

THE COST OF **SURVIVING** 2022



Proposals for an
Equal Ireland



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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WELCOME



Welcome to SVP Ireland's Annual Report 2022. Throughout the year SVP volunteers and staff continued to work tirelessly to support each person who contacted us.

Within our 1,158 Conferences across the 32 counties of Ireland more than 10,000 Members and Volunteers, and 775 Full Time Equivalents, provided home visitation, housing, advocacy, education grants, family support, child and youth services, holiday breaks, and much much more.

In 2022 in excess of 225K calls were received from members of the public seeking our support. Providing that support would not have been possible without our donors, charitable bodies, statutory funders, and community organisations, all of whom contributed significantly to the provision of our day-to-day work.

2022 was also the year in which we began to

fully emerge from the impact that Covid 19 had on our work. The Society continued with home visitations, provided direct contact assistance, and saw an increase in contact through our telephone lines and website. Throughout our Conferences, Areas, Regional Councils and National Management Council, we met face-to-face again, and renewed old friendships.

We also embarked on a national recruitment campaign in early 2022, intending to encourage people to join Conferences or volunteer in our Charity Shops, in our Child & family services and in our Social Housing projects.

We know from experience that the winter months are where the people we support experience the most adverse impact of the increasing cost of living. Energy and food prices increased



significantly in 2022, while rents climbed beyond what many people could afford. Alongside this, back-to-school costs brought extra pressure on many families, especially those with a low household income.

We bring our experience of supporting people, and their stories and concerns, to the doors of Government. We never underestimate the challenges that face policymakers, and we understand that choices can be difficult. But we also know that all choices must be underpinned by equality, fairness, and social justice. A society that fails to help those who are most vulnerable within it will never reach its true potential.

As we came to the end of 2022 the Society started a process of reflection, looking at what has been achieved to date, what will need to be achieved in

the future, and what changes we will need to make within our strategic objectives, our vision and mission, our values, and our organisational capacity to face the challenges of the next 5 years.

We are proud of our work, of our people, of our place within Irish society. But we take nothing for granted. We must always strive to be better than we are, to meet need wherever it exists, to protect the rights of people impacted by poverty and social exclusion. Our new strategy will be underpinned by these sentiments and hope for the future.

Rose McGowan

Rose McGowan
National President



OUR MISSION

Our mission statement sets out the three core principles of what we hope to achieve, namely:



SUPPORT & FRIENDSHIP

Through person to person contact, we are committed to respecting the dignity of those we assist and fostering self-respect.

We always assure confidentiality 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 build bridges of support with others who can provide more specialised support.



WORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

IN STRIVING TO ACHIEVE THE MISSION, WE ARE GUIDED BY OUR VALUES WHICH ARE:



RESPECT



HUMILITY



LOVE OF NEIGHBOUR



EMPATHY



JOY THROUGH MISSION



**PERSONAL CONTACT WITH
THOSE IN NEED**

OUR STORY SO FAR

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.

The Society is organised in small groups or branches, called "Conferences", often based in local parishes, which meet regularly, and their work is usually concentrated on local home visitation. Home visitation is the core activity of the Society and one in which most Members are engaged weekly.

Throughout the history of the Society on the island of Ireland, we have responded to social and societal changes, often providing solutions and innovative services to local unmet needs and have developed a range of additional services.

Such additional services and activities are known as "Special Works". They comprised a significant proportion of the Society's activities and the organisation has had to manage the associated obligations regarding employment, quality standards and adherence to funding service arrangements, all within an increasingly regulated environment.



WHO WE HELP

229,352

REQUESTS FOR
ASSISTANCE

RECEIVED
DURING 2022

77,694

REQUESTS FOR
ASSISTANCE ONLINE

SVP responds to every request for assistance we receive

HOW SVP RESPONDS



HOME VISITATION MEMBERS

SVP provides direct support to those who request assistance. Volunteers visit people in their homes to offer support, guidance, and friendship.



LOCAL OFFICE SERVICES

The Society currently operates 8 regional offices located around the country.



INFORMATION SUPPORT OFFICERS

When someone contacts SVP for assistance, Information Support Officers record the details and pass the information to the local branch.



SVP WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

The SVP website is the most effective online channel for people to get in touch and access supports.

SVP SERVICES



HOW SVP CAN HELP



8
REGIONAL
OFFICES



911
VISITATION
CONFERENCES



VOUCHERS
AND
FOOD
BANKS



EDUCATION
BURSARY
GRANTS



HOUSING &
UTILITY
COSTS

2022 AT A GLANCE

OUR RESPONSE IN 2022



10,000+
VOLUNTEERS &
MEMBERS



1,158
CONFERENCES



60
SOCIAL HOUSING
VOLUNTEER-LED CONFERENCES



775
EMPLOYEES
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENCY
(FTE)



2,520
RETAIL
VOLUNTEERS

511

calls per day
in the first three months

66,246

food
vouchers

9,467

requests for assistance
with education costs

64,923

requests for assistance
during winter months
(November & December)

SVP OPERATIONS IN 2022

210

CHARITY
SHOPS

908

SOCIAL
HOUSING
TENANTS

855

SOCIAL
HOUSING
UNITS

2,200
CHILD &
FAMILY
SERVICE
USERS

36
CHILD &
FAMILY
SERVICES

8

TWINNED
REGIONS

STRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE

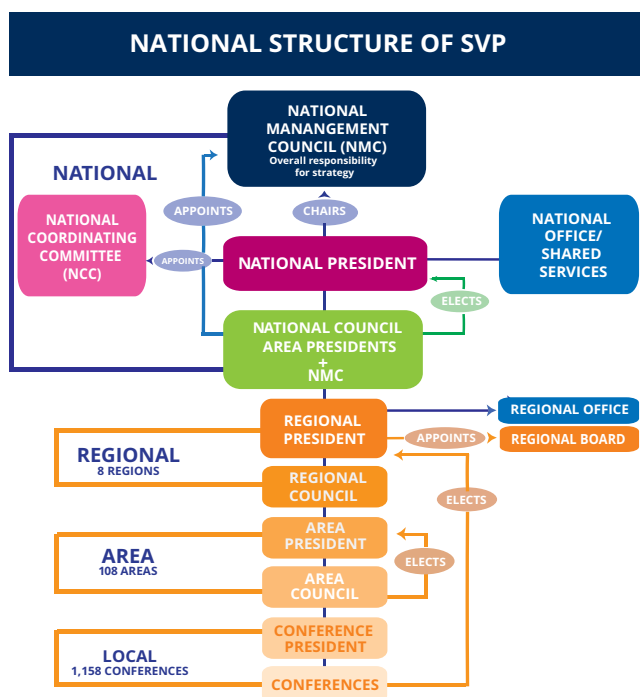
The Society is a member led unincorporated entity, comprising more than 10,000 Members and Volunteers supported by 775 Full Time Equivalents.

The Society is organised into 1,158 Conferences, organised into 108 Area Councils, which in turn are organised into eight regions North and South. The Society is governed by a Rule (constitution) which is drawn from the International Rule.

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, coordinating 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 consists of the National President, the eight Regional Presidents, three 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.



svp.ie/structureandgovernance

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.

