

SSVP Scotland Annual Report 2022/2023



MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Warm and kind regards to my brothers, sisters, friends, youth and volunteers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) Scotland. Through the Grace of God, we have been able to help, support and continue to serve many less fortunate than ourselves, by reaching out offering material,

social and spiritual support in our local communities, as well as nationally and beyond. From donating food parcels to Christmas gifts to furniture donations, from home to hospital to prison visits, from transporting

people to Mass to facilitating caravan respite, from assisting refugees to Twinning with India and South Africa and to Special Works Projects and International support. It is a privilege to serve and help others.

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to all who regularly and tirelessly volunteer many hours and to those who support the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul financially, particularly during this post-Covid period. In the current economic crisis, your generosity materially, financially, and spiritually makes our work possible. We would not be able to carry out our charitable work without the financial support received from donations and through fund raising efforts (whether baking stalls, Kiltwalks and walking the Santiago Way) or from grants or legacies from people within and out-with the Society.

May our love and compassion for others continue to enable us to overcome all forms of poverty and combat social injustice in whatever way we can.

Danny Collins

12th National President, SSVP Scotland.

CONFERENCES

The SSVP members form local groups known as Conferences. Currently (as at 31st March 2023) there are 241 SSVP Conferences in Scotland comprising over 1,500 members. The SSVP welcomes all individuals who embrace our values of love, compassion, and charity to help those who are poor or struggling in some way. If you, or someone you know, wish(es) to become a member of the SSVP please contact your SSVP Conference at your local parish.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND (NCS)

The NCS, is made up of Arch/Diocesan Presidents, elected by SSVP Members, from across seven Dioceses. Danny Collins, National President leads the NCS which meets six times per year. Other appointments to the NCS include the National Spiritual Adviser, National Treasurer, Twinning & Projects Office, Social Justice Coordinator and Student Coordinator.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL OFFICE

Jacqueline Laird, Office Manager, welcomed three new members of staff this year: Mary McCarron, Kahlen Graham, and Thérèse Gilmour. They join Margaret Thomson, Administrator and Liz Strachan a long standing, dedicated volunteer in the office. It is both a pleasure and a privilege for our team to assist and collaborate with SSVP members in all necessary administrative, financial and youth aspects of the Society.



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HOW SSVP HELP

A significant amount of the SSVP Conference core work is responding to requests for assistance as well as proactively providing material, social and spiritual support to anyone in need.

MATERIAL SUPPORT

Over **£1 million** was spent providing care for those in need this year.



... I'm in need of new clothes for myself and my youngest child ... & some food help, as it's been very expensive at the supermarkets, even with shopping about its very difficult".

FOOD

One of the most significant charitable contributions by local Conferences is the collection and distribution of food to homes, parishes, and local food banks/projects. Over the last year **St Mary's Cathedral SSVP Conference** in **Aberdeen**, with the help of external volunteers, distributed approximately 4,700 food parcels at the Cathedral car park - that is roughly 90 food parcels per week. **St Peter's SSVP Conference, Paisley** provides a Thursday drop-in club serving food.



St Mary's Cathedral Conference, Aberdeen foodbank

FURNITURE

The SSVP has 3 very busy and thriving Furniture Projects across Scotland (based in Wishaw, Paisley & Fife) which accept donations from the public and in turn donate these to families and individuals in need. This year alone, **Fife Furniture Project** (covering Edinburgh, Fife, Stirling & West Lothian) together with their Arch Diocesan Conferences donated furniture to 908 families and individuals.

CLOTHING

The **Frederic Ozanam Centre, Bridegate**, Glasgow has assisted and clothed approximately 1,500 individuals (900 men & 600 Women) during this past year.

FINANCIAL

In this year alone over 6,500 families/individuals have been assisted financially (e.g. fuel cards, food vouchers, Christmas gifts, school uniforms).

St Columba's SSVP Conference, Oban assisted 87 individuals/families financially.

CARAVAN HOLIDAYS



... I was advised to contact yourself.... to take my children away on a wee caravan break over summer holidays ... I've just started on Universal Credit and financially struggling at present".

Edinburgh Archdiocesan Council continue to operate two caravans. Glasgow Archdiocesan Council, although no longer operating caravans, offer a dedicated Holiday Fund. There is a referral system for Conferences to offer holidays to families within their respective Diocese.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Refugees - During 2022-2023 £30,655 was sent to support the SSVP International Solidarity Fund with £13,850 allocated to supporting the victims of the war in Ukraine.



