

# Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Greater Toronto Central Council

Turning Concern into Action



Welcomes  
**New Members**

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul,  
Greater Toronto Central Council  
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# Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

## *Turning Concern into Action*

There is so much need across the Archdiocese of Toronto. In all communities there are people who are:

- hurting and suffering;
- sending children to school hungry;
- unable to provide some basic necessities for their family;
- desperate;
- giving up hope.

Those who choose to become a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (“Vincentians”) make a choice to get involved, to make a difference. Like our founder, Frederic Ozanam, they believe that our faith must be lived. We must act on our values and convictions. We must get involved.

### **The parish-based conference provides many opportunities for involvement.**

- **Home Visitations:**

Those requesting financial or other types of assistance or support call the parish office. As soon as possible, a pair of Vincentians visit the person in their home, often to bring emergency assistance in the form of a food or clothing voucher or to arrange for delivery of a bed, and always to bring hope and respect.

- **Bundle Weekends:**

You can assist others through occasional involvement, participating in organized clothing or food drives.

- **Poor Box:**

Most of the funds used to help those in need come from those who drop a dollar or two in the poor box at the back of the church after masses. Some Vincentians serve by holding the poor box each week.

- **Special Skills:**

Members may choose to offer their special skills and share their knowledge in areas such as finance, running effective meetings, social work, immigration, etc., to assist their conference to be more efficient and effective.

- **Leadership roles:**

Some are willing to take on leadership roles at the Conference, Particular Council or Board level.

No work of Charity is foreign to the Society. Its work, through a person-to-person contact, encompasses every form of aids that alleviates suffering and promotes the dignity and integrity of mankind. The Society strives not only to alleviate need but also to discover and redress the situations which cause it. It serves everyone, regardless of creed, opinion, colour, origin or caste.

*Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Schema I*



# Society of Saint Vincent de Paul



## Special Works

Since the time of our founder, Frederic Ozanam, home visitations have been the core work of Vincentians and of the Society. The Conference (generally parish-based, but autonomous from the church) has been the basic unit and essential element of formation. However, in response to Ozanam's promise and challenge "no work of charity is foreign to the Society", Toronto Central Council also operates a number of Special Works.

These Special Works are run by dedicated full and part-time staff but some volunteer opportunities are available and we look forward to creating new ones. As a member of the Society you can take comfort and pride in knowing that the organization of which you are a part is serving needs in so many important ways.

### **\*\*\* Womens' Shelters \*\*\***

**Amelie House, Elisa House, Mary's Home, St. Clare's Residence-**  
short and longer-term emergency housing for women in need.

### **\*\*\* Marygrove Camp & Camp Ozanam \*\*\***

a fully subsidized residential camping program, serving disadvantaged girls & boys, each summer.

### **\*\*\* VincenPaul Community Homes \*\*\***

providing men and women recovering from addictions with the support and encouragement needed to build a new life. There are 14 homes located throughout Metro.

### **\*\*\* Ozanam House \*\*\***

provides transition accommodation and support for men recently discharged from a detoxification unit and awaiting entry into an addiction treatment program.

### **\*\*\* DePaul House, Martineau House & Vincent House \*\*\***

providing residential care and support for developmentally handicapped adults.

### **\*\*\* St. Francis Residence \*\*\***

a home for 24 men and women who have experienced mental illness and require the care and support of a nurturing, residential setting.

### **\*\*\* Community Stores and Distribution Centre \*\*\***

3 stores in the GTA offer discount, used clothing and household items. We have recently initiated a new bed program and will be expanding the types of assistance we can provide.

### **\*\*\* Prison Apostolate & Court Services \*\*\***

providing assistance and support to inmates

**Society of  
Saint Vincent de Paul,  
Greater Toronto  
Central Council is  
Comprised  
of :**

**Durham**

Particular Council  
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**Etobicoke**

Particular Council  
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**Humber Valley**

Particular Council  
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**Peel**

Particular Council  
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**Peel North**

Particular Council  
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**Scarborough East**

Particular Council  
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**Scarborough West**

Particular Council  
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**Toronto East**

Particular Council  
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**Toronto North**

Particular Council  
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**Toronto West**

Particular Council  
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**York South**

Particular Council

Vincentians are special in a number of ways.

- They have chosen to serve in a very personal, direct way;
- Their work is done in humility and, generally, anonymously;
- They are prepared to give of their time and energy and, more importantly, of themselves, whenever they are called upon;
- Through visits to the homes of those in need, they are acting on their faith and beliefs and are serving a very real need;
- With God's help the Vincentian brings love, respect, hope and assistance in their vocation to serve those in need;
- They participate in the meetings and activities of the conference "in a spirit of fraternity, simplicity and Christian joy";

We have over 1200 screened, dedicated & caring Vincentians across the Archdiocese. We are in the process of developing mechanisms to better support our current members. We are reaching out to new members who feel the Society can offer the opportunity for direct service to those in need.

**As you would expect of any organization serving vulnerable people, new members must:**

- 1. complete an application;**
- 2. have a police records check;**
- 3. be interviewed;**
- 4. provide references;**
- 5. sign a Covenant Form**

*"The poor alone demand your time; treat them with gentleness, tenderness and love. They are the nobility of heaven"*

St. Vincent de Paul



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