CHARITY REGULATOR NUMBER:

20013806

CHARITY NUMBER:

CHY 6892

NATIONAL OFFICE

SVP House
91/92 Sean MacDermott Street
Dublin 1, Ireland D01 WV38

NATIONAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL TRUSTEES

- Rose McGowan - National President
- John Lupton - National Vice President
- Peter Fitzpatrick - National Treasurer
- Annette Beckett
- Hannah Clarke
- Marie Cronin
- Mairead McGurran
- Maureen Mitchell
- Paddy O'Flynn
- Teresa Ryan
- Mary Waide
- Fr. Paschal Scallan - Spiritual Advisor

NATIONAL SECRETARY

Niall Mulligan

PRINCIPAL BANKERS

Bank of Ireland
40 Mespil Road, Saint Peters,
Dublin 4, Ireland

Allied Irish Bank plc
Bankcentre, Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4, Ireland

TRUSTEE	OFFICE HELD	DATE OF APPOINTMENT TO NMC
Rose McGowan	National President	August 2020
John Lupton	National Vice President for Members	September 2020
Peter Fitzpatrick	National Treasurer	September 2020
Annette Beckett	Regional President South-East	March 2022
Hanna Clarke	Regional President North-East & Midlands	June 2023
Marie Cronin	Regional President East	July 2020
Mairead McGurran	Regional President North-West	December 2022
Maureen Mitchell	Regional President West	October 2020
Paddy O'Flynn	Regional President South-West	February 2020
Teresa Ryan	Regional President Mid-West	July 2020
Mary Waide	Regional President North	July 2020
Fr. Paschal Scallan	Spiritual Advisor	May 2018
NCM ATTENDEE		
Philip Hamel		October 2020
Niall Mulligan		December 2022
		DATE OF RESIGNATION FROM NMC
Larry Butler		May 2023
Bernadette Doyle		March 2022
Rosa Glacken		December 2022

READ FULL TRUSTEES BIOS: WWW.SVP.IE/TRUSTEES

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Over 600,000 people are living below the poverty line in Ireland. We are working to change that.

WORKING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IS ONE OF THREE KEY PILLARS OF SVP

The role of the SVP is not only to provide immediate help to people in need, but also tackle the root causes of the problems that we see. We seek to influence policy makers and public opinion from a position of authority backed by evidence from our volunteers who are working with people experiencing poverty.

At SVP we turn concern into action and advocate for more socially just policies with the aim of ending poverty in Ireland.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES 2022

- **7** meetings with Government Ministers, including with the Taoiseach and Tánaiste.
- **15** submissions to Government consultations focused on a new Youth Homelessness Strategy, Action Plan on Energy Poverty, the Roadmap for Social Inclusion, Living Wage, Child Poverty, and Responses to the Tax and Welfare Commission.
- **24** meetings with Government officials across Departments.
- **25** meetings with key energy suppliers and the Regulator.
- **2** reports and policy briefings.
- **3** events including the launch of our pre-budget submission, a members meeting on housing with input from the Minister for Housing and a special event to discuss a new book on Food Poverty by SVP Member, Michael Drew.
- **1** social justice survey of Members on the operation of the Community Welfare Service.
- **111** references to SVP social justice work in the Dáil.
- **250+** media mentions of SVP social justice issues and solutions.

ACTIVITIES IN 2022 - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Advocating for Supports to Protect Households During the Cost of Living Crisis

In February 2022, we published *The Cost of Surviving*, which was an analysis of the financial impact of the cost of living crisis on households in Ireland. This provided valuable evidence to support our policy proposals when engaging with Government Officials, regulators and energy suppliers on the measures needed to protect households.

REAL PROGRESS

Support with Primary School Costs

Budget 2023, announced in September 2022, brought a key success for the National Social Justice Committee following over 12 years of campaigning to reduce the cost of education. The announcement of free school books for primary school children was very welcome and we continue to campaign for free books at secondary school and an end to voluntary contributions.

Establishment of a Child Poverty Unit

In December 2022, the Taoiseach announced that he was establishing a Child Poverty Unit in his Department to coordinate Government responses to child poverty. SVP began campaigning for child poverty to be given national priority and specifically this type of structure to lead the response. We continue to work with the unit to deliver on the Taoiseach commitment to make Ireland the best place to be a child.

Protections for Energy Customers

The ongoing engagement between SVP and the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities resulted in positive changes for low income customers in 2022. One of the measures SVP recommended is a mandate to all suppliers to put financially vulnerable pre-pay customers on the lowest tariffs available. Processes for more affordable payment plans, enhanced communications to vulnerable and low income customers on their rights and the removal of a charge to move from pre-pay back to bill pay were also taken on board.

BUDGET 2023

The Budget delivered on some key educational reforms that are needed to break the cycle of poverty. The free school books scheme at primary level, additional resources for the National Education Psychological Service and the changes to SUSI were very welcome and have the potential to make a big difference to the lives of people SVP is supporting.

The one-off targeted payments to at-risk groups such as people with a disability, working poor households and carers were welcomed by SVP. Yet, we were concerned that the failure to increase social welfare payments in line with inflation will leave

people exposed to the ongoing impact of the cost of living crisis.

WORKING FOR SVP SOCIAL JUSTICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

SVP Ireland works on an all-Island basis spanning two legislative jurisdictions. In 2022, the North Region Social Justice Committee was focused on building up networks in the North Region, engaging with Members on the key social justice issues they are seeing in their home visitation work and shining a light on the reality of poverty in Northern Ireland through the media.

TRANSFER OF VINCENTIAN MESL RESEARCH CENTRE TO SVP

In July 2022, the Vincentian MESL Research Centre transferred from the Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice to SVP. The unique research, which calculates the cost of the Minimum Essential Standard of Living in Ireland, will continue to develop, and expand at SVP providing policy makers, civil society organisations and members of the public with robust data on social welfare adequacy and the living wage. Importantly, the data is regularly used in SVP social justice submissions and advocacy efforts as well as informing the assessment of need process for home visitation Members.

In 2022, the research centre produced their annual update, pre-budget submission, the cost of a healthy food basket in conjunction with Safefood Ireland, and their Budget 2023 impact briefing. The team also provided the data for the Insolvency Service of Ireland in 2022 and the Living Wage Rate for 2022/2023.

This research is kindly funded by the Department of Social Protection.

FUTURE FOCUS

The impact of the cost of living crisis continues to be a key focus of National Social Justice Committee as high inflation remains for the short and medium term. A key response to this is seeking a commitment from Government to benchmark social welfare rates to the cost of a Minimum Essential Standard of Living.

Other key focuses are reducing the cost of education at second and third level, responding effectively to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers, reforming the Housing Assistance Payment and mechanisms to address rent arrears, action on vacant properties and greater homeless prevention measures, the introduction of a social energy tariff and enhanced customer protections, free childcare for low income families and continuing to work with the Department of Social Protection to improve the operation of the Community Welfare Service.



MEMBERSHIP



The Member Support team began the year by continuing to offer support, guidance, and reassurance to members in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Member Support continued to be a central touchstone for leadership, members, colleagues and other NGO's in relation to home visitation, governance and casework.

