

Annual Report 2015-2016 for St. Joseph's Conference of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you to all who supported our charitable works this past year. It has been a busy year of restructuring, rebuilding, projects and services. Six members retired last year and two members are battling health problems and are inactive.

Thanks to your support and encouragement our volunteers made over 90 visits to "adopted" families providing 108 adults and 144 children with vouchers for food, clothing and furniture. In addition, on a case by case basis, we provided transportation with bus passes and bicycles for adults and children.

We provided children of "adopted" families with new coats through Knights of Columbus "Coats for Kids" program and helped distribute another 150 coats to needy children at St. Vincent de Paul's Social Concerns Office.

We "adopted" a refugee family and provided food vouchers, clothing, bicycles, bus passes, Christmas hampers and children's gifts. A volunteer graciously hosted a Christmas dinner for them as well. We continue to help them.

Our conference helped arrange for "adopted" families to hear carolers from the Jesus Youth Group of St. Joseph's Parish. They were well received and appreciated.

A family in crisis was provided rental assistance to avoid eviction as well as food vouchers. Our conference has "adopted" them and continues to help.

Our volunteers helped promote "World Food Day" with St. Joseph School that collected over 300 bags of food for the needy. Thanks to all at St. Joseph's School for their participation and enthusiasm.

Our conference provided new eye glasses to a victim of violence. Visions Eyewear at Tillicum Mall helped subsidize the purchase.

Our conference helped with our Knight's "40 cans For 40 Days" campaign that resulted in a record 3,078 pounds of food. It filled the shelves of the Social Concerns Office for distribution to those in need. Congratulations to all parishioners for their support and compassion in this "Year of Mercy".

Our members also volunteer at the 9/10 Club soup kitchen, usher at Masses, visit the isolated and volunteer in many charitable works.

I would like to thank Robin Garman, Stephanie Peters, Tom Hughes, Jacques Moreau, and our two newest members Irene Zulich and my wife, Barbara Strong for their dedication, enthusiasm and compassion in the performance of these works of mercy.

In closing, I thank everyone who supported us with their monthly "blue envelope" contributions. I encourage those seeking to experience the joy and satisfaction of this ministry to call me for more information at (250) 590 6352, or email me at rstrong@telus.net.

Respectfully at your service,

Robert Strong, President, St. Joseph's Conference of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

