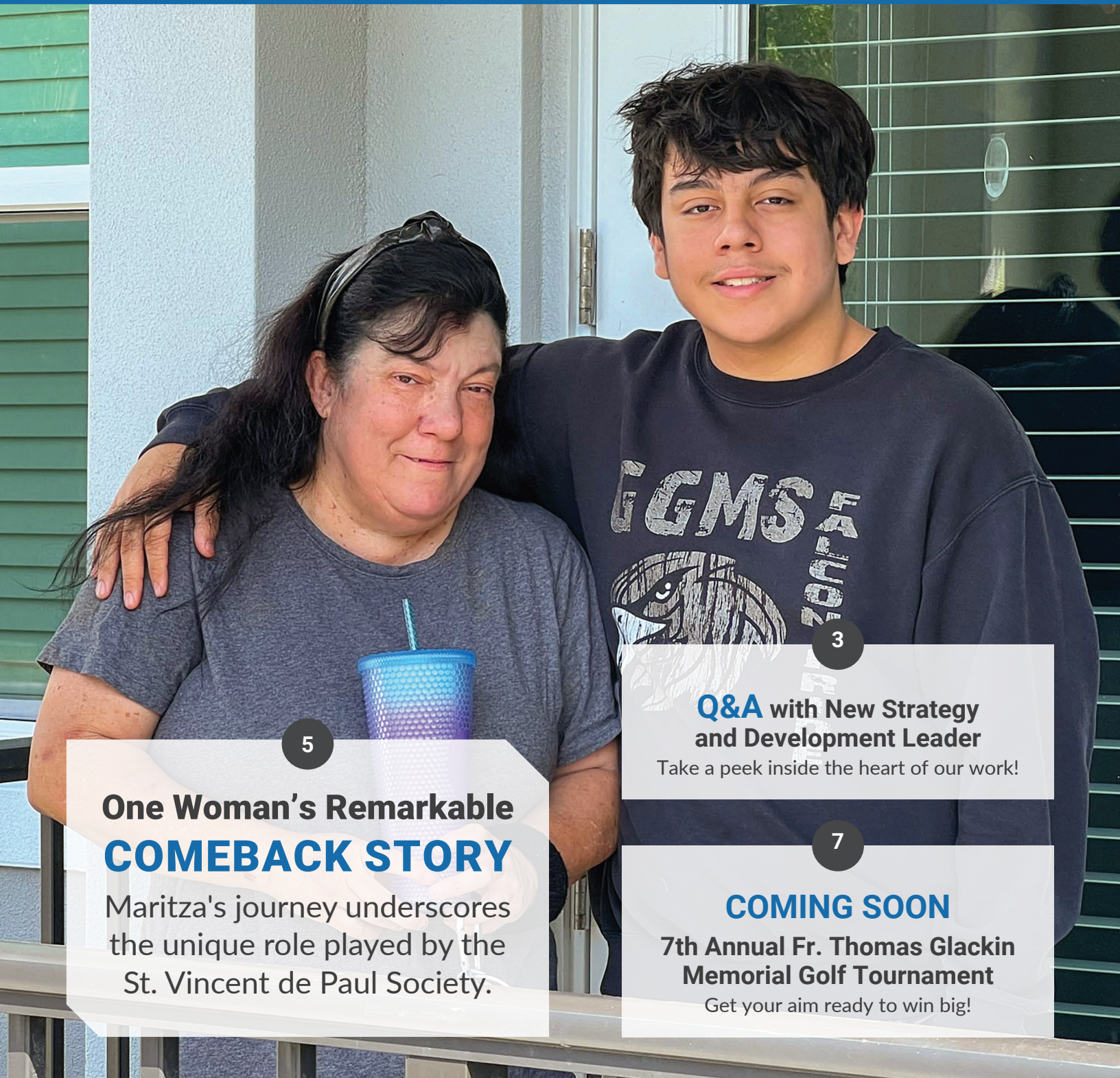




VINCENTIAN

FEED. CLOTHE. HOUSE. HEAL.
SPRING 2024 • NAPLES

– *Connection* –



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Maritza's journey underscores the unique role played by the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

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COMING SOON

7th Annual Fr. Thomas Glackin
Memorial Golf Tournament

Get your aim ready to win big!