The Assessment of Need form was updated in line with significant increases in the cost of living and it's benefits were consistently promoted, especially at Area Gatherings.

Member Support continued to support the recruitment, vetting and induction training of new visitation members, with 550 applicants completing the formal recruitment and induction training process.

The ever-popular Area Gatherings continued, with a welcome return to in-person events. 32 Area Gatherings took place, covering 48 areas. 1,867 Members attended.

Further to a €1m donation from SSE Airtricity, Member Support, in partnership with Payzone,



developed energy vouchers, the first of their kind in Ireland. A pilot began in October 2022.

Member Support continued to lead the administration of the Hardship Funds for both Electric Ireland and Bord Gáis Energy, supporting SVP Members to distribute €668k worth of credit to people in need.

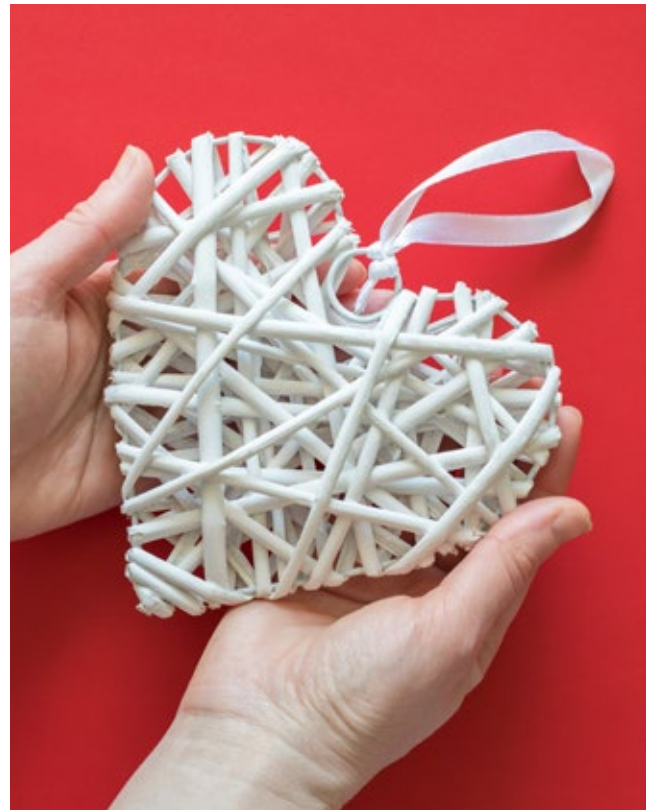
The curriculum for Conference President training was updated and a well-received pilot event took place on September 3rd.

A revised edition of the Visitation Handbook was published and distributed amongst Conferences and individual guidance notes continued to be produced as required.

A revised edition of the Investing in Education booklet for Conferences was also well received.

The Government grant documentation for the Department of Rural and Community Development was collated.

Discussion papers were drafted for the committees on a variety of topics, including Members mileage, Succession Planning, Reaching out to new people and a Guidebook to the Rule.



SOCIAL HOUSING

The Society is an Approved Housing Body (AHB). In 2022, the Society of St Vincent de Paul had 855 social housing units occupied by 908 tenants and are managed by 60 volunteer-led Conferences.

The Society recognises that our social housing success is made possible due to the collective hard work and dedication of our Members, staff and essential external stakeholders.

The Society works closely with Local Authorities, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and other external stakeholders who share our commitment to housing people in our communities and who have provided grant assistance for the building of many of the Society's Social Housing units.

During the year, the National Social Housing Committee launched a new Social Housing Strategic Plan for 2022-2026, reinforcing the Society's commitment to social housing.



Members of St Michaels Conference Foxford Joe Davitt and Frank Devaney

THE PLAN IDENTIFIED FOUR KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES THAT ARE ALIGNED WITH THE SOCIAL HOUSING REGULATION STANDARDS:

- **Governance and Organisation Efficiency:** The Society aims to ensure that its housing operations are well managed, resourced and fit for purpose with the appropriate structures providing oversight.
- **Our Service and Performance:** The Society seeks continuous improvement in its Social Housing service delivery.
- **Asset Management:** To ensure effective asset management and provide and develop the highest quality accommodation for present and future tenants.
- **Sustainable and Viable Social Housing Provision:** To ensure the long-term sustainability and viability of Social Housing provision.

The Strategic Plan objectives take cognisance of the need to consider the risks identified through the Social Housing Risk Management Process. Consequently, the mitigation of risks is reflected in each of the objectives outlined in the strategy. A copy of the strategic plan is available from the Society's website.

The Society is working through a process to review and consider the new Approved Housing Bodies Regulatory Authority (AHBRA) legislation requirement, which has eligibility criteria for registration (Housing Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies Act 2019).

In 2022, the Society submitted its first return under AHBRA's Annual Monitoring programme, which requested various information and performance data on the organisation's activities. The annual monitoring programme allows AHBRA to analyse and evaluate the information provided to identify any risks and inform its future planned assessment programme.

During the year, the National Social Housing Committee commenced a review of the Regulation Standards (Governance, Financial Management, Property and Asset Management and Tenancy

Management) to confirm measures currently in place to meet requirements and to identify plans for further developments.

The Committee continued the implementation of Strategic Objectives, including supporting several Conferences and recruiting new members with housing-related skills.

The Social Housing Membership Training series commenced, covering areas such as the social housing operating context, AHB obligations, Property and Safety Management, Performance Reporting, Housing Delivery and Tenancy Management. Further resource materials were developed, including a Tenancy Induction Training video.



Social Housing launched its Tenancy Training Video in 2022

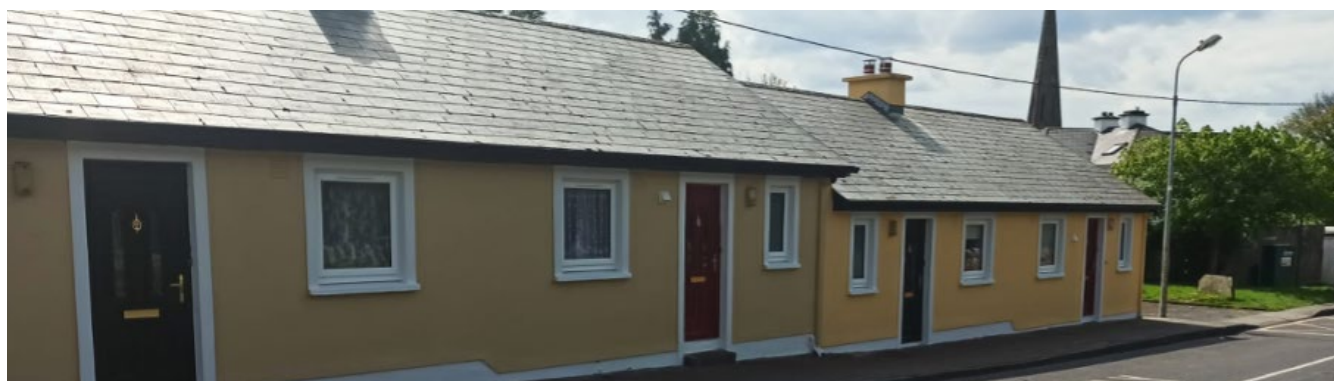
A Social Housing Financial Management Guide was developed during the year to support Conferences in implementing financial management policies and procedures.

