

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Greater Toronto Central Council

Impact and Executive Directors Report 2024/2025

Home Visit Outreach

Provided by 114 Conferences, supported by 11 Particular Councils, and GTCC

Making a significant impact locally, throughout our parish communities

Number of Vincentian Members: **1,486**

Number of Volunteer Hours: **79,688**

Number of Home Visits: **26,298**

Number of Persons/Families Served: **49,945**

Value of Assistance Provided through Conference outreach: \$3,265,999

Special Works

Operated by GTCC, outreach provided by 270 employees

Women's Shelters: 4 emergency shelters offering safe accommodation to **132 women** each night

Recovery Homes: 14 homes offering safe accommodation to **82 men** each night on a transitional basis

Supportive Housing: 4 homes offering long term accommodation to **38 men and women**

Overnight Camps for Children: Overnight camping experience for **1,240 children**

Stores, new bed and furniture program: Supporting families and persons in need throughout the GTA

Operating Funds provided by: MCCSS, Ministry of Health, City of Toronto, ShareLife, Catholic Charities, Archdiocesan Marygrove Camp collection:

Total Assets: \$18,000,000

New Housing Initiative - Mimico Project

132 rooms and suites for women in need of short and long term housing – we have met all zoning requirements, let the building begin!

Membership Support

Orientation, Treasurer's Workshops, Conference Executive review of roles and responsibilities, updated policies and procedures including Policy 22 – Financial Management, Engagement surveys, working groups and visioning sessions.

Chair of Engagement: Mike Watt

Chair of Finance Committee: Pat Colavita

Chair of Governance: Gary Valcour

Chair of Health and Safety: Michael Wiley

Chair of Camps Committee: Harry Mosuk

Visit our website at www.ssvptoronto.ca

Thank you to all who serve, to Vincentians who readily respond to our Neighbours in Need, to those who step into positions of leadership, to those who are newer members, and to those who continue to impart their experience, to committee Chairs and members, employees, and the Board of Directors, together, we serve hundreds of persons a month through our Special Works and Home Visits. For some it may only be a brief encounter, and for others, the Society will provide life-long care. Our responsibilities are great; our rewards are even greater.

Additional Projects of the GTCC Board and Committees

The Board of Directors of the Greater Toronto Central Council devoted a great deal of its efforts to tackling a number of challenging issues over the past year. Charities are increasingly being held to account for stewardship of funds, proper governance compliance, contracting appropriate insurance coverage and for the implementation of effective risk management practices protecting the people we serve, those who serve, and the Society as a whole.

Gone are the days of casual reporting and good faith actions, we must demonstrate that we are conducting our outreach in a manner that complies with all applicable legislation. As a result of the increased scrutiny of charities by CRA and Corporations Canada, and the need to protect the Society, our volunteers and employees, GTCC is developing or has implemented the following actions:

➤ CRA Reporting and Head Body Status

Conferences and Councils must accurately account for use of donated funds, following policies that clearly lay out responsibilities and comply with CRA expectations. GTCC will be applying to CRA to change the head body for Conferences and Particular Councils from the National Council to GTCC who properly holds the records and insurance for entities within the GTA. The vast majority of Conferences and Particular Councils in GTCC are connected to the National Council's CRA number, and should they come under investigation for their serious governance infractions, all Conferences and PC's will also have their CRA number suspended during the remediation process, meaning the loss of the ability to issue charitable tax receipts. Information on this process will be forthcoming.

The Society is updating the Conference Accounting Management system to ensure compliance for reporting. An updated, user friendly program will be available for use January 1, 2026, with training in November 2025. Use will be mandatory for all Conferences and Particular Councils. The newer model is based heavily on the current CAMs program, developed by former comptroller Bro. Alex Remedios, and dedicated Vincentian Bro. Frank Leaver. This program and the continuous support by Bro. Frank has served us well over many, many years.

➤ Insurance

The Archdiocese now requires a contractual undertaking with the Society in response to their own insurance requirements. For greater understanding of the roles and responsibilities of members and officers, a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed that outlines the relationship with GTCC and protects the individual members from personal liability by providing the framework and context of the relationship with GTCC. This Memorandum has been circulated to Conferences.

➤ Governance

As Vincentians, we embrace our Vincentian vocation. As a mid-size charity, we must follow the laws that protect the Society, its members, our outreach and our assets. Since GTCC was first incorporated in the 1800's, our Boards of Directors have maintained our incorporated status by following the law while embracing the Vincentian principles of the Rule. Over the years, the Rule has become more prescriptive in procedural directives which do not always anticipate legislative compliance. We have urged the National Council to update the Rule to return the emphasis to the Vincentian vocation and service, leaving compliance for incorporated entities to do their due diligence. The Rule, like any other guiding document does not supersede the laws of the land.

- Louise Coutu, Executive Director