We're the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The way we look at it, whenever there's a neighbor in need, we need to be a neighbor.



President's Column Start your Journey!



As we walk our annual journey from Lent to the joyful celebration of Easter, the profound significance of the Resurrection is not lost on me. Easter marks a shift from contemplation to jubilation, a time when the seeds of sacrifice planted during Lent blossom into the vibrant flowers of joy and renewal. And the deeper meaning of this event becomes more profound. Reflecting on the Resurrection, I imagine the triumph at that moment when non-believers and skeptics stood in awe in witnessing what was to be the most significant event at that time. For the Disciples and believers, it was a transformative moment of complete affirmation. That affirmation was the spiritual fuel for their future journey of spreading The Word. St. Vincent de Paul walked that

journey and a little more than a century later Blessed Fredric Ozanam created a formalized path for that journey in a modern world. Today, we as volunteers continue that journey to spread The Word in the 21st century. We do our part as volunteers when we hold true to the values that Christ taught us by caring for our brothers and sisters who need our help. By embracing them with love and giving hope and leaving judgement to God. By opening our hearts to them with kindness and finding paths to comfort and peace. We stand at the tomb bearing witness for all to see and believe that He is with us always. Our volunteers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are not just a part of this charitable organization. On the contrary, volunteers are the heart of our organization. They are the disciples of Christ's teaching in our modern world doing His work in everyday life, walking the same path as those who journeyed before us.

Anita Cramer, President

Executive Director's Column Joy & Renewal!

The heart of the St. Vincent de Paul Society's mission is remarkably powerful: to extend hope. This is not a mere slogan but a guiding principle, boldly displayed on our trucks as they navigate Collier County and beyond. Our focus is on addressing fundamental needs—providing food, clothing, shelter, and support for those teetering on the edge of homelessness. Of course, our charitable efforts thrive on collaboration. We don't complicate it; we straightforwardly state: we need your support. This is an open invitation for you to contribute to our ongoing mission. Whether your journey is just beginning or well-established, your involvement can be a practical step toward building a better future for those grappling with life's complexities.

Beyond the tangible aid we provide, there is a profound aspect that resonates in the heart of our work—the experience of God's grace. In reaching out to the

struggling, poor, and lonely in our community, we are not merely addressing material needs; we are also facilitating an encounter with grace, a transcendent force that touches both those in need and those extending a helping hand. In helping the needy, we become conduits for God's grace, creating a reciprocal exchange where compassion and empathy flourish. As we extend our hands to support, feed, clothe, house, and heal, we become instruments of grace, embodying the love and kindness that define the essence of our faith.

If you have volunteered this year, thank you! If you are considering volunteering, please don't hesitate. We are ready now for you to start your journey.

Kim Schul, Executive Director



“ Help us to help others to help themselves. ”

What do Vincentians do?

Today Vincentians continue to witness God's love by embracing all works of charity, justice, and good will.

When someone has an empty stomach, or needs clothing or a bed to sleep on, or is forced to live in conditions that threaten their health, that's where we come in. Or just as important—if someone is feeling isolated and alone because of disabilities or age or sickness, we can listen and offer connection and comfort. We fulfill their needs and do it with the compassion and love that everyone deserves. With the help of our generous volunteers and donors and the grace of God, we strive to answer the call for help anytime.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international non-profit organization dedicated to serving people in need and providing others with the opportunity to serve. We are a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, helping neighbors in need through

personal relationships and service.

We don't have a one-size-fits-all approach to serving others; instead, we create and nurture relationships with those we serve.

Vincentians are men and women of every age, every race, and every income level, who share their blessings of time, talent, and treasure with neighbors in need. Nationally we have over 9,000 members. In the Naples area we have over 300 active volunteers, many who attend our local 8 parishes.

The Vincentian Connection magazine shares the stories of compassion, hope, healing and the impact SVDP Naples has in building a better community.



Rick Roth, who joined St. Vincent de Paul Society, Naples Council last summer as our strategy and development leader gets questions every day, but below are two questions that might just give you a peek inside the heart of our work.

What does St. Vincent de Paul Society do in the Collier County? Is there anything special about the Society?

Absolutely! Our volunteers conduct home visits to personally understand the unique needs of our neighbors in need.

We try to avoid bureaucracy and create an organization where local Catholic laywomen and men volunteer time and donate their hearts and minds to helping those in need.

Vincentians help solve immediate problems—then follow up to address structural, long-term issues by teaching financial literacy and critical life skills.

What is the most surprising thing you have learned about working with Vincentians in the Naples area?

Here it is: History unfolds everyday!

A week doesn't go by that I don't receive a phone call or an email from an individual in Collier County sharing with me a story how the Saint Vincent de Paul Society helped their mother or father, or brother and sister get through a difficult time. It may have been providing Meals on Wheels in Naples, or a trip to the Food Pantry in 1988 in Fresno, CA, or helping with their rent in 2001 for an apartment just outside Columbus, OH.

People simply don't forget the help that their loved ones received from our volunteers, especially when St. Vincent de Paul Society provided the care, at no cost, with an open mind and open heart. God's grace has inspired Vincentian volunteers and supporters for decades ago across the county. That same generosity continues today throughout Southwest Florida by the children and grandchildren who personally witnessed the help family and friends were given in a time of need.

New Name, Look & Feel

Loyal readers of our publication will notice a new name of our publication (formerly "The Samaritan", now The Vincentian). Also, you will notice a new look and feel that attempts to better connect with our audience.



Please let us know what you think!

Feel free to provide comments to Rick Roth, our director of strategy & development at rroth@svdnpnaples.org.



We welcome...

...anyone who wants to help. How will you reach out with your time, talent, and treasure to support those who require it most? Will you put food on the table, clothing on people in need, provide shelter for neighbors who have nowhere to go, or care for those who are isolated and lonely? Follow your heart. Contact us and become a volunteer today. The great part is, you'll probably receive more in return than you will ever give.

“ The poor suffer less from a lack of generosity than from a lack of organization. ”

St. Vincent de Paul

FEED.

St. Vincent de Paul aims to not only feed those who are hungry but to also fill their bodies and souls with wellness.

Meals on Wheels

This program provides a week's worth of meals, every week to neighbors in the greater Naples area. We feed those who are homebound, disabled or low-income. Many of the seniors are isolated or without weekly visitors. In addition to nutritious meals, they look forward to seeing our SVDP Naples volunteers who provide conversation and a friendly visit.

Food Pantry

Each week truckloads of food donated by grocery stores and community food drives or picked up by volunteers arrive at our food pantry on Mercantile Ave. The items are sorted and measured against strict food control standards and then put on shelves for our neighbors to enjoy a true shopping experience.

CLOTHE.

Thrift Stores

Our thrift stores generate funding for other programs and services. Every piece of donated clothing, furniture and household items is either sold or given directly to someone in need.

HOUSE.

Homeless Prevention

Shelters nationwide face an unprecedented influx of homeless people seeking help. While many are migrants, record numbers of Americans are in shelters. On a single night at the end of 2022, nearly 350,000 people, including some 88,000 children, were living in shelters across the U.S.

In Collier County—geographically larger than the state of Delaware, hundreds of families seek shelter services at a cost to the County of nearly \$55,000 a year per family..

The best way we can help is to prevent homelessness in the

first place. That is where the Saint Vincent de Paul Society focuses its attention. The Naples council has provided over \$1.1M in the last five years to help those who were sliding into homelessness. We provide money to struggling families for rent and utilities to overcome short-term emergencies and stay out of shelters.