Social Housing conducted a tenant satisfaction survey. The survey captured satisfaction levels across several areas, including energy efficiency, repair service and maintenance standards.

Throughout 2022, the Society continued to enhance its property standards by completing various property energy efficiency upgrades and refurbishment projects.

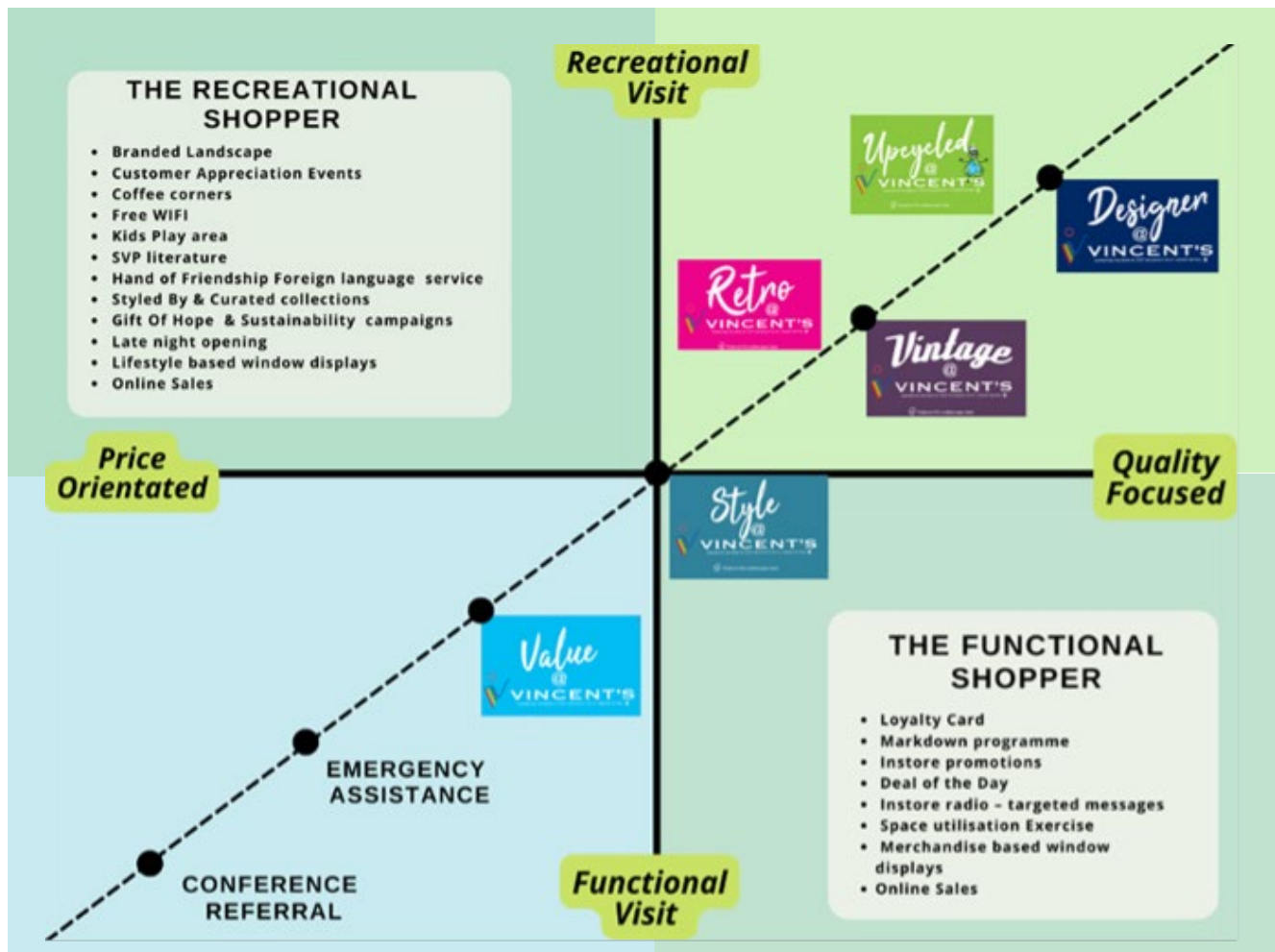
2022 saw Conferences achieve social housing rent

alignment to the National Minimum Rent Policy and provided tenants support to access state tenancy support funding. The Society received Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) funding for social housing properties. CAS funding guidance states that AHBs should set rents according to the costs of managing, maintaining, and sustaining the related properties. This is known generally as an economic rent. However, the Society considered the affordability of this rent for their tenants (as also stated under the guidance) and is charging a rent that is lower than the costs of managing, maintaining, and sustaining the related properties.



Energy Upgrade works completed on properties in Westport

SHOPS RETAIL



The Society developed a Charity Shop Strategic Plan in 2021, for the years 2022 – 2025, with five key pillars of work, including developing our people, improving the customer and donor experience, developing the retail estate and decision-making based on quality data.

Also, the Society developed the Charity Shops roles and responsibilities RACI document (Responsible, Accountable, Consulting Informing roles and responsibilities) to clarify the stakeholders' roles and responsibilities in the Society.

At an operational level, the retail team worked to build greater capacity within the network, particularly regarding the sharing of surplus do-

nations within and between regions. There are seven Order Fulfilment Centres in Dublin, Cork, Tralee, Drogheda, Waterford, Nenagh and Clonmel now collect surplus clothing and other donations from local shops, sort, and grade them and then redistribute them to neighbouring shops, sell them online or sell unsold stock to clothing exporters. This process is further assisted by use of Electronic Point of Sale (EPOS) was used in 100 of our charity shops across the country. The team is working to establish full visibility of sales and stock movement across the national network to ensure that shops are more customer-centric and that our supply chain is more efficient and effective.

2022: RETAIL IN NUMBERS



www.svp.ie/shops

In 2022, our pricing matrix was updated for shops to ensure that all locations had an awareness of, and access to, a blend of both affordable, mid-range and luxury brands using our Value, Style & Designer labels. Shops unable to meet the demand for certain label can now request it from the local OFC. A stock clearance programme was also introduced to ensure that unsold stock would be marked down in price to encourage local sale rather than export. The “Markdown” program has successfully operated in SVP shops across the United States for several years.

At an international level, SVP is committed to the more responsible production and consumption of textiles as the fashion industry is now one of the biggest polluters of our environment. SVP

SHOULD OUR FOCUS BE ON SELLING OR SERVING?

Vincent’s Retail in Ireland has become synonymous with authentic customer care and the Vincentian values of social justice, self-sufficiency, and the promotion of friendship, with the retail management team advocating the view that customer engagement and service are more important than making a sale.

As well as delivering on SVP core values, this “Sales through service” approach has enabled Vincent’s to distinguish itself from the competition. The next question to answer is which segment of the market should Vincent’s be serving? Are we better positioned to serve the utilitarian shopper, the recreational shopper, or is it possible to develop a local blend of products and services tailored to the needs and wants of all?

As part of the development of our competitive strategy, the retail management team have developed a suite of services which span the price – quality continuum, enabling local shops to meet local needs.

