



St. Vincent de Paul Society NEWSLETTER



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"It is for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give them." St. Vincent de Paul

*"Love is inventive, even to infinity,"
Vincent told his followers.
He also showed them what
such inventiveness meant.*



One of the most often-quoted lines from St. Vincent de Paul is, "Love is inventive to infinity." It is frequently cited when members of the Society are looking for new ways to address poverty or to improve the work we are already doing. Although this quote is frequently cited, it is seldom lived out. As Vincentians, we tend to get stuck doing the same things in the same way year after year. It is hard to believe that the needs of the poor in any given conference area would remain the same for years at a time. Change should never take place just for the sake of change but rather in response to the emerging needs of the area as well as in light of changes in the conference and its resources.

Not only are conferences often resistant to change, all too easily we walk away from large or non-standard requests. Even though we profess that "no act of charity is foreign to the Society", many times needs go unmet because they fall outside of our conference's normal services. Why are we so easily deterred? I suspect that it is because we find it easier to stay within our comfort zone than to think and act outside of our normal comfort zone. And, sometimes fall into the trap of believing nothing can be done.

I was recently inspired by a group of fifth graders. This group of young people did not think it was right that the students with physical disabilities at their school could not use any of the playground equipment at recess because of their disabilities. They asked the school administrators to help change the playground and were told that it was too expensive. They asked the School Board to make the changes and were told it was not in the budget.



These students were undeterred. They knew what they wanted was the right thing to do. So, they had their teacher research the cost to upgrade the playground so everyone could play. The cost turned out to be \$300,000 so the students began to raise money. They held various fundraising events. They reached out to family, friends and businesses in their area. And guess what? They were successful in doing what all the adults thought was the impossible. They raised enough money to have the playground enhanced with accessible equipment.



Love is inventive, even to infinity

The students that benefitted from this endeavor were so happy to be able to actively participate during recess but what touched them the most was the compassion and determination of their fellow students on their behalf. These same students are now helping other schools do the same thing.

The eyes of youth helped these students see beyond the barriers that confined the adults around them. As Vincentians, we need to be inspired and challenged to be more like these students when we are faced with new, large or seemingly impossible situations. Recently, the Our Lady of Guadalupe conference had a couple that were evicted. Only one of the adults was working because the other was recovering from a major health issue. The couple had poor credit, little money, and two large dogs and no one wanted to rent to them. The conference found and raised enough money through twinning to help them put a down payment on a trailer. Once that initial payment is made, the couple will be able to pay off the balance and the lot fees even if the other spouse is not able to return to work. Their effort and solution was creative and inventive. This intervention effort was true systemic change.

This little conference that could like those fifth graders was inventive to infinity. The need was there. The need was real. The problem was large and others had walked away from it but neither group gave up. They were determined to find a way to do the right thing. As individual conferences, we are unable to solve the primary issues that are causing poverty but we can take on some of the more unique and larger requests. We can be inventive and we can make a difference to those whom God has called us to love unto infinity.

On his deathbed, the Queen asked Vincent what more during his lifetime he could have done to help the poor. His response was one simple word "more".

By Shirley Smalley



Easter Blessings to Everyone



From the Desk of the Conference Resources Committee

Officers On Paper or In Name Only

Within the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and for most other organizations, there are no provisions for absentee officers. The idea of non-functioning or absentee officers is counter intuitive. While the Society allows for more than four officers, it does not require them. The required officers are as follows: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Additionally, all Conference must also have a Spiritual Advisor.

All officers at the Conference and Council levels must be full enhanced members who are present at their own Conference or Council meetings and who function according to the definition and assigned duties and responsibilities for said office.

It should be noted that no appointed officers may be related to the person appointing them and no two financial account signors may be related. Some conferences have allowed one person such as the president to assume the duties for more than one office and merely list another person in one of those positions so as to meet the standard of a "Full slate of officers".

Conference and Council presidents need to be aware that a Certificate of Course Completion is not sufficient to verify a person's Safe Environment (SET) approval status. Individuals can complete a class but not be approved or be current in regards to their background check. We recently found a member that completed a course but who failed their background check and was thus not able to serve in any capacity with the Society. This is an important issue. Please check with your Parish SET Coordinator to verify SET approval status of your members. If you have no parish Coordinator, please contact Shirley Smalley at msmal14727@aol.com.

