

The Society
of
St. Vincent de Paul

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Investing in a just society

Investing in a just society



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About us

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) was established in Ireland in 1844. It is the largest voluntary charitable organisation in Ireland. Our focus is on a practical approach to dealing with poverty, alleviating its effects on individuals and families through working primarily in person-to-person contact by a unique system of home visitation and seeking to achieve social justice and equality of opportunity for all citizens.

In addition to providing direct assistance to those in need, caring for the homeless, providing social housing, operating holiday homes and other social support activities, the Society promotes community self-sufficiency, enabling people to help themselves. Any assistance offered by the Society is given in a non-judgemental spirit, based on the needs of the individual or family seeking help.

The Society respects the dignity of those who contact us, offering assistance and advice when sought, maintaining their dignity while assisting them towards long-term self-sufficiency in a relationship of friendship, trust and confidentiality.

Our Mission & Ethos

SVP is a Christian voluntary organisation, working with people experiencing poverty and disadvantage. We are involved in a diverse range of activities characterised by:



Support and friendship

Through person-to-person contact, we are committed to respecting the dignity of those we assist and fostering self-respect. We assure confidentiality at all times and endeavour to establish relationships based on trust and friendship.



Promoting self-sufficiency

It is not enough to provide short-term material support. Those we assist are also helped to achieve self-sufficiency in the longer term and the sense of self-worth this provides. When problems are beyond our competence, we enlist the support of specialised help.



Working for Social Justice

We are committed to identifying the root causes of poverty and social exclusion in Ireland and, in solidarity with poor and disadvantaged people, to advocate and work for the changes required to create a more just and caring society.



WELCOME

2019 was another busy year for SVP members, volunteers and staff serving those in need. It is timely to reflect on this past year our 175th of service in Ireland. Even though times have changed fundamentally since our founding, the core need still continues to be the same. SVP Members continue to go out every night throughout Ireland helping people with food,



fuel and shelter. On the one hand, it's something we can be justly proud of but as a nation, ashamed that in 2019 there is still a growing need to help so many with these basics. The tenacity of SVP members is evident in the years we've spent fighting poverty in Ireland. We are as committed to helping people in need today in our communities as the first members nearly two centuries ago.

During this busy year, we met many people behind the depressing poverty statistics:

- 760,000 living below the poverty line
- Almost 110,000 working poor
- 28% of the population experiencing energy poverty
- 61% struggling with education costs, including 1/3 of 3rd level students reporting severe financial difficulty

- Over 70,000 households on the social housing list
- Poverty among lone-parent families has doubled since 2012
- Over 10,000 without a home including nearly 4,000 children

Even though the bulk of the help we give is for the basics in life, we are putting more focus on education supports as a way to break the poverty cycle.

Education support must span the life of a student from preschool to third level. Our members have done amazing work in supporting education in the families we visit; we need to learn from them and use their experiences and knowledge to help more.

SVP will again ask the great public to support our work, to support those in need in their communities. The support we receive will mean thousands will be able to live with dignity, without worry, and will enable us to help them out of the poverty trap.

I wish to sincerely thank all SVP members, volunteers and staff who work all year round to help those in need and my thanks also extends to those who that support us in every way so that we can carry out our work.



Kieran Stafford National President

FOREWORD

2019 was another busy year for the Society with much progress made across all activities. It is now more than five years since the Society commenced a restructuring programme in 2014 with a focus on supporting the Area President through the Member Support Officer role and the establishment of line structures in our special works.

An important part of this has been the establishment of national and regional committees which provide real direction and oversight of the activities but more importantly the presence of members in key senior leadership roles.

Throughout 2019, we have developed our National committees by also inviting external volunteers with appropriate skillsets who have contributed significantly to the capacity and competency of the committees. The National and Regional committees, together with the operational structures, are ensuring more standardisation and quality in the services we provide and more accountability to our funders and donors.

The creation of separate structures for Special Works, has been largely constructive and has created capacity and proficiency, whilst also addressing some of the key infrastructural deficits identified pre 2014. In late 2019 the Society decided that the time was right to commence a process of evaluation of the new structures given the experience of the previous five years and establish the needs for future years. NMC have mandated the National Retail Committee to commence a strategic review process which will commence in 2020, whilst Social Housing will also update their current strategy following a process of stakeholder consultation. Homeless Services continue to operate across our ten hostels whilst we continue strategic discussions with our funders and potential partners.

We do have a gap in terms of national structures around other specialist services such as Holiday Homes and Resource Centres which will be reviewed in 2020. Additionally, the Society's involvement in childcare and other children's and young person's services requires coordination nationally with appropriate governance oversight which will be a priority in 2019.

The greatest asset of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is our volunteer members. Supporting our members to undertake their work is a key component of the organisational structure of the Society. SVP has 1,200 members in leadership roles be they Conference, Area or Regional Presidents with many more holding officer roles.

In 2019 the National Recruitment, Training and Development team undertook an ambitious programme to bring SVP's volunteer recruitment and training online. The roll out of web-based recruitment, training tools and continued face-to-face training will equip the Society well as it undertakes a major recruitment drive in 2020. Recognising the challenging nature of some of SVP's volunteer work and the often emotional aspects of the work, a new Member Support Programme has been put in place.

In 2019 our Young SVP programme continued to thrive delivering a total of 911 school visits across more than 209 different schools, where they informed students about the work of SVP, explored issues of social justice and supported them in designing and delivering activities to address needs in their own communities.

The overall objective of the Society's Social Justice work is to ensure that the decisions made by Government do not exacerbate poverty but instead bring about the policy changes needed to achieve positive outcomes in the lives of those that SVP assists. 2019 was a very busy year for our Social Justice team with three research reports published and thirteen submissions to Government and regulatory bodies. The expansion of the Social Justice Network provided great immediate access between members and the team allowing for immediate responses to issues as they arose.

It is also important to acknowledge the support services and

functions which enable our activities to be delivered and provide the key infrastructural and policy frameworks which ensure best practice, compliance, and efficient operations. Such functions include, Finance, HR, IT, Communications, Internal Audit, Safeguarding and Fundraising which are vital to the activities but also provide the trustees with the reassurance that we are compliant to our donors, funders, members, staff and most importantly those we support.

I firmly believe that it is the support for those who seek it, is what drives everybody in the Society, be they members, staff, senior leadership, or volunteers.

We need to ensure we continue to keep the needs of those we support central to all we do as they are reason we here in the first place.

Huma

National Secretary

STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

The Society is a member led unincorporated entity, comprising 11,000 members (volunteers) supported by over 1,000 staff. The Society is organised into 1,201 conferences, organised into 108 areas, which in turn are organised into 8 regions North and South. The Society is governed by a Rule (constitution) with is drawn from an International Rule. (The Society is an international organisation operating in 150 countries worldwide). The Rule sets out the purposes and objects of the Society and the governance arrangements and internal management of the organisation.

