



Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Detroit

William Brazier, Executive Director





Background

- Provider of basic human needs to vulnerable clients in Southeast Michigan for over 127 years
- Home visits, food pantries, soup kitchen, thrift stores, dental clinic, youth summer camp, providing clothing, furniture, medical bills, rent, energy assistance and more.
- Over 3,000 Members at 160 Parish locations





Background

- Since 2006, our tradition of assisting with energy bills was augmented thanks to Low-Income Energy Assistance Grants from Michigan Public Service Commission
- Last year, energy assistance network expanded to 31 counties at grass root level disbursing over \$1.5 million of VHWF and other funds to 1,285 households
- 2013, anticipate disbursing over \$2 million in Utility Assistance





Case # 1

Michelle has four children under the age of 16, two with disabilities. Was forced to move out of the home and take the children because of an abusive husband.

SSI \$17,040/year plus food stamps and Medicaid, husband does not pay child support. She struggles to pay bills.

Assisted with overdue energy bill of \$2,336





Case # 2

Mary is age 63, has custody of her 19 year granddaughter with health issues who the mother does not want to support.

Mary receives Social Security and works part-time earns \$28,536/year, no food stamps or any assistance from DHS. She worked for 30 years, has not received pension since 2009 because pension was wiped out in the stock market crash.

Assisted with overdue energy bill of \$1,970





Systemic Change

The Society of St. Vincent DePaul in the United States is committed to ending poverty. Along with the Worldwide Vincentian Family, we see systemic change as the means to this goal.





Systemic Change

Four Foundational Blocks

- Empowerment
- Mentoring
- Collaboration
- Advocacy



Empowerment

Empowerment of the Society's members through education in the realities of poverty and its solutions, as well as empowerment of those we serve to provide opportunities to identify and claim their ability to make positive change for themselves and their communities.





Mentoring

Mentoring as a key to gaining and maintaining the motivation and support for change.





Collaboration

Collaboration with others who share our commitment to end poverty and transform lives. The Society alone, we know, cannot end poverty. Working together with others offers hope for transformative solutions.





Advocacy

Advocacy to change/adjust systems that are barriers to escaping from poverty for individuals and for communities, and create opportunities for meaningful lives for those who struggle now.





Low Income Energy Assistance & Systemic Change

Low-Income Energy Assistance a vital component in financial intervention as we work with clients to move them out of poverty to household stability through Systemic Change

State & Federal support crucial to achieving this vision





Thank you