Remember to be in "Good Standing" all Conferences must:

- Hold in-person meetings at least twice a month. Hybrid meetings with a combination of in-person and remote attendance to accommodate the needs of homebound members may be conducted, however, members attending from out of the parish area must meet all full member requirements in order to vote.
- Have an active Spiritual Advisor and include Opening and Closing prayer and a Spiritual reflection at every meeting.
- Have a full slate of conference officers that meet the full enhanced member requirements.
- Follow the SVdP Meeting Agenda for all meetings.
- Have Secretary minutes and a Treasurer's Report at each meeting.
- Obtain verification that all members, volunteers & employees are Safe Environment compliant and approved.
- Provide person-to-person services to our neighbors in need and, as often as possible, through Home Visits
- Conduct home and pantry visits in pairs.
- Be represented at 80% of their District Council and 50% of the Diocesan General Membership Meetings.
- Complete and submit Quarterly and Annual Reports in a timely fashion.



BRICKS to build the foundation

Confidentiality

As stated in the Rule of the Society, *“Vincentians serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and recover their own dignity, for we are all created in God’s image. In the poor, they see the suffering Christ.”* (Rule: Part I: 1.1.8).

Because respect and dignity for the poor are core values of the Society, *“Members observe the utmost confidentiality in the provision of material and other types of support”.* (Rule: Part I: 1.1.8).

The Manual of the Society goes on to explain that all individuals receiving services and/or support from Vincentians should be advised of our privacy policy of the Conference or Council. Because respect for the dignity of each and every person is an integral part of the Society, Vincentians must hold as sacred the stories and information that those we serve share with us.

“Confidentiality, based on the individual’s right to privacy, has both legal and ethical implications. Disclosures made to a Vincentian member and Conference by an individual or family may be revealed to others only under specified conditions, and solely for the purpose of providing help”.
(Chapter 2, Page 23, of the Manual)

The Confidentiality Policy of the Diocesan Council of Phoenix shall be as follows:

1. All Conferences must incorporate into their written Conference guidelines statements that determine and define the following items: (See examples)
 - a. What information will be recorded. (Record only what is essential to provide quality services.)
 - b. Where and how information will be recorded.
 - c. How information will be safeguarded.
 - d. Who has access to the information.
 - e. How long information will be maintained. (*Note - all client records must be retained for no less than three years.*)
 - f. When and how information shall be disposed of.
2. Information concerning those we serve may be shared without consent only within the Vincentian family meaning within our Conferences and Councils. Sharing information outside the Vincentian family, (individuals, groups or agencies other than our own Conferences or Councils) must be done with great care and, except under extraordinary circumstances, only with the consent of those we serve. See list below for appropriate level of consent.
3. Those being served or seeking service and/or support shall be advised of the protocols and privacy policies of the Conference/Council and how their personal information will be safeguarded and used.

Examples of written guidelines concerning client information:

Sample 1 While a variety of notes may be taken during phone conversations and home visits, only basic and pertinent information will be recorded on the client intake and service digital record/card. All client records shall be placed in a locked file cabinet or in a password protected digital file. Only active Vincentians will have access to these service records. All inactive (old) client records will be shredded or deleted after five years where there is no activity,

Sample 2 Basic and pertinent client information shall be recorded in the Conference computer system and all files shall be backed up to a secure system once every three months. The Conference computer will be password protected and shall be secured in a locked file cabinet at the Parish office or personally secured by the Vincentian on-call. All inactive files, files where there is no activity for a period of 3 or more years, shall be purged from the computer. Receipts for payment and copies of Consent Forms shall be placed in the Conference's locked file cabinet or secured in the Treasurer's records.

Sample 3

1. All client files and records shall be secured in the SVdP Food Pantry and only active, authorized Vincentians shall have access to these records.
 2. Only basic client and service information shall be recorded.
 3. All inactive files shall be shredded after five years of inactivity.
 4. All minutes and other Conference documents containing client information must be secured or shredded by Conference members.
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Release of Information Protocol

<u>Type of permission required</u>	<u>Circumstances</u>
Verbal permission:	General types of assistance such as food, thrift store vouchers, referrals or assistance with gasoline or medication purchases.
Case record notation consent:	Simple payments for things such as utilities or rent <i>unless the company receiving payment requires a more formal written release.</i>
Formal Release of Information:	Situations that are complicated or require advocacy interactions in which personal information will be shared. Such releases are interaction specific and should apply only to a specific action and limited time frame. (See attached form)
Photo & Media Release Form:	Situations where photos, videos or stories are used for publication. These forms are available through the Community Relations office at Watkins <i>Media items to be distributed outside of your Conference or Parish, need to be coordinated through the Community Relations office.</i>
No permission or release required:	Situations where the person poses a genuine threat to themselves or others.