Twinning & Overseas Projects

Conferences in India & South Africa that are twinned with Scottish Conferences continue to thrive with the help and co-ordination of Kate Kelley, Twinning Officer. In total 268 Indian Twins received £33,460 and 99 South African Twins received £12,980. During the year 89 Indian students were sponsored at a total cost of £5,475, and 22 Projects in India received a total of £16,753.

SOCIAL SUPPORT

Overcoming social injustice and deprivation is at the heart of SSVP's work.

Between April 2022 and March 2023 SSVP Scottish Conferences collectively made over 21,500 home visits and nearly 2,500 hospital visits. **St Andrew's SSVP Conference, Dumfries** have been visiting

individuals in prison and **St Mary's SSVP Conference, Stirling** have set up a hub to work collaboratively to assist prisoners.

The SSVP in Scotland has many **Special Works Conferences (SWC)** that reach out to those struggling for various reasons:

- **Ozanam Clubs (Paisley, Hamilton, Viewpark, Carfin & Dundee)** provide a social gathering for those with special needs and/or disabilities. In September 2022, the Paisley Ozanam Club celebrated 20 years of service.



Red Shirts with the celebration cakes.

- **SSVP Holy Spirit SWC, Port Glasgow** is a significant supporter and contributor to Jericho House, Greenock helping those with addiction/rehabilitation.
- **Our Lady of the Wayside SWC, Paisley** runs a "Soup Kitchen" in the halls of Holy Trinity & St Barnabus Church, Paisley providing a three-course meal on Friday evenings and provides light lunches for those who are hungry, homeless and in need of a warm meal.



*... we served approx.. 60 -100 people with a free hot (take away) meal as well as clothes & toiletries to residents of the Lincoln flats". **Glasgow SSVP North Group***



*Caring for refugees arriving in Dundee, our own parishioners and those in surrounding area" **St Joseph, SSVP Conference Dundee***



*Afternoon teas delivered to 100 People - good means of keeping in touch" **St John Ogilvie, Irvine OR**
"Wednesday club for seniors in the community including from local care home" **St Teresa's SSVP Conference, Dumfries***

SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

Also at the core of our Vincentian values is the faith and spirituality upon which the Society has been founded. Conferences across the nation have transported over 9,000 people to Holy Mass. Other SSVP Conference members bring Holy Communion to the housebound; provide booklets for First Communicants; and provide St Vincent de Paul prayer cards and medals for primary school pupils.

Youth

To maintain the development of the SSVP Youth programme, SSVP Conference members support local enquiries from Primary and Secondary schools. Online resources remain available inviting schools to learn about the core values of SSVP. Youth work is now additionally supported by the National Council's appointment of Sean Murphy as Student Co-ordinator, focusing on working with university students.

This year St Edward's, Airdrie, SVP Conference developed their first SSVP Youth Conference at St Margarets High School. This was supported very well by parishioners and local community partnerships.



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OTHER KEY AREAS OF OUR WORK

COLLABORATION

We strive to work in partnership with local community groups, and national campaign groups who share our values and mission to overcome all forms of injustice and social poverty.

Immaculate Conception, Maryhill and St Gregory's, Wyndford, Glasgow SSVP Conferences "we are still doing outreach, via Maryhill Foodbank at St Gregory's church and we all work together with the Maryhill Ruchill Parish Church members to help where we can, when needed. We are well supported by the local MP and his team and have great support from our parish and other partners in local Social Service teams."



SSVP Scotland Income & Expenditure 2022-2023

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

Placed under the patronage of St Vincent de Paul, SSVP Scotland is inspired by his thinking and works. It seeks, in the spirit of justice, and charity, to help those who are suffering poverty in whatever form, irrespective of race, colour, creed, ideology or gender. It does this primarily through its voluntary membership who undertake befriending and through Special Projects which address a range of specific needs. The object of the Charity as per its governing document is the relief of poverty, both material and emotional.

2022/23 Annual Report - Accounts info

If you would like a copy of the full accounts for 2022-2023 please contact the National Office.

Income	2021/22
Box Collections	£ 806,005
Donations	£ 252,859
Legacies	£ 133,450
Grants	£ 12,382
Members Contributions	
Total Income	£ 1,204,696

2022/23	
£ 1,149,754	70%
£ 308,630	19%
£ 117,063	7%
£ 36,468	2%
£ 31,475	2%
£ 1,643,390	100%

Expenditure	2021/22
Relief Assistance	£ 660,481
Charitable activities other	£ 124,398
Staff Costs	£ 66,967
Support costs other	£ 52,177
Governance Costs	£ 13,269
Total Expenditure	£ 917,292

2022/23	
£ 1,076,124	72%
£ 271,995	18%
£ 70,122	5%
£ 60,340	4%
£ 10,848	1%
£ 1,489,429	100%

