

## VOP Planning Committee

### Lucy Howell, Chair

Special Works Conference

### Inge Casey

St. Theresa

### Tom Finnerty

St. Gregory

### Father Bill Fitzgerald

OLPH, Scottsdale

### Walt Gray

St. Augustine

### Kathy Jorgensen

St. Jerome

### Ron Meyer

St. Francis Xavier

Ex-Officio:

### Stephen J. Jenkins

Diocesan Council President

### Steve Zabilski

SVdP Executive Director

### Chris Anderson,

### Al Moreno

SVdP Vincentian Support

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international organization with more than 120,000 members in the United States, and 650,000 members in 135 countries. It is dedicated to serving the poor and providing others with the opportunity to serve.

## Programs and Services offered by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul include:

**HOME VISITS:** St. Vincent de Paul volunteers make home visits—a cornerstone of the Society since it was founded. These personal home visits provide more effective assistance to those in need. Food boxes, limited financial assistance with rent or utilities, referrals and encouragement are offered.

**FEEDING THE POOR:** Hot meals are prepared and served to the homeless and working poor in five dining rooms and at 20 non-profit agencies throughout the Phoenix area. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of food are processed for distribution to the needy in the form of food boxes.

**HELPING THE HOMELESS:** Homeless individuals are assisted with showers, haircuts, hygiene products, clothing and job referrals. Disabled individuals or those older than 50 are housed in our transitional shelter, Ozanam Manor.

**MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE:** The Virginia G. Piper Medical & Dental Clinic provides access to medical and dental care to families that have no access to medical service. Durable medical equipment is loaned to the elderly and disabled.

**THRIFT STORES:** A number of thrift stores are operated in the Phoenix area as well as central and northern Arizona. They are a place where people in need and the general public can shop for low-cost clothing, furniture, and household items.



**SOCIETY of ST.VINCENT de PAUL  
VOICE OF THE POOR**

P.O. Box 13600, Phoenix, AZ 85002  
[www.stvincentdepaul.net](http://www.stvincentdepaul.net)



**SOCIETY of ST. VINCENT de PAUL  
VOICE OF THE POOR**

*faith, hope, love*



# VOICE OF THE POOR

## Mission Statement

The St. Vincent de Paul Society believes in the preferential option for the poor. We support Catholic social teaching and advocate for justice on behalf of the needy.

### WHAT IS VOICE OF THE POOR (VOP)?

Voice of the Poor is the advocacy arm of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

As followers of Christ, we are challenged to create conditions for marginalized voices to be heard, to defend the defenseless and to assess policies and social institutions in terms of their impact on the poor.

Voice of the Poor calls Vincentians to speak to the larger society with a single voice and address root causes of poverty.

### HOW DOES VOP SERVE THE POOR?

Voice of the Poor activities are a natural extension of our roles as Vincentians. Members of the Society serve on the front lines, in solidarity with the poor by providing food, shelter and other emergency services. However, lasting long-term assistance to the poor requires looking at the larger political and economic picture.

Guided by the fundamentals of Catholic social teaching, VOP committee members research and evaluate issues and governmental policies. Positions on legislative items are first approved by the Diocesan Council Board. The Diocesan Board President serves as the Society's official spokesperson. VOP works to educate Vincentians and decision-makers regarding the impact of legislation on the poor and marginalized.



## Position statement of VOP

**Here as elsewhere, the preferential option for the poor is the central priority for policy choice.** –USCCB *Economic Justice for All*

We believe that all people have a right to the basic necessities of life, including:

- Safe and affordable housing
- Sufficient and nourishing food
- The opportunity to earn a fair wage
- Access to affordable quality health care
- A quality education for their children

## Legislative Priorities

As approved by the Phoenix Diocesan Council, Voice of the Poor continues to advocate for:

- Health care for the working poor
- General Assistance for the disabled
- Supportive housing for the homeless
- Affordable housing
- Consumer protection for payday loans
- Early childhood development programs
- Subsidized childcare for the working poor
- Removal of Kidcap from AZ welfare law
- Fair wages
- Fair and just immigration reform

The National Legislative Agenda for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul can be found at:

[www.voiceofthepoor.org](http://www.voiceofthepoor.org)



The time is now to step forward and, in the spirit of justice and charity, help the disadvantaged take their rightful and respectful place in society.

*National Council of St. Vincent de Paul*

## JOIN VOICE OF THE POOR!

It is the goal of VOP to have at least one member with e-mail in every Conference.

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Name

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Address

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City, State, Zip

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Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Conference

### Return this form to:

**Voice of the Poor**

P.O. Box 13600, Phoenix, AZ 85002

or send an e-mail to: [VOP@svdp-phx-az.org](mailto:VOP@svdp-phx-az.org)

Voice of the Poor meets monthly during October through May. Meetings are open to all. A meeting schedule will be posted on the Society's website at [www.stvincentdepaul.net](http://www.stvincentdepaul.net) or call (602) 261-6820.