Vincentians may not:

- Share personal information about those receiving or seeking service with their own family, friends or persons outside the Vincentian family.
- Release information without informed written consent to any type of media sources.
- Share individual service information with outside agencies or groups such as giving another social service group a list of clients and a record of past services they have received.
- Share information about specific individuals or families receiving service with another individual or family seeking or receiving service.
- Call or notify other groups or agencies about individual service history solely for the purpose of excluding a person from future services.

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**Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Diocesan Council of Phoenix
Autorización de liberación
de Información Confidencial**

En consideración de los servicios que la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl, sus miembros, agentes u organizaciones afiliadas (en lo sucesivo denominadas "SVdP") emprenderán o prestarán en mi nombre, yo, el abajo firmante (letra de imprenta)

_____, por el presente Autorizo a SVdP a recibir, de todas y cada una de las fuentes, y a divulgar a cualquier persona u organización, cualquier información confidencial sobre mí que pueda ser necesaria o útil para SVdP en relación con los servicios que se prestarán según lo solicitado en este momento. Por la presente libero a SVdP de toda responsabilidad relacionada con la recepción y/o divulgación de dicha información confidencial.

Además, entiendo que la divulgación de esta información no garantiza que se brindará asistencia, pero que sin dicha información mi caso no puede ser presentado a la Conferencia/ Consejo para su consideración.

Firma

Fecha

San Vicente de Paúl Miembro (Testigo)

Fecha

San Vicente de Paúl Miembro (Testigo)

Fecha

Este comunicado es efectivo por el tiempo necesario para procesar esta solicitud de asistencia después de la fecha de la firma del abajo firmante.



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Diocesan Council of Phoenix
Authorization for Release of
Confidential Information**

In consideration of the services to be undertaken or rendered on my behalf by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, its members, agents or affiliated organizations (hereinafter referred to as "SVdP"), I, the undersigned (print) _____, hereby authorize SVdP to receive, from any and all sources, and to release to any person or organization, any confidential information regarding me which may be necessary or useful to SVdP in relation to the services to be rendered as requested at this time. I hereby release SVdP from all liability in any way related to the receipt and/or release of said confidential information.

I further understand that the release of this information does not guarantee that assistance will be provided, but that without such information my case cannot be presented to the Conference/ Council for consideration.

Signature

Date

St. Vincent de Paul Member (Witness)

Date

St. Vincent de Paul Member (Witness)

Date

This release is effective for the time necessary to process this request for assistance after undersigned signature date.

SVdP SVdP Thrift Stores



Valley Thrift Stores Add A New Position!

In response to the needs of potential, new and existing Thrift Store volunteers, each of our Valley Thrift Stores has a new position entitled Volunteer Coordinator. These coordinators will assist with onboarding and training new volunteers, monitoring schedules, creating new volunteer positions, supporting existing volunteers and hosting celebrations honoring our volunteers.

Our Diocesan Council has a strong Volunteer Services department and they do a great job in securing and placing corporate and group volunteers in our stores for special projects and for service days but our stores also need committed and loyal individuals who show up week after week and day after day in loving service to the store and the Society's mission. Our coordinators will work with group and corporation volunteers but their primary focus will be on meeting the needs of our ongoing volunteers, the individuals that come and work in the stores week after week and month after month.

During times of inflation, higher prices lead to an increase in shoppers at thrift stores and bargain outlets. Just a few weeks ago, our Hope Chest in Scottsdale opened their doors on a Saturday morning only to be greeted by nearly 150 shoppers. That number of shoppers entering a store all at the same time requires us to have enough staff and volunteers to greet and serve them. Our Retail Operations team and our Stores committee are looking into ways to speed up check out times, to assist shoppers and to continually restock the floor but we need your help and support to do that. We need more volunteers.