The National Management Council is the directive, co-ordinating and management body of the Society in Ireland and sets the policy of the Society, consistent with the Mission and Values Statement. It is also responsible for the overall direction, control and management of the activities of the Society at national, regional, area and local level and in respect of the Society's special works, implementing its policy consistent with the Mission and Values Statement. The membership of the National Management Council is the National President, the 8 Regional Presidents, 3 appointees (Vice-Presidents) of the National President and the Spiritual Advisor. The

National Management Council members are also the trustees of the Society as set out in the 2009 Charities Act.

As set out in the Rule certain matters are outside the remit of the NMC and must be approved by the National Council. Whilst the NMC normally meets monthly, the National Council normally meets once per year and is comprised of Presidents of the Area Councils and the Members of the National Management Council (NMC). The National Council and the Trustees elect the National President.

Given the Society is a multi-activity organisation, there are also a number of subcommittees of the NMC which under delegated authority and approved Terms of Reference oversee certain activities. This allows for external skillsets to be recruited at a governance level and provided reassurances through reporting structures to the NMC with each subcommittee having at least one trustee as a member.

Subcommittees include:

Audit
Renumeration and HR
IT
Safeguarding
Social Justice

Retail
Homeless Services
Social Housing
Fundraising
Twinning

OUR TRUSTEES

Kieran Stafford National President
Rose McGowan Vice President for Members
Ciara Reynolds Vice President for
Governance & The Rule
Peter Fitzpatrick National Treasurer

Regional Presidents 2019

Michael McCann West Region
Frankie McClure Northern Ireland
John Lupton Mid West
Larry Butler North East and Midlands
Rosa Glacken North West
Bernadette Doyle South East
Christy Lynch South West
William Casey East

Fr. Paschal Scallon Spiritual Advisor

Whilst all the roles in both the NMC and the subcommittees are filled by volunteers reflecting the status of the Society, the Society employs a National Secretary whose role is to oversee the national operations and administration of the Society and who reports directly to the National President. Additionally the National Office, Special Works Managers and Shared Services work in partnership with the National Management Council to further the mission vision and goals of the SVP adding value to the volunteer membership through the resources and expertise of paid staff.

In 2019, the Society embarked on a process to ensure adherence to the Governance Code as set out by the Charities Regulatory Authority. This process documented some very good practices underpinned by significant policy frameworks across al activities. It is expected that a standing Governance committee will be established by the NMC to ensure ongoing compliance with the Code.

STATUS The Society of St Vincent de Paul is registered in Ireland as a charity.

GOVERNING DOCUMENT The Society of St Vincent de Paul was established in Ireland in 1844 and is governed under the "Rule", which derives from the International Rule of the worldwide Society of St Vincent de Paul.

CHARITY REGULATOR NUMBER

20013806

CHARITY NUMBER

CHY 6892

NATIONAL OFFICE

SVP House

91/92 Sean MacDermott St.

Dublin 1, Ireland

NATIONAL SECRETARY Andy Heffernan

PRINCIPAL BANKERS

Bank of Ireland Allied Irish Bank plc

40 Mespil Road, Bankcentre Saint Peters, Ballsbridge

Dublin 4, Ireland Dublin 4, Ireland

AUDITORS

Deloitte Ireland LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
29 Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2, Ireland

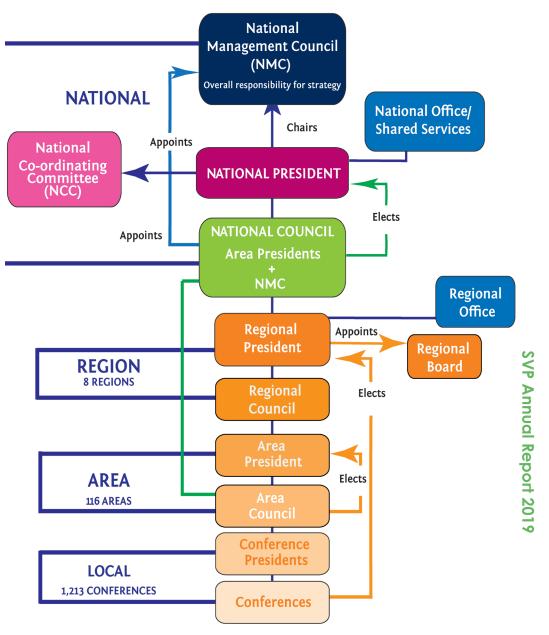
SOLICITORS

Kilcullen & Associates McCann Fitzgerald 30 Ardagh Grove Riverside One

Blackrock Sir John Rogerson Quay

Co. Dublin, Ireland Dublin 2, Ireland

NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF SVP



OUR OBJECTIVES

The relief of poverty, both material and emotional, in Ireland and abroad, without differentiation on the grounds of race, colour, creed,

OUR VALUES

There are a number of core values members and staff of SVP bring to this work which characterize the Vincentian way of working and represent the standard to which we all aspire.

- 1. Believing that our work and our own lives are enriched by keeping a strong spiritual dimension to all our activities.
- 2. Respecting the right of everyone to participate economically and socially in society.
- 3. Ensuring the voice of those we help has a strong role in influencing the supports we offer and the way we provide our services.
- 4. Valuing diversity and being non-judgmental, caring, confidential and respectful in all our interactions with those we help, our colleagues and members.
- 5. Welcoming all those who respect and support our Christian values.

OUR VISION

ENABLE the most disadvantaged people in our society to participate more fully in the life of their communities by offering them caring and much needed supports, designed around their own needs. Those needing help will turn to SVP and find us welcoming, accessible and compassionate.

INFLUENCE in a Vincentian manner government policy and public opinion North and South. We will be recognised by policy makers and the public generally as an authoritative voice advocating on behalf of the most disadvantaged members of our society. We will be respected because of the thousands of people we are known to help, our understanding of their needs, the root caused of their problems and the quality of our analysis.



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ATTRACT a large and diverse membership representative of all sections of Irish society. Members who stay because they find they can make a real difference to people's lives in a number of ways. They find that their own spiritual life has been enhanced and they have come to enjoy the friendship of fellow members.

CONTINUE to have a caring, compassionate and energetic organization of volunteers and staff who share a commitment to our Mission and Vincentian values and who are well supported in their work by good information training and communication. We will operate to best practice standards in all we do.



SVP works for social justice and the creation of a more just, caring nation.

Through our wide range of services we provide practical support to people in need.

www.svp.ie

OUR GOAL

Our goal is to fight poverty in all its forms through the practical assistance to people in need.

We offer direct, personal assistance that is non-judgemental and based on the need of the individual or family.

In addition we provide a wide range of services for vulnerable people through our local offices, shops, resource centres, housing, daycare and holiday schemes amongst other things.



WHO WE HELP

in 2019 SVP received **REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE**

OUR MEMBERS

HOW SVP RESPONDS









Centres



CONFERENCES





PLUS





SVP works for social justice and the creation of a more just, caring nation.

Through our wide range of services we provide practical support to people in need.

SVP SERVICES







Homeless Services + Other Centres

Education Support





Programs + Services



Budget Counselling and MABS



Centres

Housing



Food Distribution



Community Development Services



Young SVP **Youth Programmes**



IN 2019 13,079

MEMBERS &



*average 3hrs per week

IN 2019 **SVP RECEIVED**

49,531 CALLS

RELATED TO FOOD POVERTY



SVP AT A GLANCE



9.193 VISITATION **MEMBERS**



1.341 CONFERENCES



3.886 VOLUNTEERS



929 STAFF

IN 2019 **SVP RECEIVED 24,007 REQUESTS**

FOR CHRISTMAS HELP **BETWEEN NOV 1ST & DEC 31ST**



HOW WE HELP







3.886 SHOP **VOLUNTEERS**



230 VINCENTS **CHARITY SHOPS**



600 CLOTHING DROP-OFF BANKS



6 ORDER **FULFILLMENT CENTRES**



45 TRANSPORT **VEHECILES**



1.4 M DONATION **BAGS PROCESSED**

IN 2019 **SVP OPERATED**

230 **CHARITY SHOPS**



6 **RESOURCE CENTRES**



863 **SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS**



943 **SOCIAL HOUSING TENANTS**



9 **HOLIDAY HOMES**



10 **HOSTELS**



300 **HOSTEL BEDS**



9 IRISH REGIONS

TWINNED REGIONS



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OUR MEMBERS

Our aim is to bring friendship and support to people in need and suffering marginalisation; this is at the heart of what we do and continues to be a priority for the Society. Our Members' visits, with people and families challenged by poverty and inequality, did make a difference in the lives of many. Visitation work is only possible due to the passion and commitment of the SVP members, volunteers and staff, and through the ongoing generosity of the people of the island of Ireland which has remained as strong as ever. We are however only as good as our members and we continue to need new volunteers to help us to address the issues we encounter in our visitation work.

Visiting households in pairs, our volunteer members assess the needs of individuals and families who request assistance. Depending on the need, volunteers provide support, friendship and advice on a regular basis depending on circumstances.

People can contact SVP through our network, offices, by email and phone. More will have contacted SVP through their local SVP Conference in the community. Often people will need more than one visit, and indeed may have to contact SVP on more than one occasion. The recurring needs of households are reflected in the requests for assistance received by us.



SVP Members are in the unique and privileged position of being invited into people's homes, which enables us to better understand their real needs, thus enabling the Society, in many instances, to provide long-term solutions and assist people towards self-sufficiency.

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

The greatest asset of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is our volunteer members. With over 9,000 home visitation members engaging in active work for the Society in 2019, the Society had over 183,000 'active clients' in the Republic and 38,000 in Northern Ireland. The varied needs of these people and their families were met through 945 Conferences through-out the island of Ireland.

Supporting our members to undertake their work is a key component of the organisational structure of the Society. SVP has 1,200 members in leadership roles be they Conference, Area or Regional Presidents with many more holding officerships. Member-to-member support is vital within the ethos of the Society and this is best represented through the Society's training programme for new and existing members.

In 2019, the National Recruitment, Training and Development team undertook an ambitious programme to bring SVP's volunteer recruitment and training online. The roll out of web based recruitment, training tools and continued face-to-face training will equip the Society well as it undertakes a major recruitment drive in 2020.

In 2019, 417 volunteers were trained through the direct participation of over 30 training volunteers. From August 2019, 178 additional new volunteers completed a 'blended learning' approach – completing both online modules and a face to face training session.

At local level, SVP's Area Presidents host Area Gathering to provide support, information and resources for their active members. In 2019, 1069 members from 50 SVP areas attended one of the 38 area gatherings.

2019 also saw the first Education Gathering which culminated in Society wide guidance on education. In order to greater support our area, Conference presidents and office holders in their roles, SVP began to pilot Area Round-table discussions in late 2019.

Recognising the taxing role of some of SVP's volunteer work a new Member Support Programme has been put in place. This is a confidential support service designed to support Members resolve volunteer related concerns, through telephone support, face-to-face counselling and/or structured telephone counselling. In order to provide supports to our members, SVP has a small dedicated team of staff who work at regional and national level to provide up-to-date guidance and training, and to support the Society volunteer recruitment process.

You can contact the team at: membersupport@svp.ie

Our visitation network across the regions

1. EAST

Dublin | Kildare | Wicklow

5. NORTH WEST

Donegal | Leitrim | Sligo

2. MID WEST

Clare | Limerick | Tipperary Offaly **6. SOUTH EAST**

Carlow | Kilkenny | Laois Waterford | Wexford

3. NORTH

Antrim | Armagh | Derry Down | Tyrone Fermanagh

7. SOUTH WEST

Cork | Kerry

4. NORTH EAST & MIDLANDS

Cavan | Longford | Westmeath Louth | Meath | Monaghan 8. WEST

Galway | Mayo | Roscommon



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Serving in Hope Past, Present and Future

www.svp.ie/volunteer

The Society of St Vincent de Paul celebrating 175 years in Ireland in 2019

On Saturday, 13th April 2019, over 1,000 members of SVP gathered in the Convention Centre in Dublin to mark the anniversary. President Michael D. Higgins opened the event.

SVP is the best known and most widely supported organisation of social concern and action in Ireland with over 11,500 volunteers active in every county in Ireland.

Since its foundation in 1844 it has been serving the poorest and most vulnerable in our communities. For decades the Society has provided help and support to those most in need through the Famine in the 19th century, two World Wars, an Uprising, a Civil War and cycles of economic austerity.

"Sadly today we still see poverty in many different situations and circumstances," said SVP national president Kieran Stafford.



1844.2019

"There are nearly 800,000 living below the poverty line including 100,000 people at work; record numbers of homeless; 50% of lone parent families experiencing deprivation and 61% of families struggling with education costs.

"We know and meet the people behind the figures every week bringing friendship and support." he said.

The first Conference meeting of SVP in Ireland was held in a house in Charles Street West in the Parish of St Michan's in Dublin.

Members of the current St Michan's Conference displayed historical documents in the Convention Centre which tracked the work of the Conference through the years.

'Serving in Hope - Past, Present and Future' speakers traced the history of SVP, outlined its role in social justice and education and members of Young SVP showcased how its Youth Development Programme is shaping the volunteers of the future.

Regina Doherty, TD Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection addressed the gathering in the afternoon. Followed by Katriona O'Sullivan who shared her story from being a homeless, young mother, parenting on her own to being a university lecturer with a PhD and an advocate for equality and equity.

Brian Cody, Kilkenny Senior Hurling manager was the final external speaker before the Mass of Thankgiving celebrated by the ArchBishop Diarmuid Martin.















175 years ago the first SVP Conference formed in Halston Street just at the onset of the famine. The first members bravely followed in the footsteps of Blessed Frederic Ozanam and set about helping those in dire need in their community.

President Higgins' Address to SVP Members

"I know that home visitation is at the core of your work and that is a core strength of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Your visiting people in their homes, your conversation with them, your listening to them, your being with them is precious. Most importantly, you give them often one of your precious resources – time. In doing so, you acknowledge them and their challenges, you recognise that they are important and you show them the respect they deserve as equals.

The wider and expanding work of the Society offers members the opportunity to engage with their communities, drawing on their diverse skills, helping to combat social isolation and social exclusion.

This includes public finance. SVP contribution to the budget debates has over the years been one of the more impressive in its detail and professionalism, as well as its ethical emphasis.

The resource and day-care centres; emergency homeless services and social housing; holiday centre and prison visitor centres and, of course, your network of shops, over 220 of them which are so familiar to Irish people, all provide opportunities for people to connect with each other and with their wider community. All of these services are made possible by you, the staff and volunteers of SVP, and the people that support you and that you support.

I have seen this at first hand. When I visited Ozanam House

not so far from here in Dublin's North Inner City in 2017, I could see that it was a space that impressively, and with genuine warmth, represented the diversity of the community and its myriad needs and



interests, that it is a place where new possibilities are given an opportunity to flourish and grow; a place of welcome and warmth that reaches out to all members of the local community in order to bring about positive change at a local level.

There can be no doubt that there is a key role for voluntary organisations in tackling poverty and social exclusion, for example, by the very recognition of new forms of poverty, by identifying new solutions to the difficult problems we face as a society, through advocacy, and in contributing to the debate on the kind of society we should wish to achieve.

I hope that the SVP will continue to provide invaluable contributions to this debate as to the extent of universal provision, with insights learned from the many years of providing services to those most in need in our society, individuals and families, young and old."

HOMELESS SERVICES

SVP believes that no one should ever have to sleep rough, under any circumstances, and that everyone has a right to a safe, secure and comfortable home.



The Society's emergency accommodation services continued to offer over 300 beds of emergency accommodation per night across the country in 10 hostel services with additional support services through Tenancy Sustainment Officers in Cork and Limerick city and Outreach Workers in our Carlow and Letterkenny services.

We provided a total of 110,690 spaces to our service users in 2019, on average 303 spaces per day. 651 people were admitted during the year, consisting of 635 adults and 16 children from five families to our Longford and Letterkenny services. These numbers include 639 additional places for the Cold Weather Initiative in collaboration with our statutory partners in 8 separate Local Authorities and 5 HSE CHO offices.

In 2019 we continued to focus on implementing the quality standards framework for homeless services, through the ongoing work of our peer-led Quality Standards Implementation Team (Q-SIT), a structure which is tasked with promoting and championing the quality standards across services; supporting their implementation; putting in place tools and supports; identifying priority areas for focus on improvements facilitating learning across services; identifying policy issues and gaps and providing feedback on issues to the Trustees. The Q-SIT is currently planning a series of internal quality assessments in 2020 to support the ongoing implementation of the standards and to prepare for external inspections by the funders in due course.

SVP SOCIAL HOUSING



The Society of St. Vincent De Paul/Frederic Ozanam Trust, as a registered Approved Housing Body (AHB), provided 863 of social housing units nationally in 2019, delivered and managed by 65 Conferences. This involves some 740 members supported by employees across various schemes. In total 943 tenant's avail of the Society's social housing.

The Society saw the Social Housing Regulation Office recognise and commend the substantial progress achieved by the Society nationally in addressing regulation compliance across its governance, financial management and performance management areas. In addition, the affirmed position of the National Management Council in addressing noncompliance was welcomed with cases taken on board and addressed in a consequential manner.

Across the national team rolling out a number of initiatives and training programmes. Such Programmes included the roll out of the Health & Safety Training Awareness Program across all Regions with the Programme culminating in the development of a Health & Safety Management Manual (for publication in 2020) for reference and use nationally across operations.

The year also saw first steps taken in the application of suitable IT system for social housing with exploration and review of IT systems across the AHB and private sector with the decision taken to roll out the Castleton Community system on a pilot basis across 7 participating Conferences nationally with assessment of the system and decisions around further roll out to take place in 2020.

The National Social Housing Committee continued to meet across the year with Regional Social Housing Committee meetings held in each of the seven Regions quarterly. 2019 saw the expansion of the National Social Housing Team with the appointment of a Senior Social Housing Officer (Services & Performance) and a Social Housing Administrator.



Garryowen, Limerick (Before)



Garryowen, Limerick (After)

At Regional level the Northwest Regional Social Housing Officer post was approved as a full-time role, with the South East commencing a part time Regional Officer position.

The National Committee approved various policy and guidance documents, including Pre-Tenancy Training Manual, Social Housing GDPR FAQ, Conference Membership Recruitment & Renewal, Property Inspection Sheet template, Complaints Policy and Procedure and a Tenant Selection Shortlisting Tool.

The Society continued to work across 2019 on improving our housing standards with emphasis on enhancing the comfort in our homes and realising cost savings for our tenants. In terms of new developments and refurbishments there was the addition of 6 new units in Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo and 8 new units in Ballymote, Co. Sligo.

Deep Energy Efficiency Upgrade works were undertaken on 13 units in Garryowen, Limerick which were completed in conjunction with SSE Airtricity and Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. Substantial refurbishment/reconfiguration works were undertaken on units in Cork City and Mitchelstown Co. Cork with fire safety works undertaken on properties in Dublin city. Cyclical/ Planned Maintenance works continued to be progressed by Conferences nationally aligned to Stock Condition Surveys.

The National Social Housing Conference was held in March which focused on the work associated with the implementation of SVP's Social Housing Strategic Plan including the strengthening and enhancing of the Social Housing Governance, Financial Viability & Performance. The event drew on many varying external speakers from the Regulation Office, AHB and local authority sectors in addition to national, regional, and local Society members. The event was chaired by Kieran Mulvey.

www.svp.ie/socialhousing

SVP RESOURCE CENTRES

SVP operates six Resource Centres countrywide - in Dublin, Galway, Kerry and Mayo. Our Resource Centre's provide a safe, welcoming place for people to learn and grow, to develop new skills, to meet others and make new friends and to have a positive impact in people's lives.

Through our Resource Centres we reach out to thousands of people throughout the country, helping to build self-esteem and confidence, to re-skill or simply instil a sense of belonging in the community.

Croí na Gaillimhe

computers, siel blue (targeted exercise programme), creative writing, sewing and mending and a knitting club. We provided a range of adult education courses for those not so old.

