

OUR LADY OF THE DESERT - ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE



**7141 W. 11th Street
Dolan Springs, Arizona 86441
928-715-3434**

**Mailing Address:
PO Box 213
Dolan Springs, AZ 86441**

June 30, 2022

Dear Vincentians and Our Lady of the Desert - St. Vincent de Paul (OLOD-SVdP) Conference Supporters,

This email is the second newsletter about the OLOD-SVdP Conference News. The first email (March 2022) described our remote location, and the impact our location has on the needs of our clients, many of whom are veterans, poor and elderly, with numerous health issues. Think of the desert in the middle of nowhere and that is where we are carrying out God's mission. There are no supermarkets or medical providers in our town. Clients travel 35 miles or more to receive services.

This Newsletter will go back in time to tell you what has been accomplished since August 2021 after the new OLOD-SVdP Conference Board Officers were installed. By way of history the OLOD-SVdP Conference Date of Aggregation is July 12, 1993.

OLOD-SVDP operates a Thrift Store and Pantry. The Thrift Store is open on Mondays and Wednesdays for four hours. The Pantry does a major food distribution two Fridays a month. The following pictures were of our last Friday distribution. Although the summer distribution begins at 8 a.m., cars start lining up at 6:30 a.m.



Once the clients enter the Thrift Store to register, they are given a ticket and proceed to the warehouse where their food is placed into their vehicles by the volunteers. Volunteers Donna, Charlotte and Mary are ready for the rush.



On this particular day, we fed 165 families and 306 individuals. Our numbers feeding clients are skyrocketing. To put this in perspective, in July 2021, we fed 188 families and in June 2022, we fed 376 families, twice the number. That is why receiving food, obtaining food Gift Cards or Twinning/donations to buy food is so critical to our Conference!



Volunteers - Dave, Chuck and Mike directing traffic and loading food.



Volunteers-Sunshine, Sandy and Elaine preparing bags of meat, eggs and loaves of bread. Table grey bag contains commodities. Total value \$95+.

OLOD-SVdP receives food monthly from St. Vincent de Paul and twice a month from St. Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix. Our Conference also purchases food from St. Mary's and supermarkets in Kingman, Bullhead City, Boulder City, Henderson or Las Vegas.

In August 2021, our Conference was contacted by the St. Gabriel the Archangel, Cave Creek, AZ Conference who began to generously donate their monthly SVdP food allotment to our Conference. Other Conferences have donated food to us as well, including St. Vincent de Paul Our Lady of the Poor Council, District 3, Santa Teresita Food Pantry, El Mirage, AZ.

FALL/WINTER 2021

Because September was Hunger Awareness month, with orange being the Awareness color, our Conference purchased orange shirts saying "St. Vincent de Paul Volunteer Helping to Feed the Hungry". The shirts not only helped our Volunteers with our message, but all wearing the same T-Shirt helped with the sense of camaraderie while we carry out God's mission. Another Hunger Awareness method we employed was to make a large orange paper hand with the words, "Hands Against Hunger " Customers to

In September 2021, OLOD-SVdP joined local organizations and individuals to create a free lunch program, the Lunch Bunch, which feeds the hungry twice a month. SVdP volunteers help to serve and deliver to the homebound. Sixty lunches were served at the last lunch. This program is made possible through business and private donations. After resuming in September, the expectation is for more hungry folks to utilize this needed program. A local resource flyer was created and distributed listing the various programs where and when folks can get food, which includes current Lunch Bunch dates. This guide has become a very useful tool for the hungry.

In the fall, OLOD-SVdP was contacted by the Little Flower SVdP Conference in Toledo Ohio, who learned about us from a former OLOD-SVdP volunteer, Mary, who relocated to that part of the country. They generously Twinn/donate to our Conference, and before Christmas they mailed new hats, scarfs, gloves and socks which were given out free to our clients. Mary also mailed us wrapped age designated Christmas gifts, which our clients got to choose from. The clients were overwhelmed and grateful that people who lived so far away would even think about them; no less donate these items for them.



In December, 2021 OLOD-SVdP held a Christmas shopping event and party for 110 local school children. The ages of the school children ranged from pre-school to high school, for 25 cents they purchased items from the SVDP Thrift Store, received goody bags and which was followed by enjoying punch and cookies. Even though OLOD-SVdP had planned to give the items, the Principal insisted the students spend 25 cents to teach them responsibility and give them ownership. It was hard to tell who had the better time; the youngsters or the Volunteers.



Volunteers - Joe the Elf with helpers Mary and Jean.

In December, one of the best blessings our clients received was the \$25 food Gift Cards donated from Albertson's Corporation and Bashas Corporation. It was during that distribution the face of God was seen in a woman clearly in need. She was at first confused that she was receiving the Gift Card which evolved into tearful gratitude. As she tearfully walked out past the other clients in line, her cries of disbelief/gratitude continued, and she was met with hugs and reassurances from the other clients still in line. It was a sight to behold. It touched our hearts and reaffirmed that God is great and provides for His children.



Volunteers – The photo on the left is Chuck, Elaine, Carl, and Charlotte with Carl, Elaine, Mike, and Randy in the photo on the right.

The last photo is taken from the upper tanks of the Mt. Tipton Water Co. showing what is known as the downtown Dolan Springs area. The OLOD-SVdP buildings are identified with the arrow. Some of our clients come from this area with the remainder living in the surrounding desert areas.



It can never be said enough; our Conference is only able to provide these services because of the generosity of our Volunteers and the generosity of our supporters who donate food, Gift Cards, supplies and money. We especially want to thank the Albertsons and Bashas Corporations, St. Mary's Food Bank and all of the SVDP Conferences, including: the AZ Society of St. Vincent de Paul, SVdP Phoenix Council, St. Mary SVdP, Kingman, AZ; San Francisco de Asis, Flagstaff, AZ; Our Lady of Lourdes,

Sun City West, AZ; St. Elizabeth Seton, Sun City, AZ; Prince of Peace, Sun City West, AZ; Sacred Heart, Prescott, AZ; St. Vincent de Paul Our Lady of the Poor Council, Santa Teresita Food Pantry, El Mirage, AZ, Our Lady of Joy, Carefree, AZ; St. Louis the King Conference, Glendale, AZ, St. Gabriel the Archangel, Cave Creek, AZ , Little Flower SVdP Conference in Toledo OH: and various individuals. In June 2022 you all helped to feed 378 families and 667 individuals. God bless you all. We appreciate your support more than you can realize.