It is not surprising that the stores with the most volunteers are our best producers. Volunteers not only help us operate our stores but they are also shoppers, donors and recruiters. The volunteers in any given store become friends and family to one another. They work side-by-side, they share a meal or snack, they celebrate special days and Holidays and they genuinely care for and about each other. One of our stores has a 90-year-old who volunteers at the store five days a week. He brings joy to everyone and loves helping out and other care for and about him. It is truly a win-win relationship.

As Vincentians, we sometimes feel like helping recruit store volunteers would be just another unpleasant task that we do not have the time for but it is truly a Vincentian work. When we refer people or, even better yet, take them to one of our stores to see if being a volunteer is right for them, we are helping the Society and that person. God calls people to serve in many and varied ways and we as Vincentians are perfect recruiters for store volunteers. We already love the Society. We understand its mission. These are **our stores** and they function to support us and the poor. Why wouldn't we do everything in our power to make them successful?

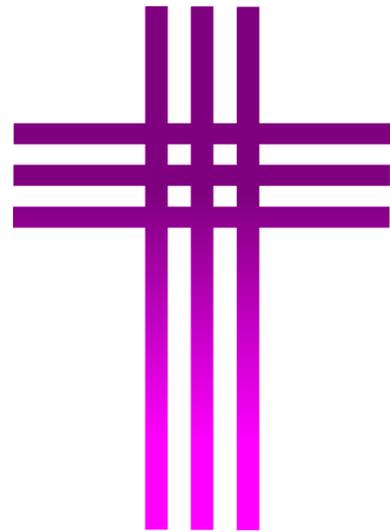
**You can make a difference by helping us
find new volunteers for our stores!**



*Did you know that our **Bringing Hope Home** program began a year ago by helping one or two families a month but just last week the program helped eight families? The need is there and as a Society we can help. Everyday our Retail Operations Team and the Stores Committee look for ways that our stores can support conferences and council programs and advance the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.*

St. Anthony of Padua

St. Anthony of Padua in Wickenburg, serves soup every Friday during Lent after the Stations of the Cross.



St. Elizabeth Seton Annual Fundraiser was another great success!

This was the second year for our annual Chili Cook-off & Dessert Auction. We had 27 chili entries and well over 50 desserts to auction off. We also had 44 themed baskets that were put together by members, parishioners, and donors from the community.

The auction was a great success and brought in a great amount of money. We made over \$6,900, which was more than last year, so we are on a good upward trend.

Lots of fun was had by all. Included was a pie-in-the-face of our great sport, "Father Kilian McCaffrey"! He is a champion! We can't thank our Pastor enough for all the support he gives to our conference. From the beginning, it was his idea to start this fundraiser, along with recommendations from last year that people couldn't see the desserts prior to auctioning off. We put them on the big overhead screen for each item as our auctioneer, Mr. Gordon Labat, conducted the auction. Gordon did an amazing job for us! Thank you, Gordon.

A huge "thank you" to all our Vincentian members for the tireless hours they put in. Thank you to our Ministry groups, Seton Ladies & Catholic Daughters for helping us make this event so successful. Thanks to all who donated time, talents, and treasures! Our "Neighbors in Need" will THRIVE! God bless!

~Tina Prosenick~



FUNDRAISER AT ST. ELIZABETH SETON



*Congratulations to our Vincentians at
St. Elizabeth Seton*



Thank you to all who participated!



OFE CLASSES – 2023

ALL CLASSES RUN 9AM – 3PM

Mar. 19, 2023 OFE 1 & 2; Mar. 20, 2023 OFE 3 & 4
St. Philip the Apostle – 511 S St. Phillip St., Payson

Apr. 29, 2023 OFE 1 & 2; May 6, 2023 OFE 3 & 4
Prince of Peace – 14818 W Deer Valley Dr.,
Sun City West

June 22, 2023 OFE 1 & 2; June 23, 2023 OFE 3 & 4
St. John Vianney -180 Soldier Pass Rd., Sedona

July 15, 2023 OFE 1 & 2; July 22, 2023 OFE 3 & 4
Corpus Christi – 3550 E Knox Rd., Phoenix

Oct. 5 OFE 1 & 2; Oct. 6 OFE 3 & 4
St. Mary/St. Juan Diego at St Mary's – 230 W. Galveston St., Chandler