This “Best Cost” model, from Porters Generic Strategies, means that we are committed to differentiating ourselves on quality and price whilst the customer gets more choice.

retail is using the network of OFC’s, Epos technology, online retail, and its pricing strategy to encourage the reuse of pre-loved clothing as part of a more circular economy. In his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis encourages us to listen to the “cry of the poor and the cry of the earth”. SVP retail is deeply committed to doing both.

YOUNG SVP



Young SVP is our Youth Development Programme designed for young people attending secondary school, Youthreach and other educational settings, those taking part in youth groups and clubs and those at the 3rd level – be it in college/university.

The programme focuses on social action within the ethos and mission of SVP. Young people are offered opportunities to learn about SVP, social justice and how to positively, intentionally and meaningfully engage in social action.

After what was a difficult and unusual number of years for everyone, the Young SVP team showed great resilience and creativity, in maintaining their engagement with young people and schools to ensure that our programme is still going strong.

The Young SVP team delivered a total of 692 workshops during 782 school visits across more than 197 different schools and other settings, where they informed students about the work of SVP, explored social justice issues, and supported them in designing and delivering activities to



address needs in their communities. Over 8,800 young people were reached through our visits and chose to engage in our developmental school's programme taking part in workshops and designing action projects throughout the year.

OBJECTIVES OF YOUNG SVP PROGRAMME

- Personal and social development for young people
- Developing understanding of ethos, mission, and aims of SVP.
- Developing better understanding of social justice
- Encourage young people and Young SVP groups to get involved in their local communities, improve the lives of others.
- Engage in social action.
- Gain positive experience of volunteering.
- Encourage and nurture positive relationships between Young SVP Conferences/groups and SVP members, volunteers, and retail/Vincent's shops.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

We have a team of youth development officers (YDO) across the country to help and support you in your involvement with Young SVP

YDOs will visit a school/group and provide ongoing support to their Young SVP groups. Our team will encourage young people to explore issues of social justice and act upon these, where youth led participation is key.



BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAMME

Flexibility within the programme means that it can fit into your group / school community in a way that suits you. Links to curriculum within several subject areas in both ROI & Northern Ireland, e.g., Religious Education, Citizenship, CSPE, TY programmes.

The programme is free and non-competitive with young people at the centre of their own learning, promoting personal development. Programme can be used to complement extra curricula activities e.g., Gaisce / Pope John Paul II awards; Enrichment programmes.

Participants will have the option of attending Young SVP events where young people & leaders/teachers can share their valued experiences.

SAFEGUARDING



Safeguarding in SVP is about maintaining a safe environment, good standards of practice and attitude and working together to further enhance a positive Safeguarding culture and ethos. Safeguarding is everyone's business. This means we all share responsibility for safeguarding; to prevent harm in our interaction with vulnerable groups in the community, with each other as Members, Volunteers and Staff, upholding the duty to report for their protection where required, and in all operations on behalf of the Society.

Safeguarding is understood in context of The SVP Rule which clarifies the Vincentian values of dignity and respect, empathy, compassion, empowerment, being non-judgemental, to promote independence, social justice and human rights, all guiding principles as to how we do our daily work, and in our interactions when assisting the most impoverished across the island of Ireland.

This value-base and guiding principles of best practice informs our understanding of safeguarding within the context of SVP, and how together we can

prevent harm through our actions and words, adopting a proactive approach to the implementation of safeguarding measures outlined in SVP Working Safely with Vulnerable Groups, 2019, through positive role modelling ways that uphold respectful relationships.

SVP takes safeguarding seriously and has strong reporting pathways through the national safeguarding Designated Liaison Person (DLP) Network. The newly reconstituted National Safeguarding Committee (NSC) worked tirelessly throughout the year working to form as a new group, to establish a quorum, and with new members joining for representation from all regions. The priorities for the national safeguarding annual action plan were agreed, with the support of the National Safeguarding Manager, for sign off by the National Coordinating Committee (NCC). The goal in the action plan aimed to bed down the policy to make safeguarding personal in our everyday business in SVP through the support and empowerment of vulnerable groups in the community.

There was an increase in safeguarding reports in 2022 and so the Society focussed on increasing DLP capacity, and supported L&D events for the network for upskilling and training in Domestic Violence including coercive control, adopting a trauma informed approach and raising awareness of the implications of the Decision-Making (Capacity) (Amendment) Act 2022 due to be enacted in 2023.

Support was also provided to complete the Keeping Children Safe (KCS) International Audit that staff and members in Children and Family Services (CFS) and National Office, worked on together to successfully achieve Certification Level I.

The plan for 2023 is to consider engaging with KSC International Audit for Level II Certification. A review of the recruitment cycle commenced in 2022 including SVP Garda Vetting Policy and the

reverting cycle in keeping with best standard of practice nationally for compliance.

The Safeguarding Strategy for 2023 aims to review safeguarding and associate policies and competency-based training requirements, prioritising capacity building of the SVP National DLP Network, for all meetings and gatherings to have safeguarding as a standing agenda item to bed down the implementation of SVP safeguarding policies, to review and update related infographics, to further develop the safeguarding centralised reporting database system and risk management system including serious incidents, and to further strengthen the safeguarding quality improvement checklist and KPI framework for compliance across all areas of function including Children and Family Services (CFS), Retail, Social Housing, Home Visitation and Visitation in Hospitals, Hospice, Nursing Homes and adult Prison settings, Foodbanks, initiatives to support refugees including people from Ukraine, activities with partners including volunteers in third level colleges and schools, TUS and CE Schemes and supporting Seafarers in ROI and Northern Ireland.

The Society remains committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment, maintaining standards of good practice, quality service delivery to assist families, young children, youth, and adults who maybe experiencing vulnerability, and to do so in a dignified, respectful and supportive manner.



NATIONAL CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Our National Children's and Family services department was established within the national framework of SVP in 2020. Since then, the department has been working with and supporting 36 services who provide a variety of children's, family, and adult support services in local communities across the country.

- 3 Childcare facilities
- 7 Youth Clubs & 2 Young SVP Youth clubs
- 5 Community & Family Resource Centres (running youth education and social programmes, adult education programmes, social groups for the elderly - one incorporates and childcare service listed above)
- 5 Day Care Centres for older people
- 1 Residential Unit for elderly
- 1 Drop-in Service for the homeless
- 6 Holiday Homes for children (2) and adults/families (4)
- 2 Meals on Wheels services
- 1 Hamper service
- 4 Prison Visitor Centres
- 1 Seafarers Club

RESPONDING TO NEEDS

These wonderful services have been established by our members in response to an identified need in their communities, to provide supports to children, families, adults, and older people in many different ways. Many of the supports provided in our services equip people with the necessary skills and competencies to empower them in their own lives as well as improving their quality of life and independence.

DOING IT RIGHT

One of the main objectives of the department is to provide the services with support and guidance around the growing needs of good governance and compliance with our legal, regulatory, and constitutional obligations.



THE KEY OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE YEAR WERE:

- Continued development and application of Keeping Children Safe Recommendations & Safeguarding policies: The goal was to ensure policy developments, implementation, and consistency in services.
- Provided further access to training (legislation and regulation) for volunteers and staff in Children's and Family Services, enhance knowledge and skills.
- Enhance awareness and understanding of Children's and Family Services activities, operations, and governance throughout the organisation.
- Enhanced compliance with all SVP policies and procedures and developing areas of governance in our charitable work as well as all areas of Regulation and legislation in our services.
- Enhanced Communication structures - The National Children's and Family Services Committee developed a Communication Strategy to ensure good communication pathways between the committee, services and regions.
- Risk Management, with the development of a Risk Register for all child and family services.

The Committee also oversaw the expansion of the department with a new staff position of 'National Child and Family Services Support Coordinator' developed and filled during the year. This role further supports the extensive work and support offered across all services.

"I love my club, it's like my other home. I can't wait to come every week. I feel so happy when I get to meet my friends and have fun doing so much stuff that I love and I love our leaders, they are great, they look after us and are so friendly".
Mathew (Youth Club member)

PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF IT ALL

In all, SVP supports and engages with over 2,200 people, young and old every week through these services. All of this is achieved through the incredible work, commitment, compassion and dedication of 300 conference members, 500 service volunteers and our 175 staff who work in our services across the country. A BIG Family having a BIG impact on so many people's lives in such a special way.

"There should be a place like this in every town and community. I think it's great that there are activities for everyone from children to retired people. It is such an inspirational place - always so positive and makes every volunteer feel important".
Michael (Volunteer)

QUOTES

"I think it's a really positive environment for both service users and volunteers and has a family type atmosphere where you feel valued and as a volunteer you feel your input is acknowledged. The sense of community also makes you feel a part of something very special".
Joan (Volunteer)

I live alone now, and it can be lonely a lot of the time. But I have my friends here in the day centre and they are like a family to me now. We chat and play cards or bingo or do exercises, which is important for me at my age, and we have dinner together. We are looked after so well by everyone. It gives me so much joy in my day to come here".
Breda (Day Care Centre member)

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 true. A little bit of help at the right time can change everything. By donating to SVP, people can be there just when a family needs it. They help stop them from falling into the poverty cycle.

Income for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is received from three primary sources: donations and legacies from the public, sales from our community charity shops and statutory funding for Special Works (i.e., social housing and resource centres). The core work of the Society, home visitation and direct assistance, is funded almost entirely from public donations.

These generous donations enabled SVP to car-

ry out our vital work in the core area of home visitation and direct assistance with food, fuel, and school costs. The SVP Annual Appeal in November and December is central to our fundraising activities. The SVP Annual Appeal continues to be the primary national campaign each year and is responsible for raising most of the funds needed. During this time, the Society benefited from a groundswell of support from the public and local businesses and over more than 10,000 Members and Volunteers facilitated this.

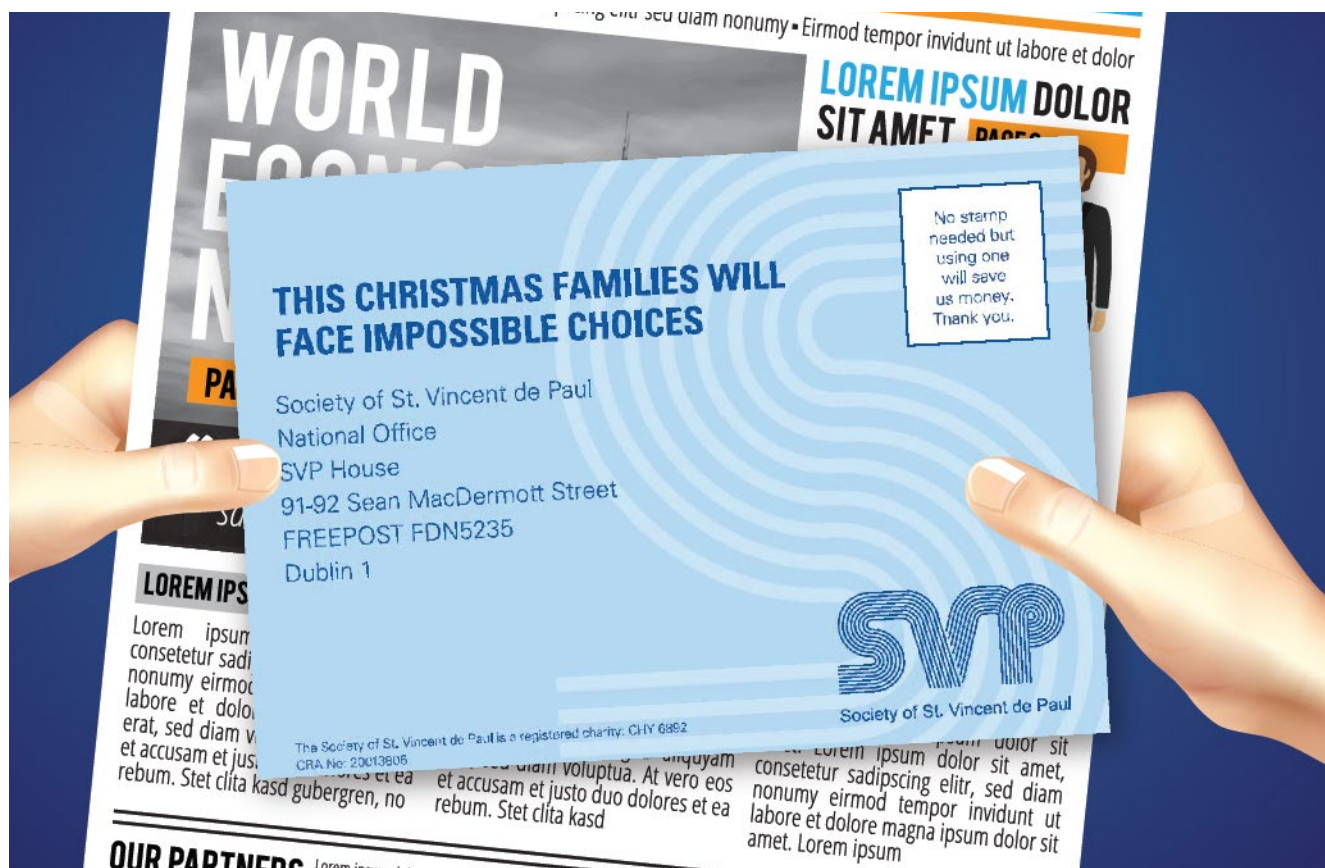
Other vital channels of fundraising income for the Society are church collections and legacy donations. One of the unique aspects of fundraising within SVP is the large membership base of Members and Volunteers in local communities throughout Ireland. The Society also receives support from corporate donors.

These corporate donors provide volunteers, funding and public awareness that complements the work of our Members and Volunteers on the ground in meeting the demand they face in local communities.

The Society created Conference Annual Appeal packs and enhanced the Direct Mail programme to all donors with the option to donate locally and regionally. Enhanced online communication plan to all donors, using multiple media channels, including TV, Radio, digital, social media, locations events, etc. Donors can make donations in-person, on our website and now Donors can donate by direct debit to a local conference and the same process for once-off donations.

The blue envelope campaign involved several Conferences and Conference specific envelopes were distributed nationwide. In addition, during the year, blue envelopes were distributed by newspapers and door-drops.