Croí na Gaillimhe (CNG) opened it's doors to service users in autumn 2009. Since then, the Resource Centre has established a strong track record in the delivery of service to older people and family supports for people living in Direct Provision. CNG works with three groups of people at risk of poverty – older people living alone, adults with low education attainment, asylum seekers, migrants and their children.

We offered a broad range of activities and courses for older people: a lunch and social club twice a week throughout the year thus providing social contact and other practical supports. Classes and workshops: art,





Men's Group: We focused on men that are isolated, marginalised and otherwise disadvantaged. The purpose of the group is to provide a safe space for self-expression and socialising. The core work is complemented by other activities such as outings, guest facilitators (Health topics), classes, Tai Chi etc.

Intergenerational Programme: We ran the Young Hearts with transition year students from a local DEIS School and older adults. We partnered with NUI Galway Department of Physics on the Astronomy module. The core objective of the programme is to discover the common links between generations that are perceived as diverse; to foster and promote mutual respect.

On average 459 people used the centre in Mill Street, Galway in 2019. 59 attended the asylum support team who are a specialised and dedicated group of volunteers. They offer vital one to one support to people as they prepare for their interview with the Department of Justice. We work with refugees and asylum seekers fleeing war; violence and

extreme poverty. Over 85 different nationalities have used the centre since it opened over 10 years ago. They attend CNG to learn or improve their English. We offered a variety of integration activities e.g. classes, workshops, choir and sports.



In addition to the above numbers we did outreach work in the Direct Provision Centre providing a homework club 4 afternoons a week for 40 children and 35 extra children availed of activities e.g. swimming, dancing, soccer etc. We supported, supervised, resourced and retained a pool of 70 volunteers in 2019.



SVP SOCIAL JUSTICE

We support the people who have too many needs and not enough rights, who demand with a reason a fuller share of public affairs, security in work and safeguards against poverty.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam

Working for social justice is one of three key pillars of the Society of St Vincent De Paul's mission and requires us to challenge and address the structures that create or perpetuate poverty in Ireland today. Social justice advocacy continued to be a key activity for the Society throughout 2019.

The issues SVP highlight and the solutions we propose through our advocacy work are based on the experience of the people we are helping, through our membership or through analysis of both our request for help and the types and levels of our expenditure on direct assistance to households in need.

In Ireland, there are 10,264 people homeless, including 3,784 children



The causes and consequences of poverty seen my the members of SVP are complex and interconnected and include: low paid and insecure work; high cost of living; poor quality services; unemployment; low educational attainment; inaccessible or inadequate social welfare; discrimination and stigmatisation; social isolation and exclusion; and poor health and illness.

Given the multifaceted nature of poverty in Ireland today, SVP has a broad range of issues to advocate on:

- Social welfare and income support for children and adults, especially for one parent families
- Housing and homelessness, in particular child and family homelessness, and the insecurity and poor quality of accommodation in the private rented sector
- Energy poverty and its links with climate justice
- Education including the cost of school, and access to and participation in further and higher education
- Debt and financial exclusion.

The overall objective of the Society's social justice work is to ensure that the decisions made by Government do not exacerbate poverty but instead bring about the policy changes needed to achieve positive outcomes in the lives of those that SVP assists. Using traditional and social media, submissions to Government Departments, meeting with civil servants, Ministers, their advisors, and political parties, and by working jointly with other organisations, we raise awareness of issues of concern and propose solutions.

The Social Justice Network of SVP members grew and developed in 2019. In March, over 180 members responded to our survey on working poverty and the findings were highlighted in our submission to the Low Pay Commission and raised directly with the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection in our meeting in July 2019.

In September, we held our first Social Justice Network day which gave members on opportunity to feed into the development of the National Social Justice Committee's short- and longer-term priorities.

We published three research reports in 2019 which highlighted core issues of concern for SVP and provided evidence-based recommendations to policy maker.

www.svp.ie/social justice

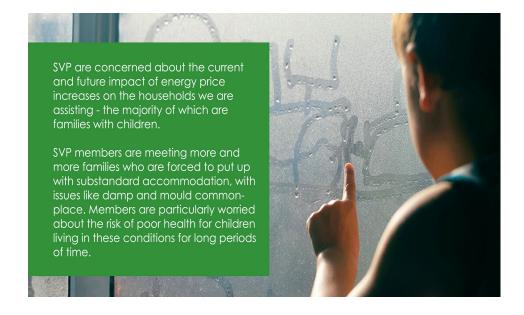


- Working, Parenting and Struggling (March 2019) found that the living standards of one parent families in Ireland are among the worst in Europe and that poverty rates among working lone parents more than doubled since 2021. It called for greater investment in childcare, housing, education and decent employment opportunities to help lone parents and their children move out of poverty for good.
- Housing Assistance Payment: Making the Right Impact? (June 2019 in conjunction with Threshold) highlighted how HAP top-ups are putting families at risk of homelessness. It advocated for greater provision of social housing by the local authorities and AHBs, affordable rental, and better enforcement of regulations to address sub-standard accommodation.

• Growing up in the Cold (Dec 2019) showed that children are a group most exposed to the risk of energy poverty and that growing up in an energy poor household has a distinct negative impact on children's health outcomes. It recommended increased investment in measures to improve the energy efficiency of social housing and private rented accommodation and targeted income supports to households with children.

SVP made 13 submissions to Government and regulators on moneylending, education costs, carbon taxes, energy and climate policy, benchmarking social welfare, the National Minimum Wage, child homelessness, Direct Provision, access to further education and training, as well as making a detailed submission on Budget 2020. We also presented submissions to the Joint Committees on Employment Affairs and Social Protection (Budget 2020 proposals), Education and Skills (school costs) and Climate Action (carbon taxes).

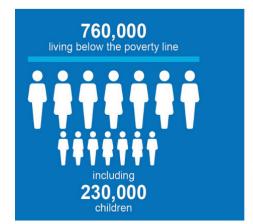


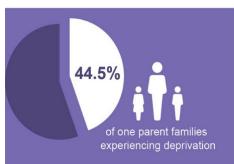


Budget 2020 delivered a number of key SVP asks including increased support for working lone parents, continued improvement in income supports for children over and under 12, new funding for a free schoolbook scheme and an increase in the capitation grant. However, given the scale of the housing crisis, the failure to increase primary social welfare payments, and the underinvestment in education and childcare, many individuals and families will continue to struggle make ends meet.

As Ireland's faces into the greatest and deepest economic recession in modern history due to the global pandemic, concern is growing among SVP members who saw first-hand the impact that the

WHY SVP WORKS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE













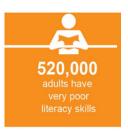






71.858 households on the social housing waiting list









last economic crisis had on struggling households. Our efforts now focus on avoiding a return to austerity and advocating for measures that will protect the most vulnerable for any adverse economic shocks through adequate social welfare supports, and tailored employment supports for those impacted by iob losses.