Oct. 14, 2023 OFE 1 & 2; Oct. 21, 2023 OFE 3 & 4
Church of the Resurrection -3201 S Evergreen Rd., Tempe

To register contact: Mary Ann Hunter
928-699-9232 (Text or Call)

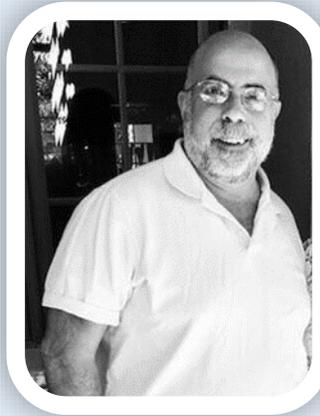
maryannhunter44@gmail.com

What is needed to register?

Your name; email, phone number, address, and your conference name

Remembering Phil Longobardi

St. Gabriel Conference Member



Phil Longobardi passed away on December 21, 2022. He was a member of the St. Gabriel Conference in Cave Creek and a longtime, faithful Vincentian, who had a deep love for those less fortunate than himself. Phil's faith was strong and he spent many hours volunteering with St. Vincent de Paul. He loved working at the Thrift Stores, both at the Bell Road store and the Hope Chest. He organized many clothing drives for the homeless and loved working at the dining room.

You have heard it said that someone would give the "shirt off his back" to someone in need, Phil gave the shoes off his feet to a man who was without shoes. He would often return home without his sneakers, having seen someone who needed them more than he did.

We are going to miss Phil but will carry on his legacy to help those in need.

Remembering

Robert "Bob" Lemme (Corpus Christi Church, Phoenix)



Has been a long-time active and cherished Vincentian since 2006 at Corpus Christi Church.

Bob lived a full and rewarding life. His family was blessed to celebrate his 90th birthday with him this past February.

*Bob Lemme will be missed,
but not forgotten.*

Blessed Frederic Ozanam Intercession Prayer Line

O God, our Father, You alone have the power to bestow those precious gifts of Yours which we rightly call miracles. If it be Your will, be pleased to grant such a gift on behalf of...