Businesses play a big part in the local community. At the regional level, a campaign focusing on Small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) supporters, launched in 2022, highlighted how SMEs are at the heart of the community and uses the heart emblem to signify how SMEs show love to the local community.



LOCATIONS

Our aim is to bring friendship and support to people in need and suffering marginalisation; this is at the heart of what we do.

SVP Members assist individuals and families challenged by poverty and inequality, and make a real 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. People can contact SVP through our network, offices, by email and phone. People can contact SVP through our eight regional or national offices by email and telephone.

EAST REGION

MID WEST REGION

WEST REGION

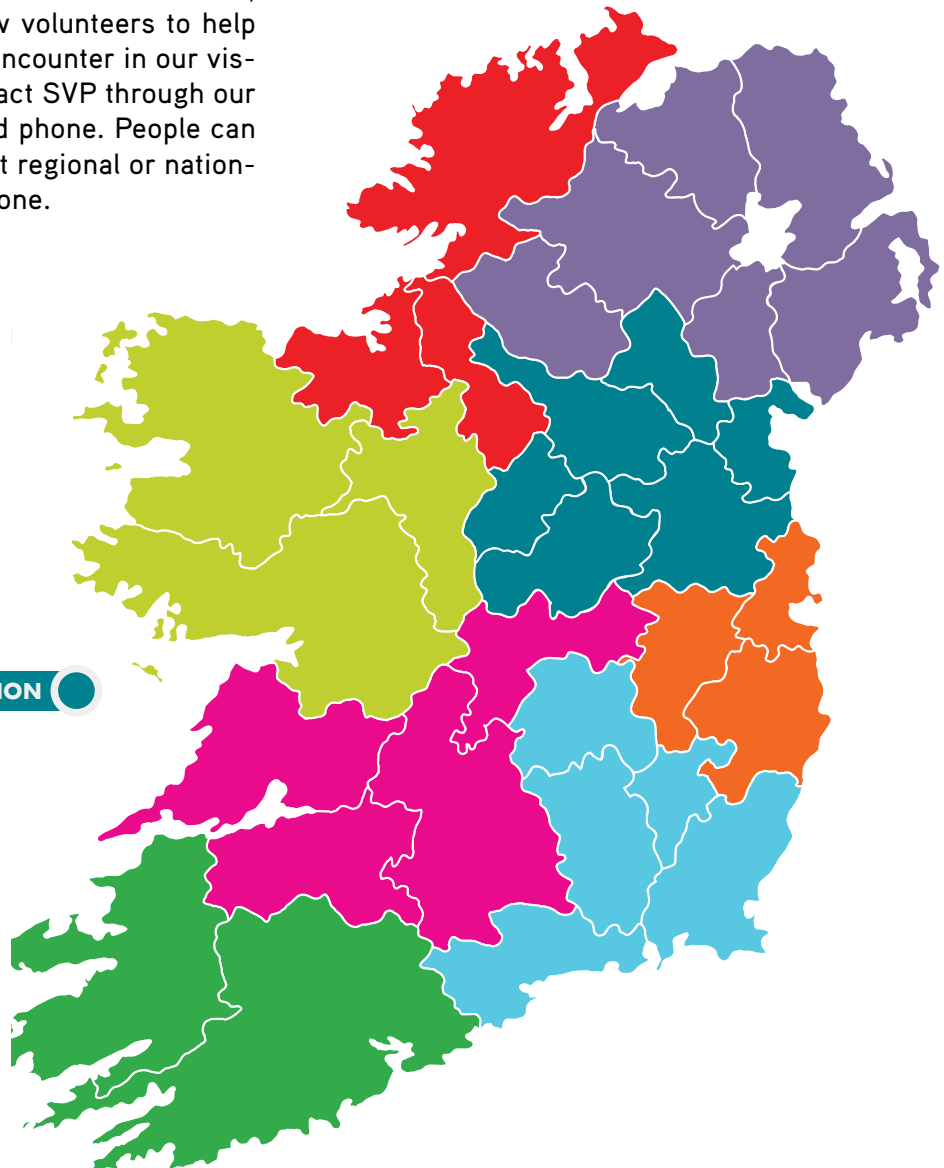
NORTH EAST & MIDLANDS REGION

SOUTH EAST REGION

SOUTH WEST REGION

NORTH WEST REGION

NORTH REGION



FINANCIAL REPORTS

INCOME & EXPENDED SUMMARY

	2022			2021		
	INCOME	EXPENDED	NET	INCOME	EXPENDED	NET
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Visitation	49,202	40,953	8,249	44,896	31,248	13,648
Other Income	479	-	479	371	-	371
SUBTOTAL	49,681	40,953	8,728	45,267	31,248	14,019
SERVICES						
Homelessness	622	1,515	(893)	4,966	9,294	(4,328)
Social Housing	5,146	5,354	(208)	3,641	4,977	(1,336)
Child & Family Services	5,256	7,185	(1,929)	6,584	6,051	533
SUBTOTAL	11,024	14,054	(3,030)	15,191	20,322	(5,131)
Charity Shops	37,049	26,247	10,802	26,427	20,917	5,510
Governance, Management, Support & Admin	-	10,484	(10,484)	-	8,394	(8,394)
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)	97,754	91,738	6,016	86,885	80,881	(6,004)
Other gains in the year	99	-	99	349	-	349
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS IN THE YEAR	97,853	91,738	6,115	87,234	80,881	6,353

BALANCE SHEET

The Society's Reserves were €166.6 million at December 2022.

This is made up of:

RESTRICTED &
DESIGNATED
RESERVES

€35.8
million

PROPERTY
VALUATION
RESERVES

€80.8
million

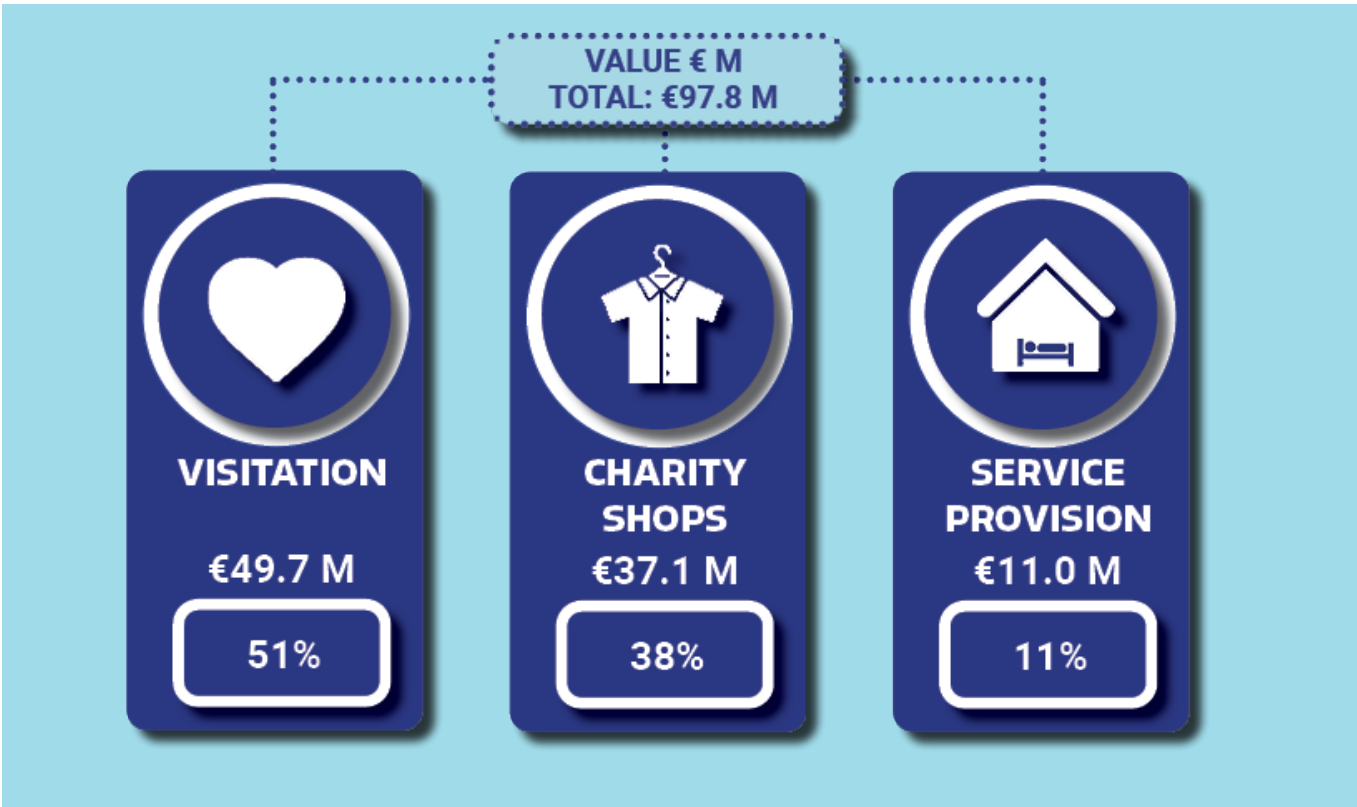
GENERAL
RESERVES

€50.0
million

	2022	2021	MOVEMENT
	€'000	€'000	€'000
Fixed Assets			
Property, Tangible Assets	92,844	96,483	(3,639)
Investment and Other	79	57	22
SUBTOTAL	92,923	96,540	(3,617)
Current Assets			
Stock	12	2	10
Debtors	5,657	6,906	(1,249)
Cash at Bank and in Hand			
- Restricted/Designated	35,842	34,097	1,745
- General	65,159	58,137	7,022
TOTAL ASSETS	199,593	195,682	3,911
Liabilities			
Creditors falling due within 1 Year	(7,882)	(8,775)	893
Creditors and Deeds of Mortgages	(25,087)	(26,398)	1,311
NET ASSETS	166,624	160,509	6,115
FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY			
Restricted	6,314	5,531	783
Property Valuations	80,817	80,817	-
Designated Funds	29,528	28,566	962
General Funds	49,965	45,595	4,370
TOTAL FUNDS	166,624	160,509	6,115

INCOME 2022

In 2022, total income for the Society was €97.8 M (2021: €86.9 M)



INCOME STREAMS

The Society has a range of income streams.



The Society couldn't carry out its vital work without the generosity of our many donors and funders.

GOVERNANCE,
MANAGEMENT,
SUPPORT & ADMIN

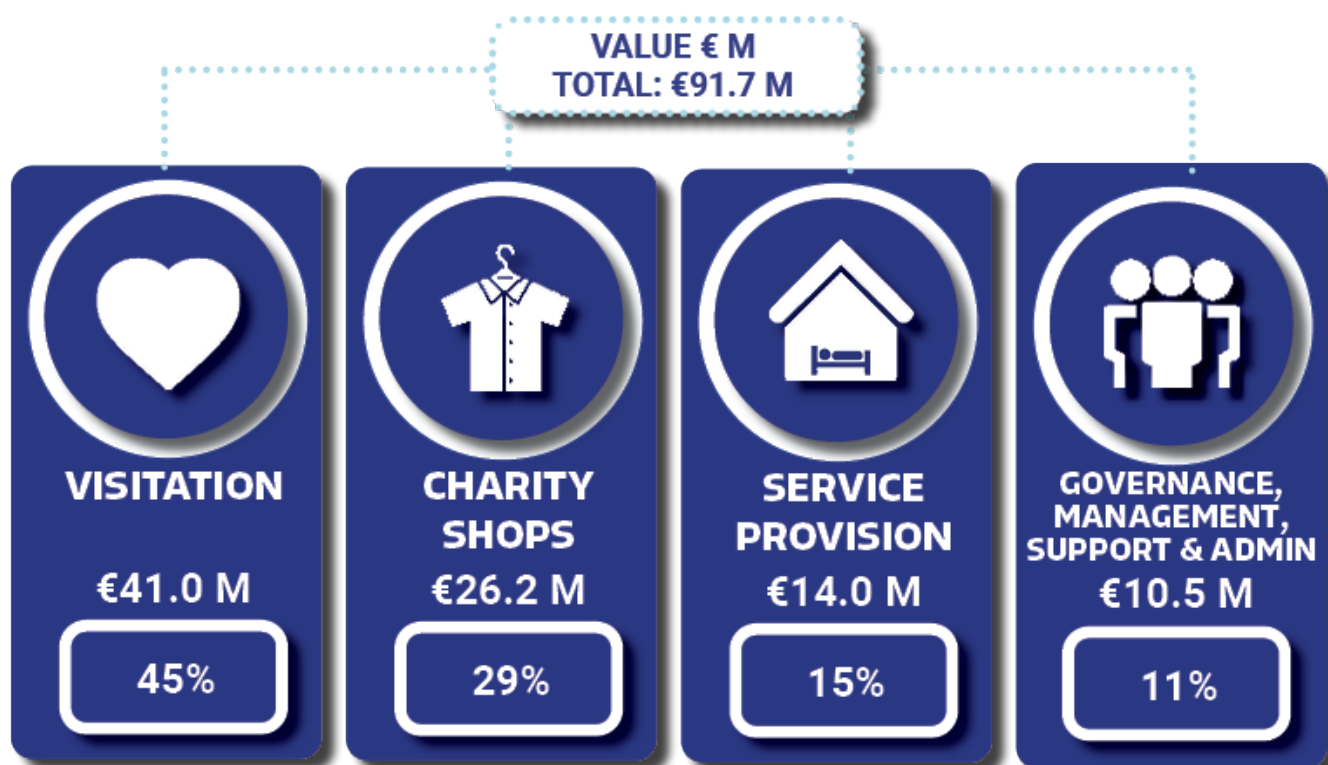
SERVICE
PROVISION

CHARITY
SHOPS

VISITATION

EXPENDITURE 2022

In 2022, total expenditure was
€91.7 M (2021: €80.9 M)



Assistance to individuals can be direct financial support, foods, fuel, and support with utility bills. Our Services include social housing, homeless services, resource centres, holiday homes etc.

Financial Statements for the Society are available online at
svp.ie/structure-finance-governance

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 generosity
into action everyday.



Society of St.Vincent de Paul

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