In all cases, clients receive support services and counseling to ensure they have a path toward long-term stability.

Our support often is sufficient to prevent a family from entering a shelter. Sometimes funds are combined with additional resources to resolve the emergency fully. In all cases, clients receive support services and counseling to ensure they have a path toward long-term stability.

Short-term financial assistance programs are the least expensive policy interventions for preventing homelessness. Now more than ever, we need others to join us in this effort.

HEAL.

Vincentians offer an open mind and an open heart to hear and see the needs of our neighbors who may be disabled or weak, afraid or just alone for too many hours. Sometimes offering a listening ear, or a shoulder for strength, a guiding hand or a comforting prayer can make all the difference.

SERVE.



Vincentians are a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

One Woman's Remarkable Comeback Story

SVDP Society in Naples helps Collier county neighbors move forward. This is just one story of many that we plan on bringing to you in the months to come.

Maritza's journey of resilience began when the shadows of homelessness and the looming threat of losing custody of her son cast a daunting pall over her life. At that pivotal crossroads in December 2018, Maritza, a 53 year old woman forged by life's trials turned to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The challenges she faced were formidable—a precarious living situation, the constant fear of separation from her son, and the gnawing uncertainty of the future. Maritza, who had spent more than a year living in a car, sought not only assistance but a lifeline to pull her family from the grips of destitution.

"In my darkest moments, reaching out to the St. Vincent de Paul Society was like finding a sturdy hand lifting me up," shared Maritza.

Her five year journey was

marked by tenacity and collaboration. From the critical security deposit secured to the daunting process of finding a home for herself and her son, Maritza faced each challenge with prayer, determination and consistent support from the volunteers of SVDP Naples.

Her commitment to stability remained steadfast, even in the face of hurdles. The completion of the Landlord Form, punctuated by tears and perseverance, became a pivotal moment where Maritza's determination intertwined with the tangible support offered by the SVDP volunteers.

"The volunteers and donors at SVDP became my partners in resilience, turning hurdles into stepping stones on this journey," Maritza acknowledged with gratitude. It was not just a helping hand; it was people caring

about my son and myself."

"SVDP didn't just offer immediate relief; they provided a roadmap to rebuild. My son, now a successful junior in high school, is proof of that journey," Maritza explained.

Maritza's journey underscores the unique role played by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. "They offered more than just assistance—SVDP became a compass, guiding me towards a brighter future," she reflected.

By extending a helping hand the Saint Vincent de Paul Society becomes a conduit for grace, fostering positive change and instilling hope in the lives of those, who like Maritza, find themselves at a crossroad.



“ They offered more than just assistance—SVDP became a compass, guiding me towards a brighter future. ”

TRIBUTES

- In Memory of Tom Beljan**
Debbie & Joe Pinto
- In Memory of Charles Bradley**
Karen Hirsch
- In Memory of Ralph A Caccia**
Ralph Caccia
- In Memory of Mr. Cangelosi**
Frank Hujsa
- In Memory of Bert Cleland**
William Lorenz
Bernice Sheaffer
Rob & Mary Schott
- In Memory of Francis Dielenhein**
Geraldine Dielenhein
- In Memory of Vincent Donnelly**
"Vinnie's Village"
Kris Egan & Donnelly Family

- In Memory of Denis Dugan**
Joy, John & Olivia Cusimano
Bill & Margaret Drumme
Marian & Gary Elder
William Elder
Ellen & Dan Maglicic
Linda Murphy
Paul Sandman
Pat Shook
Ronald Spears
- In Memory of Katherine & Dudley Ferrari**
Marie Colleran
- In Memory of Herman W. Lapointe**
William & Colette McKeon
- In Memory of Mary Lou Leibeg**
Anonymous
- In Memory of Ralph & Yolanda Lotito**
Norman & Elaine LaButti