ALL SAINTS MESA Judy Allard Barbara Velleman	ST. BERNADETTE Michael Smalley	ST. ELIZABETH SETON Bob & Pat Purtill	SVDP EXECUTIVE OFFICE
BLESSED SACRAMENT Lee Matthews	ST. BRIDGET Cheryl Crame Joe Fellhauer Terri Lyn Gardner	ST. GERMAINE Joe Zambito Kathy Ferguson Joe Ferguson Sandy Smith	Tommy Pitre Mary Jane Rynd Mike Syslo Kevin Conry Margaret Najor John Marrone Dale Lehe Sheila Alvarez Mr. and Mrs. John Bracken Tegan Searing Carla Francesca Martin Diane Hoeschler Mike Weigel Mark Hamblin Baby Hailey The Porscha Family Mary Teller Brock Weatherup Mary Lou Goldstein Glenda Dubes Judy Edwards Edmund Voyer Bessie McNair Fr. Tom Enneking Melvin Goldstein Bill Mulholland Pat O'Brien Margaret Pawlak Rob Sobczak Dave Najor Dominic Svorinic Jon Ehlinger Louise Kasmikha Chris Lowrey Paul Zabilski Nathan Turner Steve & Lucy Howell Marie Gallego Greg Ryan Lisa Eicher Jagger Michael Diem Nancy Phalen Tom Van Boven Jim Novotny Joyce Zabilski Evan Arriola Jayden Southern Robert Jacobs John Jakubczyk Peter McQuaid Kathleen Nageotte Ed Koval Nicole Hazen Mayuka and Family David Park Mary Jo Matthews Lloyd Bach
HOLY CROSS Mary Powell Andy Torres Dee Shack Mary Jo Kent Sharon Culley	ST. DANIEL THE PROPHET Phil Murphy Don Fraiser	ST. MARGARET MARY-BHC Rev. Peter Dobrowski	
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Michael McCann Frank Simmons Rosie Bell Linda Lee Chambon-Gay Sue Dori Scott Marthaler James Reed Tom and Barbara Reed Peg Shandera Lu Stitt	ST. GABRIEL Jack McAward Philip Longabardi Dolores Galligan Robert Fitzer Phil Longobardi Louise Fullam	ST. MARY—KINGMAN Patty Couch Roger and Rita Gaumond Diane Schatz	
MOST HOLY TRINITY Jackie Jennings	ST. GREGORY Edd Harrington Beverly Heart	ST. MARY'S BASICILA The Boozer Family	
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE Joe DiGiovanni	ST. HELEN Charlie & Jean Olds	ST. MARY-ST. JUAN DIEGO Zoe Rainey Angie Welsh Winnie Bridgens Carl Cunningham Allen Vaughan Rich Gray Irene Beard	
OUR LADY OF THE DESERET Rita Hughes Tony Mueller Valerie Panagopoulos Peggy Merrill Duke Merrill Mary Austin Art Austin	ST. JAMES Diane Stofko Abel Noble	ST. MARY MAGDALENE Nancy Weise	
OUR LADY OF THE LAKE Cindy Smith	ST. JOHN VIANNEY SEDONA Betty Winick	ST. JEROME Nancy Barnes Yvonne Hurley	
QUEEN OF PEACE Susan Petrie Mary Kay Dunlevy Martina Bonilla	SACRED HEART—PRESCOTT Richard Howell Herb Bourgault	ST. MATTHEW Evelyn Guerra Alicia Alfonso	
SACRED HEART PARKER Dot Creechley Edith Smith Dora Norris Family Fr. John Ikponko Vernon Norris Family Peggy Knapp Ana Lopez Tomasia Torres Terry Watts Marmejejo Family	ST. MARGARET MARY Ray Baca Mary Esquibel	ST. JOACHIM & ST. ANNE Gene Harmeling Lucia Mastroianni Joan Katchur Corlaine Mortenson Philomena Kamara	
	ST. MARY'S BASILICA Robert Nue	ST. JOAN OF ARC Paul Parent	
	ST. TIMOTHY Mike Anderson Margaret Hewett Karl Rusnock Thea Podrybau	ST. FRANCES CABRINI Andre Carrillo Rosemary McClair Donna McDonald	
	ST. LOUIS THE KING Ed & Esther Escarcega Mario & Mary Fierros	ST. THERESA George Dorley Twila Stern Tim Coughlin Colin Campbell	
	ST. CLARE OF ASSISI Richard Jessen Joyce Murphy		

REQUIESCAT IN PACE



Al Gibas

Church of the Ascension

Phil Longobardi

St. Gabriel

Shirley Pipke

Our Lady of the Valley

Frank Celaya

St. Gregory

Evelyn Guerra

St. Matthew

Pat Kruse

St. Gregory

Robert “Bob” Lemme

Corpus Christi

***May the Angels lead them into Paradise,
may the martyrs receive them at their coming
and lead them into Jerusalem, the Holy City.
May the Choir of Angels welcome them
and, with Lazarus, who was also poor,
may they have everlasting rest.***



THE VINCENTIAN ANNUITY

Supporting
St. Vincent de Paul
not just
for a lifetime,
but **forever.**

SAMPLE ANNUITY RATES

	SINGLE LIFE	TWO LIVES
AGE 60	4.4%	3.9%
AGE 70	5.1%	4.6%
AGE 80	6.8%	5.7%
AGE 90	9.0%	8.2%

A gift through the Vincentian Annuity will give you the security of a fixed income over your lifetime and provide support for St. Vincent de Paul that will last forever.

As an example, Helen, an 80-year-old widow and St. Vincent de Paul volunteer, recently established a \$50,000 Vincentian gift annuity. For her age, the annuity rate is 6.8%, meaning she'll receive \$3,400 annually for the rest of her life. And, she may take an income tax deduction of about 50% of her gift this year. Best of all, her gift will support St. Vincent de Paul's work for generations to come. Annuity gifts start at \$10,000.

TO SEE IF AN ANNUITY IS RIGHT FOR YOU
visit plannedgiving.stvincentdepaul.net.

Take a look at our planned giving tools, including a benefit calculator. To discuss giving options, contact Donna Rodgers at 602-261-6884 or plannedgiving@svdpaz.org.

P.O. Box 13600 Phoenix, AZ 85002 | stvincentdepaul.net



**THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.