

May 13, 2020

**An interim report from St. Vincent de Paul's St. Catherine chapter**

The St. Catherine St. Vincent de Paul group (SVDP-SC) wishes to extend our great thanks to our parish community for your generous financial support. Your gifts allow us to help households in our parish area who call on us through the King County St. Vincent de Paul Helpline for help to pay pressing rent and utility bills. We are also providing food aid during this confusing and dangerous time that is the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic.

From March 16 to May 15, 2020, we have provided \$7,503.00 in rent aid to 13 different households, \$235.00 in utility aid to one household, \$1,575.00 in store food vouchers to 19 households to obtain fresh food, and delivered non-perishable food and hygiene supplies donated by the parish community to our parish pantry to 10 households. This action helped 39 adults and 36 children in respective households.

We helped one caller, a single mother with a 2-year-old son, paying \$1,000.00 toward her \$1,800.00 May rent bill, plus \$100.00 in food vouchers, \$35.00 worth of diapers and \$80.00 value of pantry food. Her ex-husband no longer provides financial help. She is estranged from her family and was laid off from her work as a waitress and used her \$1,200.00 stimulus check to pay April rent. She has found new work with a former employer that will help with childcare. We are referring her to the society's case manager for our area for additional support and counseled her on other resources in our area.

Your generosity has amazed us! In the first week of May we received \$12,087.00 in parish contributions for April. This included a one-time \$3,850.00 gift and another giving soul sent their \$1,200.00 stimulus check. This is by far the largest monthly contribution we have received in my 7 years with SVDP-SC. It's clear you want to help and we are doing our best to put your faith in us and St. Vincent de Paul to good effect.

On June 4, the eviction moratorium in our area is expected to expire. We expect our calls for assistance to increase at that time and through the summer if tenants and landlords, who need help as well, are not able to agree on payment plans for back rent owed due to the employment crisis.

It has always been our mission to prevent eviction if possible since that stains a tenant's record, usually for life. We ask that you continue to remember us with your awesome support as all of us walk a road to a new normal that will, I think, require discussion and negotiation aligned with empathy and acknowledgment of our common humanity against unseen enemies, the coronavirus and fear itself.

Sincerely, John McDermott, interim President SVDP-SC