

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, St Gabriel's Conference

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March 31, 2021 Year End Report

2020 was a year like no other. We began our inaugural year as a conference for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul out of St Gabriel's Parish with energy, enthusiasm, plans and hopes on the parts of our members, anxious to be out in the community starting our Vincentian outreach. And then Covid struck.

Despite this monumental setback, we were able to perform our outreach, though in a somewhat modified and safe manner, to make sure that our neighbours were supported through those grim months. Thanks to the generous donations of our parishioners, not one person was turned away.

We helped a total of 44 families including 50 children 20 years of age or under and 82 adults. Our support last year included food cards, utility payments, clothing and mattress assistance, back to school supplies, refurbished computers for those children entering high school or post-secondary school, a Thanksgiving food program and our Angel Tree program of food cards and Walmart cards for Christmas gifts. We were unable to conduct in-home visits but remained in touch with phone calls and by emailing information resources for food assistance during Covid.

On behalf of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, St Gabriel's Conference, I would like to thank you for supporting us through a most challenging first year of operation. Our neighbours have been very appreciative, knowing that the St Gabriel's parish community cares for them. They tell us that they are so relieved to know that they can rely on the Society to walk alongside them through these difficult times.

We are already noticing this year that the needs of our families are starting to rise, as government assistance for Covid support starts to decrease for them. Although it was tough last year, it looks like it will be an even tougher year this year. We realize that the coming months will continue to be challenging but we serve in hope of a better tomorrow for all.

Please accept our sincere appreciation for your past support and we hope that you will continue to support our neighbours in need as we continue to walk alongside them.

Jeannette Schindler
President, SSVP St Gabriel's Conference