



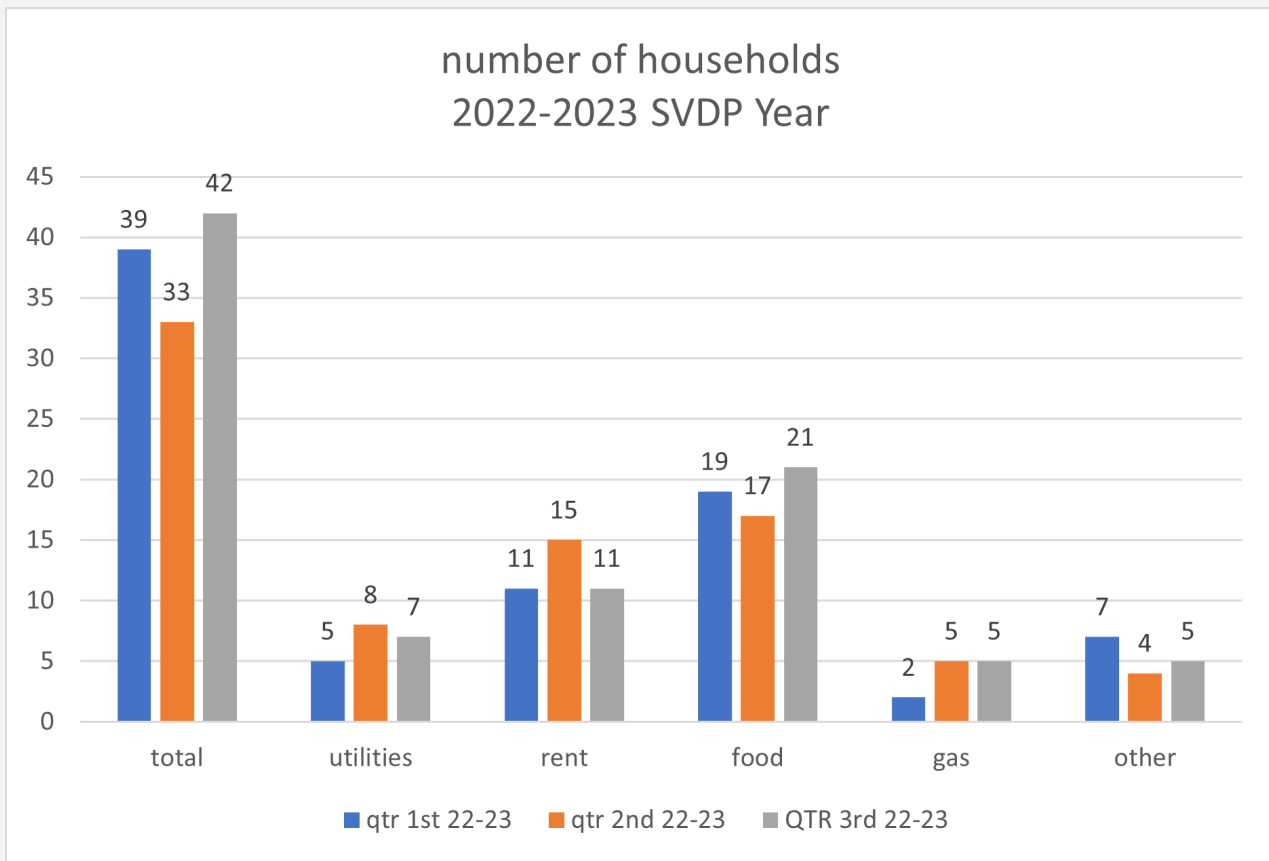
St. Vincent de Paul
 St. Francis of Assisi Conference - Steuben Co.
 Community Update: Summer, 2023

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

As a supporter of the St. Francis of Assisi SVDP Conference you are allowing us to reach out to neighbors in need in our county. Your prayers and financial support our making a real difference. Hopefully this news- letter keeps you connected to how your sacrifice is working.

Service Report

The St. Francis of Assisi Conference is honored to be your face of Christ to the poor.



SVDP fiscal year runs from October through September. So, 1st qtr is October 2022 - December 2022, 2nd qtr is January 2023 - March 2023, 3rd qtr is April 2023 - June 2023

"Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work."
 (2 Corinths 9: 7-8)



Hopes for the Garden

By Ruth Libey & Annette Calloway

As we write this article it is the 4th of July, which means morning TV is filled with suggestions for cookouts and/or barbeques. Did that national broadcaster just say ribeye steaks are 15.99/pound on average? Seems like the prices of food never stop going up.



So, as you can imagine, food is a big topic of conversation at our regular St. Vincent de Paul meetings. Not a week has gone by that one of our neighbors in need has not called asking for help with acquiring food. When these calls come in, we can respond in several ways depending on the day and time. Sometimes we can refer them to one of the pantries that other area churches host. Other times, we buy them a voucher for 100lbs of food at 19¢/pound from the Community Harvest Food Bank in Fort Wayne, but this means that transportation may become an issue. Yet, the advantage of the food bank over the local pantries is that families will receive a more diverse selection of food that may include protein and dairy products.



Of course, we also have the Blessing Box located in St. Anthony's parking lot. This box allows anyone to share their blessings with someone looking for help. This resource probably only helps a family with a meal or two, but it can be an immediate relief.



Now, this year St. Vincent DePaul of St. Anthony's was blessed to get a garden plot at the Cameron Hospital Community gardens. Volunteers Ruth Libey, Annette Calloway, and Clem Sniadecki planted the garden on the first of June. The vision of this garden is to help underserved residents in our area with garden fresh veggies. In future years Ruth would like to teach this same community to grow their own food and teach them how to preserve their efforts for the winter months. (Canning and freezing). Being the first year for this endeavor, we are hoping it will grow into a yearly project which will blossom into new solutions for the need for food.

Words to Live By

Just a short sharing from the Rule of the International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Section 1:12 Gratitude to those we visit.

Vincentians never forget the many blessings they receive from those they visit. They recognize that the fruit of their labors springs, not from themselves, but especially from God and from the poor they serve.

