

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph Council 2015 Annual Report

The past year 2014-2015 has been one of change, innovation, and challenge for St. Joseph's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Government, banking, the privacy act, and tax regulations created problems for the **conference** that were resolved by joining the Particular Council consisting of all the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul on Vancouver Island. This process is still ongoing.

Due to retirements and illness we are reduced to only five active members, three of which form the executive. This makes it almost impossible to conduct our home visit program as two people are needed per visit, and we currently have six adopted families (we should have twelve members to do one visit per pair).

In addition, Past President Ursule Betts, Treasurer John Betts, Allan and Selma Sequeira and Nancy and Emilio Rainaldi, retired from our conference. All had with 20 + years of service on behalf of the parish. They remain active in other ministries. Some still help at St. Vincent de Paul's **Social Concern Office** downtown. These retirements resulted in elections installing Stephanie **Peters** as V. P. and Tom Hughes as Secretary/Treasurer with myself as President.

Though St. Vincent de Paul has many functions including home visits to those in need, food distribution, advocacy, counselling, tax preparation, hospital and shut in visits to name a few, our conference concentrates on home visits. We also "twin" with other conferences in Columbia and India, conduct food collection drives, and support the Social Concern food bank.

St. Joseph parishioners' generous support has allowed our volunteers to conduct charitable activities on their behalf consisting of 97 home visits supplying food for six to ten families per month that included twelve to fourteen adults, and fifteen to twenty children monthly.

We referred families to other agencies for legal help, credit counselling and personal counselling, as well as advocacy to other ministries and agencies.

Our conference supports the Social Concern food bank with donations of food and works with our Knights of Columbus in their highly successful "40 cans for Lent" program. Thank you Knights!!!

In summation it has been a successful, busy **yet** challenging year for our conference but thanks to our parishioners support and encouragement we continue to serve. All of us at St. Vincent de Paul thank you and encourage those who feel called to help please contact me or attend one of our monthly meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month.

Thank you to all parishioners who have supported these works in God's name, you truly exemplify the **Bible** quote "Let your light shine before men so they may see your good works and give glory to your Father".

In Service,

Robert Strong, President

St. Joseph's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul