

**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CONFERENCE, SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
FALL 2016 REPORT**

Our Conference became official on June 13th of this year with 24 members, 19 of whom are trained and 10 who make up the core team, our steering committee.

The Society's key approach to serving those in need is for teams of two to visit them in their homes. These visits usually result from requests for help that come through the church office. Our conference has 12 members who have been trained for home visits and since June we have made 18 visits. Support has ranged from helping with apartment move-in deposits and utility bills to obtaining household items, such as furniture or appliances. During a visit, the team gets to know the family and then can best decide if and how we can help.

We also help those who don't have a home or are passing through Greencastle. In these cases, we provide one or two nights in a local motel, perhaps help with food or give a voucher for gas.

Since June we have received 27 requests for assistance, all of whom we could help. In that time, we have distributed approximately \$3,000 in assistance. As word about our Conference spreads we receive more and more requests.

We are becoming more knowledgeable about the kinds of help available from other agencies and rather than duplicating their services we prefer to support them and refer clients to them. For example, we have developed a close relationship with Beyond Homeless. In addition to being a shelter for women and their children, they provide many other services. We have collaborated several times since June.

Our members and other interested parishioners are involved in several community programs that focus on assisting those who are under-resourced. One example is the program "Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World" offered by Greencastle Transformers for the past three years. This eight-week program gives individuals in poverty the tools and the time to develop plans for a more stable and satisfying life. The program was recently offered this fall. Our parishioners participated as program facilitator, meal providers and as mentors, who offer support to the Getting ahead graduates as they begin to work on their future stories.

If you have any questions about this report or other aspects of our Conference, our officers will be able to help you, so don't hesitate to ask.

Carl Singer, President
Bernie Batto, Vice-President
Joyce Johnson, Treasurer
Susan Gillan, Secretary
Ann Rambo, Interim Secretary