



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Greater Toronto Central Council

Member Position Description

Overview:

Motivated by an awareness of life's various challenges, members of the Society provide service to the poor and others in need. This ministry is about giving of yourself and it allows you to both answer God's call to service and to respond to needs within your immediate or wider community.

Although Home Visitations have traditionally represented the core work of the members, Vincentians and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul continue to respond to new needs and realities. ("No work of charity is foreign to the Society", The Rule, Section 1)

Mandatory Activities/Responsibilities:

The Vincentian is a member of a Conference (generally parish-based) and as such, commitments will include:

- serving the Neighbours in Need (Neighbours) through activities determined by the local Conference. These activities may include visiting Neighbours in their home, attending the poor box after Mass, handling vouchers and gift cards, a Christmas assistance program, and clothing and food drives;
- actively participating in the activities of the Society, according to the principles set forth in The Rule, and faithfully attending Conference meetings;
- contributing to the spirit of fraternity, simplicity and Christian joy which are the hallmark of Conference meetings, and taking part in the process of collectively striving to improve services to those in need;
- responding to the need for involvement on committees or in an executive position, as your talents and interests lead you;
- meeting and continuing to abide by the membership requirements, as detailed in Policy #14 (Membership - Vincentians) and Policy #15 (Member Screening and Risk Management), available from the Conference president or Central Office (416-364-5577).

Qualifications and Personal Traits/Qualities:

- 18 years of age or older (note the Conference president may approve 16- or 17-year-old applicants, as set out in Policy #14 (Membership - Vincentians));
- Compliance with the Screening Measures, (below);
- As an expression of your faith, a deep desire to serve persons in need and to commit some of your time, talents and simple humanity to this ministry;
- The ability and commitment to see Christ in those you will serve;
- A genuine spirit of humility, compassion and generosity;
- A deep sensitivity to, and respect for, the person and their range of needs;
- Approachability, ability to work with others; The ability to use good judgment without being judgmental.

Orientation and Training:

- Complete the member orientation session for new members (provided through Greater Toronto Central Council);
- Become familiar with The Rule, available from the Conference president or Central Office (416-364-5577).
- Make a commitment to participate in ongoing training, as available

Client Group:

People with a range of needs will welcome or seek out the assistance of the Society. Some will require financial assistance, others a compassionate ear or some advice. Assistance will usually be provided through Home Visitations. In other cases, those in need might receive support and assistance at another appropriate location, such as the church hall. All visits with a Neighbour regardless of location, must be made with two Vincentians or a Vincentian and a responsible adult.

Support, Supervision and Evaluation:

The most substantive and regular support and supervision are provided by the president and other members of your Conference. Through regular attendance at Conference meetings, with its sharing of experience related to service, the member is able to self-evaluate, and the group provides ongoing guidance to the member.

If the Conference president believes that in spite of efforts to address a concern, a member is still not providing appropriate service to those in need, or is behaving contrary to the principles of The Rule, the process described in the Member Screening and Risk Management Policy will apply.

Length of Appointment:

A person may remain a member as long as they remain in good standing with a Conference, and abide by the requirements for membership, including adherence to the principles of The Rule.

Benefits and Working Conditions:

You are provided the opportunity to answer Christ's call to serve and address the needs of those less fortunate. In order to do so, it is required that you be available to visit homes as the need arises, attend regular meetings and assist in other ways. You must be prepared to be generous with your time and talents.

Screening Measures:

Before becoming a full member, each candidate must:

- Submit a completed Application to Become a Member form, with references;
- Submit an appropriate Police Records Check report;
- Successfully complete the interview process;
- Sign a Service Covenant;
- Complete the GTCC Orientation Session.