



# Community Update: Fall 2023

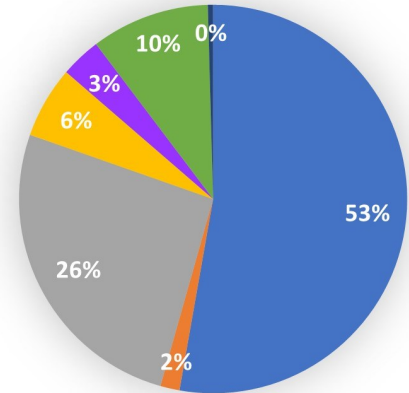
SVdP St. Francis of Assisi Conference - Steuben Co.

## Happy New Year!

October 1 is the start of a new fiscal year for the St. Vincent de Paul society, so let's count our blessings. First and foremost, we are thankful for the friendships we are forming in our ministry to serve the poor. Each of us plays an important role in the service of the poor of Stueben County. It does not matter whether you are a needs call responder, prayer warrior, garden tender, record keeper, financial supporter, etc. The working of the spirit really does bless in all directions. The more we give, they more we receive. St. Francis of Assisi conference supporters are a wonderful example of that.

*As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12)*

### Spending Summary October 2022-September 2023



Comments: The chart above represents fiscal year spending. Notable is that 6% of our budget goes to food yet more than 52 households benefited from the conferences ability to purchase food through a food bank Also, notice that less than \$200 was spent on administration fee.

### St. Vincent de Paul Feast Day & Eucharist Revival Celebration September 27, 2023



Thank to everyone who came together to celebrate the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul. It was a wonderful evening filled with the prayer, food and friendship.

# St. Vincent de Paul St. Francis of Assisi Conference - Steuben Co. Community Update: Fall, 2023

## Answering a New Call

By: Annette Calloway

The first call came in May. It was from a gentleman who was currently incarcerated but hoping to get into a work release program, unfortunately he was facing some obstacles. He needed money to pay the intake fee, drug testing fee, and first two weeks of residency. Huh? This was all new territory to us, so Deb Davis did some digging. As is often the case once someone finds a group to help the word spreads, so the next call was soon to follow.



*No work of charity is foreign to the Society. It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions. (Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul sec 1.3)*

On August 14 Coty Foster, from Northeast Indiana Community Corrections (NICC), came to our semimonthly meeting to explain the work release options through his program, who participates and to investigate the best way St. Vincent de Paul can help. The program that Coty oversees involves men and women who are transitioning out of jail or court ordered to participate as a part of sentencing. They may be housed in a facility that NICC runs or in home detention. They must all secure employment, pay a daily fee to participate and wear an ankle monitoring device.

What Coty felt would be the best way we could help financially was to assist with the initial fees they have to pay. Initially they must pay for the hookup fee for the ankle bracelet, drug testing and two weeks of their daily in house or home detention fee. He did not want us to help any person who gets behind in their fees. He felt their ability to learn to manage resources was an important part of their process towards moving forward.

Since that meeting, two of our members, Peter Walters and Clem Sniadecki, have completed the screening process to be able to visit people in jail. This came about after St. Anthony's received a letter from an inmate who was getting ready to be released. He was looking for some financial assistance as well as religious materials. Peter and Clem were able to visit him while still incarcerated and took him a bible. They continue to support him upon his release.

Funny how the Spirit works. Our whole conference feels blessed by these opportunities to serve and by the support of our community around us.



Walking in the Friend for the Poor Walk is not only a fundraiser, it is an experiencing of creating an outward presence of solidarity. Thank you to all those who supported the goals of St. Vincent de Paul by walking, contributing or praying for this event's success.



*Vincentians endeavor to establish relationships based on trust and friendship. Conscious of their own frailty and weakness, their hearts beat with the heartbeat of the poor. They do not judge those they serve. Rather, they seek to understand them as they would a brother or sister. (Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul sec 1.9)*