We will continue to challenge poverty and inequality and advocate for investment in policies which will make a difference in the lives of people who are struggling, and more equal and fairer society for all.



SVP Annual Report 201



SVP RETAIL





The role of Vincent's charity shops within our Community

By the end of 2019, the Society operated 230 shops in 31 of 32 counties across Ireland. There is currently no shop in Roscommon. This figure included shop closures in Maynooth and Rathfarnham, shop openings in Virginia, Moyross in Limerick, Ennis, Tullamore, Ballinteer, Skerries and shop re-locations in Nenagh, Carrickmacross and Kells. Vincent's charity shops can be found in a variety of locations including city centre, suburban settings, areas of social deprivation and within rural communities.

Whilst the shops raise vital funds to support the essential work of SVP, they are also a visual representation of SVP work within the community and increasingly serve as a recreational hub for many members of the community wishing to reconnect with society generally. This blended offering is quite unique within charity retail. In recognition of this work, Vincent's charity shops in Ireland won the prestigious and coveted "Community and Social Impact" award at the Charity Retail Association Conference in Nottingham, England in June 2019.

Supply Chain Management

In 2019, the Society received approximately 1.4 million bags of donated clothing / textiles, primarily through the network of shop, over 600 clothing banks, Church collections in the greater Dublin area, mobile collection units and corporate / home collections. Additional donated goods included fashion accessories, books, household items, collectables, furniture and multimedia items including DVD's and CD's. Vincents shops do not accept secondhand mattresses or electrical items.

The Society is committed to extracting maximum value from these donations and has introduced a robust evaluation process including a first sort at our shops and a second sort in a network of Order Fulfilment Centres in Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Drogheda, Nenagh and Tralee. Resaleable items identified in our OFC's are then sent on to shops in direct response to local demand or are sold online or through local auction.

Discussions are ongoing about opening OFC's to service North, North West, and West Regions. The vision for OFC'S is to have real time access to 'Sales per category' in every location and replenish stock on time, in full where possible and error free. The real time access is provided via sales reports from EPOS.

By the end of 2019, one supplier had installed Epos

systems into 44 shops across six Regions, leaving only East Region and North West without any Epos coverage. As a fashion retailer, we must view clothing as a good value perishable commodity to be quickly consumed. From a supply chain perspective, this means preparing small market – relevant deliveries of cutting-edge fashion which creates urgency when delivered to each shop floor.

RACI Linear Matrix

In 2019, The National Retail Committee produced a RACI chart or linear matrix detailing all activities within retail. These activities were set against a list of relevant roles from Trustee to shop manager. The linear matrix identifies who is responsible, accountable, consulte.



Staff Training and Development

In 2019, the National Retail Team launched a pilot training programme for retail staff including Regional Retail Managers, OFC Managers and shop managers called the Rendu Award, named in honour of Blessed Rosalie Rendu (1786-1856). The Rendu Award is a Continuous Improvement Programme for SVP Retail with four modules based on the four retail development pillars of:

- Customer Care De Paul Module
- Team Satisfaction Ozanam Module
- Compliance De Marillac Module
- Business Development Rendu Module

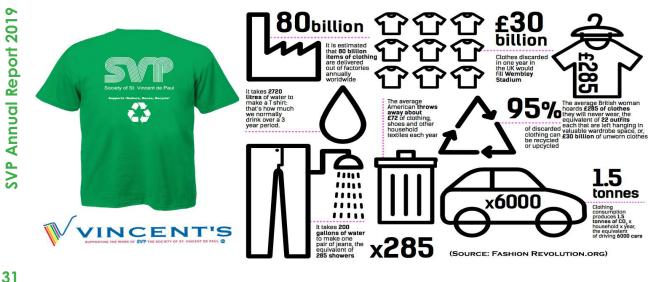
The Society recognises that it is the unique history and ethos of SVP coupled with the competencies and capabilities of our staff and volunteers that form the basis of our competitive advantage as a retailer. The

Rendu Award is a celebration of both and greatly assist the pursuit of our strategic vision and roll out of our strategy. Most modules were accredited.

"Peak Trading" Sales Campaign - Peaks

In Autumn 2019, 154 SVP shops from across Ireland, England and Wales participated in an 8-week trial sales campaign called "Peaks". Shops tested a pre-agreed range of campaign tactics with most shops recording a significant uplift in sales in all participating Regions. 35 of the participating shops had also been part of a smaller trial in 2018. In summary:

- 112 shops, 73% delivered growth on 2018
- 5 shops delivered 0% growth
- 32 Shops delivered negative growth
- 5 shops participated who were not trading in 2018



Tactics included extended opening hours, enhanced instore communication to include sales targets, customer appreciation events, increased activity on social media and the preparation and sale of 'customised collections'. Following on from the success of this campaign in 2019, a larger campaign is planned for 2020.

www.svp.ie/shops













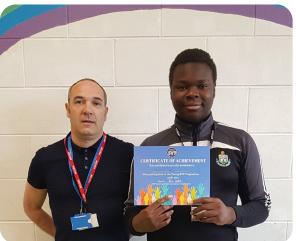














YOUNG SVP

in college / university.











PROMOTING SELF-SUFFICIENCY SUPPORT and FRIENDSHIP

Young SVP is a youth development programme designed for young people attending secondary school/ or YouthReach and other educational settings; those taking part in youth groups / clubs; and those at 3rd level – be it

The programme focuses on social action within the ethos and mission of SVP. Young people are offered opportunities to learn about SVP, about social justice and about how to engage in social action in a positive, purposeful and meaningful way.

The Young SVP youth development team offers ongoing support to all those engaging in the Young SVP programme – whether part of a Conference, class or Young SVP group. Our Youth Development Officers (YDO) visit groups a number of times through the year to work with them on a number of topics.

Our programme statistics for 2018/19 academic year are included In the infographic when the programme was operating across the following regions; East, South East, South West, Mid West, West and North East & Midlands.

SVP Annual Report 2019

- During this time our team of Youth Development Officers (YDOs) delivered a total of 911 school visits across more than 209 different schools, where they informed students about the work of SVP, explored issues of social justice and supported them in designing and delivering activities to address needs in their own communities.
- A total of 9,398 young people were reached through our guest speaker visits and over 5,000 chose to engage in our developmental schools programme taking part in workshops and designing action projects through the year.
- A total of 311 social action projects were completed by these Young SVP members, in 195 Young SVP Conference / groups this year, helping and supporting many people in local schools and communities.
- The work completed by these students was marked and celebrated across 6 different Regional Youth Days and Exhibitions, with an average of 300 participants attending each of these days. We are thankful to Electric Ireland for their continued support with this programme.

These numbers are an indication of how healthy and vibrant our Young SVP programme has become, but numbers only tell a part of the story. Seeing young members engaging in workshops and actions is both inspiring and exciting as they follow in footsteps of our founder young Frederic Ozanam, fighting for their vision of a fairer world for everyone.