- In Memory of Dan & Joan Mahoney**
Linda Joan Mahoney
- In Memory of Janice O'Connor**
Douglas O'Connor
- In Memory of Paul T. Power**
Grace Power
- In Memory of Patricia Pudlock**
Regina & Christopher Cahill
Elizabeth Smith
Keith & Wanda Thimons
- In Memory of Clyde & Michael Quinby**
Pearl Quinby
- In Memory of Tom Roettele**
Suzanne Seider
- In Memory of Raymond N. Tette**
Thomas & Ginny Tette
- In Memory of Eileen Varoski**
Cindy Bursma

- In Memory of Anna Wallack**
Kenneth Zemsky
- In Memory of Sylvia E. Watkins**
Gerald D. Larsen
- In Memory of Zuccaro Family**
Patricia Daniel
- In Honor of Angela & Thomas Barris**
Monica Rudy
- In Honor of Terrence Cavanaugh**
Highmark Health
- In Honor of Nora Gibson**
Randy & Sharon Tedhams
- In Honor of Carol Harris**
Arthur Anti
- In Honor of Very Rev. Robert J. Kantor**
Rosemary & Michael Panzano
- In Honor of Kate Schober**
Rosemary Panzano

Tributes made from October 1, 2023 - February 29, 2024

We make every effort to include and accurately publish all tributes. If you notice an omission or error, please call us at (239) 775-2907



“ Faith, without works is dead. ”
St. James



The SVDP Society, Naples BY THE NUMBERS

Over 1,000

Home visits each year

50,000

Nourishing meals delivered each year

305

Active volunteers

16,175

Hours served by volunteers annually—home visits, thrift store employees, and pantry workers

10,000

Neighbors helped annually with food boxes, utility and rent assistance, and other support to prevent homelessness



In Gratitude

Dozens of dedicated volunteers gather each day to lend a helping hand at the St. Vincent de Paul Society's food pantry on Mercantile Ave. in Naples. Among them are Chris and Melanie Kohan, a couple who enjoys the beauty of Naples beaches but also has a strong commitment to service that exemplifies the spirit of generosity in our community.

Chris and Melanie are young retirees and longtime Catholics who split their time between Naples and Pittsburgh. In the Pittsburgh area they volunteer at St. Raphael the Archangel parish; in Naples, they are active parishioners at St. William's Church. Formerly an executive in the radio industry, Chris later founded his own business in pharmaceutical sales, while Melanie's compassionate nature led her to a career focused on helping others.

Their involvement in the pantry reflects their deeply-held beliefs in the importance of community and service. Once a week, they arrive ready to assist those in need, offering



a warm smile and a helping hand to anyone who walks through the door.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by many in the community, Chris emphasizes the significance of their work, stating, "Times are tough for people. Many people stop by as they are going to work, so we feel we are helping those who are truly working hard, but still struggling."

For Chris and Melanie, their commitment to volunteering is rooted in a simple yet profound belief instilled in Chris from his father: "Maybe you can't change the world, but you can make a difference in many people's lives."

A Legacy of Love & Service

In Fond Memory of Denis Krebs Dugan (1939-2024)

We celebrate the life of Denis Krebs Dugan, who peacefully departed on February 8, 2024, at 84. Born on August 19, 1939, in Albany, NY, Denis was the cherished second son of Joseph and Dorothy Dugan.

Denis was a Marine, a graduate of Vincentian Institute, and holder of an MBA from American University. Denis found love twice—with Brenda Mary Aswad and later, with Elizabeth (Ela) Maria Olech. Survived by Ela, devoted children, grandchildren, and siblings, Denis left an indelible mark on those he touched.

In a distinguished IT career, Denis retired as the Chief Information Officer of Raytheon Engineers and Constructors. Denis's commitment to community service through the St. Vincent de Paul Society was profound. As a Vincentian caseworker and Naples District Council President he dedicated 19 years to the organization. His service, marked by delivering Thanksgiving Baskets as a high school student and leading the largest SVDP Conference in Naples, has left an enduring legacy.

