total of 4,080 lunches for the year! We also thank our parish youth for their help with the Thanksgiving and Christmas Basket program.

We also would like to thank the children, families and faculty of St. Mary Help of Christians School for their continued support throughout the year.

As an outreach ministry, we have overhead expenses such as electrical costs due to heating and air conditioning and many refrigerators and freezers. We also have expenses for water, telephones, internet service for client research and trash collection. Since all of our members are unpaid volunteers, we are able to keep this overhead to less than 10% of our expenses.

We want to thank all our volunteers and especially the ones who have stepped up recently to fill available positions in our Conference. Good Job! Thank you for all your support.