911 VISITS



349 social justice w/shops 324 visit to Conference 206 guest speaker talks 32 other



STUDENTS ENGAGED





SVP FUNDRAISERS

Fundraisers raise vital funds for SVP while organising challenging and fun events at the same time! Whether raising sponsorship or selling tickets for a fundraising event, SVP fundraisers makes it easy for people to support the work we do and benefit specific local regions/areas. Unique fundraising pages are created on the SVP website for fundraisers to share and engage with friends, family and followers. In 2019, many fundraisers set up on the SVP website at www.svp.ie/fundraise.

CORK CHILLI COMPANY CHILLI EATING COMPETITION 2019



Cork Chilli Company proudly hosted it's second annual chilli eating competition in aid of Saint Vincent De Paul on October 5th, 2019 at Douglas Farmers Market, Cork.

Building on the success of last year's event, the initiative began by seeking participants serious about eating extremely hot chillies and raising funds for a very worthy, local charity.

Everyone who entered the competition created their own donation page on the SVP website and encouraged friends and family to sponsor them in the competition and donate to raise money for Cork SVP.

For several weeks before the day of the competition the seven entrants ran their individual fundraisers contributing to the overall total of more than €1,200.

On the day, the participants braved the poor weather, but was it enough to keep them cool through 11 rounds of ever

increasing fieriness.

All contestants came through Round 1 which was an easy start with the Anaheim Pepper.

Round 2 introduced the next level chilli, the Hungarian Hot Wax (about three times hotter than the Anaheim); Round 3 - the Jalapeno Pepper and Round 4 - the Aji Lemon (Lemon Drop) didn't faze any of the cool contestants.

It wasn't until Round 5 - Cayenne Ring of Fire Pepper that the eyes started watering.

Round 6 - Habenero Paper Lantern and Round 7 - Habenero Orange went

well but in Round 8 - Fatalii Chilli the gap between the weak from the strong started to show. Despite encouragement from the cheering crowd the Fatallii took it's first victim.

On the remaining contestants went into Round 9 with the Scotch Bonnet Pepper.

Round 10 - the notorious Ghost Chilli packed a punch which knocked out all bar two of the contestants.

With a two-man finish and a nose drip, Paul and Juan went neck and neck into Round 11 trying to keep down the 7 Pot Brain Strain Chilli. But victory was quick in the end for Paul, the new chilli eating champion 2019 who successfully cleared the Round to huge applause.

We are grateful to Gary and the Cork Chilli Company for supporting the work of SVP each year in such a fun and engaging way and helping to

continue the vital services we provide locally in area.





www.corkchillicompany.ie

CORPORATE FUNDRAISING

BROWN THOMAS GIVE BACK WITH STYLE

In 2019, Brown Thomas selected the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as their charity partner. In addition to raising over €40,000 for SVP, Brown Thomas offered their resources and retail expertise to our Vincent's shops, and introduced the Brown Thomas Give Back Box.

Brown Thomas customers who shop online receive their purchase in a Give Back box. This delivery box doubles as a return box for customers to donate any unwanted or pre-loved items of clothing directly to SVP for free.

This initiative creatively responds to the increased consciousness of climate issues and the need for sustainability. Made from 100% recycled cardboard, the Give Back Box is eco-friendly, and gives used clothes a new life, reducing the volume being sent to landfill.

The clothes received by SVP are sold in Vincent's shops. The sale of these high-quality pieces not only generates funds for the society, but gives Vincent's customers an opportunity to purchase quality clothing at affordable prices. An excellent example of an innovative idea and partnership.



BROWN THOMAS

NATIONAL FUNDRAISING

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul could not do our work without the support and the generosity of the public. We have seen how one small thing can tip a family into a cycle of poverty and crisis. But the opposite is also a true. A little bit of help at the right time can change everything. By donating to SVP you can be there just when a family needs it. You can stop them from falling into that cycle. You can help save them from a life of poverty.

Income for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is received from three main sources: donations from the public, sales from our community charity shop network and Government grants for special works (i.e. homeless hostels and resource centres). The core work of the Society, home visitation and direct assistance, is funded almost entirely from public donations.

In 2019, fundraised income for SVP totalled €83,320,000 due to the continued generosity of the Irish public. This represented an increase of 3.4% on the previous year. These generous donations enabled SVP to carry out our vital work in the core area of home visitation and direct assistance with the costs of food, fuel and school.

Central to our fundraising activities each year is the SVP Annual Appeal in November and December. The SVP

Annual Appeal is our only national campaign each year and is responsible for raising the majority of the funds we need. During this time, the Society benefits from a groundswell of support amongst the general public and local businesses, and is facilitated by our membership base of over 11,000 volunteers.

Other key channels of fundraising income for the Society are church collections and legacy donations. In 2019, church collections increased/decreased slightly to €9,434,000, marking a percentage increase from 2018 of 2.3%.

One of the unique aspects of fundraising within SVP is our large membership base of volunteers in local communities throughout Ireland. These volunteers are responsible for raising a significant proportion of the income we receive. All of the donations collected are kept within the community and used to help local families.

The Society also receives support through several corporate partnerships. These partnerships provide volunteers, sponsorship and public awareness that complements the work of our volunteers on the ground and the demand they face in local communities.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Year 2019

Year 2018

| | Income | Expended | Net | Income | Expended | Net |
|--|--------|----------|---------|--------|----------|---------|
| | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 |
| Visitation | 37,881 | 32,041 | 5,840 | 37,431 | 31,082 | 6,349 |
| Twinning | - | 437 | (437) | - | 320 | (320) |
| Fundraising | - | 822 | (822) | - | 982 | (982) |
| SUBTOTAL | 37,881 | 33,300 | 4,581 | 37,431 | 32,384 | 5,047 |
| Services | | | | | | |
| Hostels | 5,894 | 7,713 | (1,819) | 5,826 | 7,035 | (1,209) |
| Social Housing | 3,301 | 4,020 | (719) | 2,972 | 3,878 | (906) |
| Holiday Homes, Resource Centres, etc. | 4,812 | 7,140 | (2,328) | 4,710 | 8,013 | (3,303) |
| SUBTOTAL | 14,007 | 18,873 | (4,866) | 13,508 | 18,926 | (5,418) |
| Charity Shops | 31,432 | 23,562 | 7,870 | 29,614 | 22,156 | 7,458 |
| Governance, Management, Support & Admin | - | 8,758 | (8,758) | - | 8,336 | (8,336) |
| TOTAL | 83,320 | 84,493 | (1,173) | 80,553 | 81,802 | (1,249) |

Balance Sheet 2019

The Society's Financial Reserves were €154.4 million (m) at December 2019.

This is made up of:

- Restricted and Designated Reserves €28.2m
- Property Valuation Reserves €80.8m
- General Reserves €45.4m

The cash balance is the aggregate of all Conferences, Areas, Regions and National.