A lover of golf, literature, and global adventures, Denis's greatest joy



was time spent with family and friends. His laughter, kind heart, and legacy of love will be cherished.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Naples, a cause dear to Denis's heart. As we remember him, let us celebrate a life well-lived and express gratitude for his faith in the Resurrection. May Denis Dugan's soul rest in eternal peace, his joyful dedication forever inspiring us.

Board of Directors

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Chuck Drago, Vice President
John Javaruski, Treasurer

Thomas Tette, Assistant Treasurer
Colleen Del Debbio, Secretary
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Pam Black, President, St. Peter the Apostle
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Fred Michaels, President Emeritus

St. Vincent de Paul Staff

Kim Schul, Executive Director
Samantha Maturo, Program Director
Rick Roth, Director of Strategy & Development
Carol Harris, Meals-on-Wheels Coordinator
Kim Tucker, Senior Accountant
Brianna Cox, Social Media Assistant
Kathleen Casey, Volunteer Coordinator
Hilda Mowbray, Intake Specialist
Berlye Derival, Mission Admin Assistant
Joe Demkosky, Dispatch/Facilities
Jerry Fenelon, Bonita Store Manager
Manuel Alcantara, Naples Store Manager
Catherine Sciandra, Bonita Asst. Manager
Ida Martinez, Naples Assistant Manager

STORE STAFF & DRIVERS:

Anthony Alphonse Aaron DeLeon
Jeffrey Dunstan Alex Hernandez
David Phillips Ethan Sawyer
Wilbert Sirenord

SAVE THE DATE

Monday
MAY 6th

TBD Naples
Location

**\$200 per person OR
\$800 per foursome**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

7th Annual Fr. Thomas Glackin Memorial **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

\$10K CASH HOLE-IN-1 PRIZE

A 1099 will be issued to the winner

**12:30 pm Shotgun Start Before Golf: Boxed Lunch
After Golf: Cash Bar & Gourmet Buffet Dinner
Gift Bag • Mulligans • 50-50 Drawing • Silent Auction**

For more information on signing up to play or becoming a sponsor, please contact:
Samantha Maturo, Program Director 239.775.2907 Ext 1014, smaturo@svdnaples.org



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
4451 Mercantile Ave
Naples, FL 34104

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Society Naples**

**FAMILY ASSISTANCE
CENTER**

4451 Mercantile Ave
Naples, FL 34104
(239) 775-2907
info@svdnpnaples.org
Fax (239) 775-2412

MEALS ON WHEELS
(239) 775-2907

THRIFT STORES

3810 Tamiami Trl E
Naples, FL 34112

3725 Bonita Beach Rd
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

BOUTIQUE

3725 Bonita Beach Rd Unit 7
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

svdnpnaples.org

Upcoming Dates & Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
MARCH			
3/2-3/3	Food Drive		St. Ann Catholic Church
3/7	Ozanam Orientation	9:00A	St. Peter the Apostle
3/9-3/10	Food Drive		St. Peter the Apostle
3/16-3/17	Food Drive		St. William Catholic Church
3/22	Volunteer Luncheon	12:00P	St. Ann Catholic Church
3/28	Board Mtg.	9:30A	Family Assistance Center
3/29	Good Friday		Office & Stores Closed
APRIL			
4/9	Diocesan Council Mtg.	12:00P	Sacred Heart Catholic Church
4/13-4/14	Food Drive		St. Peter the Apostle
4/20-4/21	Food Drive		St. William Catholic Church
4/25	Board Meeting	9:30A	Family Assistance Center
MAY			
5/6	7th Annual Golf Tournament	12:30P	TBD
5/11-5/12	Food Drive		St. Peter the Apostle
5/18-5/19	Food Drive		St. William Catholic Church
5/23	Board Meeting	9:30A	Family Assistance Center
5/27	Memorial Day Holiday		Office & Stores Closed

Inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need. With almost 90,000 members in more than 4,300 parishes across the United States, we believe that no work of charity is foreign to the Society.

“ The Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. It seeks to be aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. ”
Frederic Ozanam, Founder, St. Vincent de Paul Society