Below is a thank you note from a case where we partnered (twinned) with several other SVdP Conferences to assist a client.

This case illustrates the power of our SVdP Ministry in that, when faced with a request for assistance that is simply beyond the capability of one conference, in this case this person needed money for medical bills, we can reach out to our brother & sister Vincentians and join together to help a deserving person. This partnering / Twinning speaks to the very core of our Vincentian beliefs....."To seek out the poor, Vincentians strive to seek out and find those in need and the forgotten, the victims of exclusion or adversity".

Hello,

My life has been changed by your generosity and Christian charity. I am a lifetime resident of Cuyahoga Falls. I was diagnosed with Rheumatoid arthritis when I was twelve. When I turned 18 I spent two months in the hospital when I developed Crohn’s disease. I gave birth to my daughter Ashley when I was 21.

Over time, my RA progressed to the point where I could no longer continue being a sign language interpreter and was forced to go on disability. One of my prescriptions costs $28,000 per dose. The medication and treatments for RA and Crohn’s had a devastating effect on my hips and both had to be replaced by the time I reached 32 years of age. By my 38th birthday I spent 5 weeks in the hospital on TPN, receiving nutrients through a picc line due to severe malnutrition. I was transferred to Cleveland Clinic and received the report from the head of Gastroenterology and Gastro-internal medicine that my only option was the removal of my large intestine and colon. I agreed to the ileostomy and have been trying to move forward and live each day to the fullest.

The years of sickness had a devastating effect on my teeth and over time I lost many teeth and my smile. I suffered through the pain for many years until you intervened. Through your generosity, I now have my smile and my mouth is recovering and is no longer infected. God has blessed me in so many ways. I have a friend that would not take no for an answer and used her gifts to open the door to so many incredible people that have changed my life in a very short time.

I will think lovingly of those of you that I know and those that I have not met every time I smile. Words are not enough to express what you have done for me. Thank you will never be enough to tell you what impact you have had on my life.

Sincerely,
(Name withheld for privacy)

Because of your support of twinning with other conferences, we made an enormous difference in this person’s life and you are to be commended for your generosity.
INDEPENDENCE AND DEPENDENCE

We, in the United States, celebrate our Independence in the month of July. But as people of faith we know that we are dependent upon a loving, merciful, all-knowing God. Accordingly, our currency bears the phrase “in God we trust”. Still, on occasion we may lose sight of our need to turn to God.

When making important decisions, perhaps relating to education, work, or marriage, we often ask ourselves: “What do I want to do?”. That is a fine question, but the better one is “What does God want me to do?”. If we truly trust in the lord, we will accept that God’s plan is better than any plan we might conceive. As we celebrate our freedom and independence, let us acknowledge as well our dependence of God.

The Brookside Family Center Welcomes
New Tenant, the Renee Jones Empowerment Center

For nearly two decades, the Renee Jones Empowerment Center (RJEC) has operated its safe haven for individuals that were trafficked and/or sexually assaulted from a tiny storefront in the Gordon Square Arts District on West 65th Street, and effective July 30, 2019, RJEC will relocate to the 4,000 square foot space in the upper level of the SVDP Brookside Family Center.

President and CEO Renee Jones acknowledged she is grateful and excited to be able to expand and empower more individuals who want to turn their lives around. Many of the experiences are heartbreaking, horrific and oftentimes, too close to home, but their memories and scars also depict strength, courage and determination to become who they want to be today, “We’re expanding our reach from Gordon Square to Brooklyn Center since human trafficking and sexual assaults happen in every neighborhood,” Jones said, “we’re working in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul and their Brookside food center and thrift store downstairs, and having MetroHealth’s main campus nearby offers another valuable resource.”

RJEC offers a variety of human trafficking prevention and awareness programs, community outreach, community events, fairs and regional conferences, traveling exhibits, health and wellness therapies and activities, life skills, job readiness skills, and other individual and group services. RJEC and SVDP are currently planning a grand opening event on Saturday, Sept. 7 at noon with a ribbon cutting ceremony immediately following. More event details to follow under a separate news release.

Brookside and Community Corner Hunger are Seeking Volunteers

Currently, both the Community Corner Hunger Center (8302 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland) and Brookside Family Center (3764 Pearl Road, Cleveland) are seeking volunteers to assist with daily operations, from sorting donated items to serving clients. As you know, both locations provide emergency food and clothing assistance to members of the community. Each site also features a resale thrift shop, with the proceeds supporting the centers’ food operations.

Truly, giving of your time is one of the greatest gifts you can give. Last year an estimated 1,172 SVDP volunteers spent 122,249 hours in active service throughout the Cleveland Diocese. This service touched 104,320 individuals and families!

Thank you for all you do to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters! We appreciate our Vincentians!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cathie at 216-749-4295 or 440-503-2462.

Next Ozanam Orientation is July 20th in Kirtland

The next Ozanam Orientation will take place at Divine Word (Kirtland, OH) on Saturday, August 3rd, from 9 am – 3 pm. A light breakfast and lunch provided. Ozanam Orientation is open to both new and seasoned Vincentians. It is a full day focused on who we are as an organization, our history, values and beliefs, what we do as well as how and why we do it. As participants often express, “There is so much we didn’t know!”. We do not fully realize it, but continuing education is present even in our Society – there is always something new to learn (whether about the Society or the community) and so much to share! Please RSVP by July 29th to Bill Brandoni at lake-geauga@svdpcle.org.