Cash balances are held across the Conferences and Councils of the Society. The months of November and December are key months for the Society's fundraising.

Cash balances are related to restricted and designated funds, sinking funds requirements, funds to meet obligations under Service Level Agreements and Conference purposes.

The Society provides a wide range of services for vulnerable people through its properties. These include social housing, hostels, resources centres, charity shops, day-care centres and holiday homes.

| Financial Position | Year 2019 €'000 | Year 2018 €'000 | Movement €'000 (2,418) | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Property, Tangible Assets | 106,124 | 108,542 | | |
| Investment and Other | 57 | 146 | (89) | |
| SUBTOTAL | 106,181 | 108,688 | (2,507) | |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Stock | 7 | 33 | (26) | |
| Debtors | 3,310 | 3,027 | 283 | |
| Cash at Bank and in Hand | | | | |
| - Restricted/Designated | 28,205 | 28,026 | 179 | |
| - General | 56,414 | 55,808 | 606 | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 194,117 | 195,582 | (1,465) | |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Creditors falling due within 1 Year | 7,642 | 6,820 | 822 | |
| Creditors and Deeds of Mortgage. | s 32,098 | 33,344 | (1,246) | |
| NET ASSETS | 154,377 | 155,418 | (1,041) | |
| Funds of the Society | | | | |
| Restricted | 5,402 | 5,263 | 139 | |
| Property Valuations | 80,817 | 80,817 | - | |
| Designated Funds | 22,803 | 22,763 | 40 | |
| General Funds | 45,355 | 46,575 | (1,220) | |
| TOTAL FUNDS | 154,377 | 155,418 | (1,041) | |

Society Highlights 2019

In 2019, SVP recorded 160,766 requests for help. In response to these, we provide practical support to people in need through our wide range of services.

Visitation

Home Visitation is the core activity of the Society in which the majority of our members partake. Our volunteers spend time talking with those who request our help to ensure we fully understand the issues they are facing which enables us to provide the best support possible. Support can be non-financial or financial in order to alleviate the impact of poverty and social exclusion.

In 2019, we provided €32m to individuals and families. (2018: €31.1m).

The increase in direct assistance is, in part, due to changes in the type of support and assistance provided, direct support developments, increased support for education, changing winter weather conditions and changing needs of those whom we serve.

Service Provision

We provide a wide range of services, some government funded for vulnerable people. Such services include six resource centres, 10 emergency homeless services (300 beds in hostels), social housing (863 Units), 5 holiday homes, prison visitor centres, children/young adult services and day-care centres.

The provision of services to recipients, excluding shops, represents 22% of Society expenditure and principally relates to Homeless Hostels and Social Housing. The services expenditure was at €18.9m for 2019 (2018: €18.9m).

Members & Requests for Help 13,079 Requests for Help 160,766

Community Charity Shops

The Society has 230 charity shops which are a very important aspect of service provided by SVP. Not only do they provide people with new and lightly worn items at affordable prices, they also provide an income source for the Society, which is reinvested directly back into the community.

The charity shops turnover increased to €28.8m (2018: €27m) due to the continuous development of the existing charity shops and the opening of new charity shops. Charity shops account for 28% of the Society's total expenditure.



Income 2019

Value € '000 Total Income €83,320

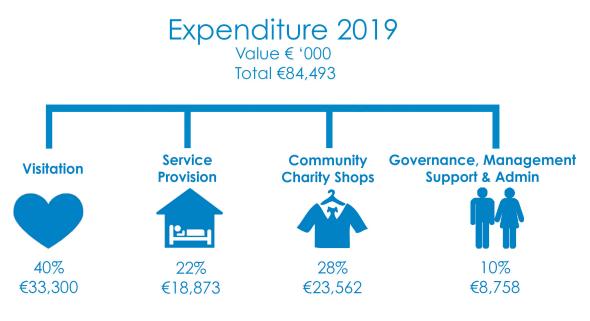


In 2019, total income for the Society was €83.3m (2018:€80.6m). We couldn't carry out our vital work without the generosity of our many donors.

SVP is committed to complying with the standards outlined in the Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public and formally adopted the statement in 2013.

In 2019, Total Expenditure increased to €84.5m (2018: €81,802 m). Visitation work includes non-financial support, advisory assistance, befriending and supporting access to social services. In addition assistance to individuals can be direct financial support, foods, fuel and support with utility bills.

Our Services including social housing, homeless services, resource centres, holiday homes etc., accounting for 22% of the Society's total expenditure.



Financial Statements for the Society are available online at www.svp.ie/finance

Everything we do throughout the Society relies on the generosity of the public.

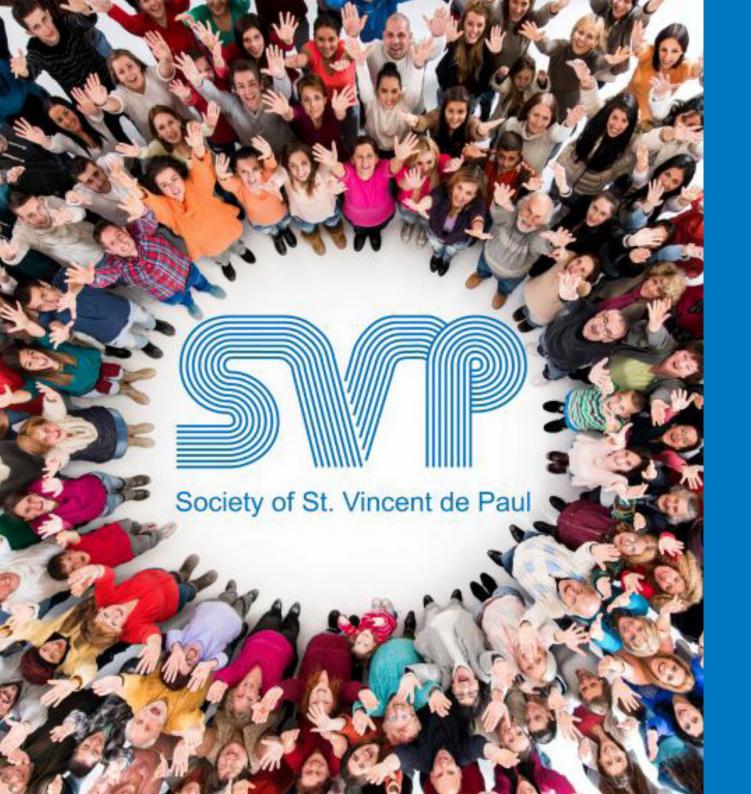
We have seen how one small thing can tip a family into a cycle of poverty and crisis.

But the opposite is also true.

A little bit of help at the right time can change everything.

Thank you to our generous donors, and to our members, volunteers and staff who put their generousity into action everyday.





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Email: info@svp.ie Website: svp.ie

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