

National Council of the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul Mission, Values and Goals



Vision

End Poverty Through Systemic Change

With our vision to “End Poverty Through Systemic Change,” the National Council of the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul embarked on an ambitious journey. To bolster that objective, we needed a new set of plans, priorities and goals. This document outlines the primary components and the road map that will enable us to achieve those.

Some will review the challenges and tasks that we have laid before us and say they’re neither reasonable nor achievable. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we respond, “Why not? If not now, when? If not us, who?” This is the time, this is the moment, and we are the people whom God has called to make his kingdom a reality. As we begin our journey, we are filled with faith that God will give us the tools and resources we need to fulfill our role.

Just as the proverbial journey of a thousand miles that begins with one step, we have planted our feet firmly on the path and we will not waiver from it.

Please join us in our journey.

Sheila Gilbert
President
National Council of the U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Values

Holiness of Life

Growth in intimacy with Jesus is a life-long process.

Prayer is essential, personal and communal.

Service to the Poor

Dignity of the human person

Preferential option for the poor

Identification of Jesus with the poor

Humility

Virtue of humility

Poverty in spirit as the primary Beatitude

Charity

The Society is concerned with charity and justice.

The virtue of charity, within and outside of the Society

Solidarity

Community of Faith

Friendship

Community

Mission

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization that leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of our founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and our patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

Goal 1: Spiritual growth and leadership
Goal 2: Develop communication resources

2012-2013 Goals

Goal 1:

Enable spiritual growth and leadership development throughout the Society.

- 1.1 Vincentian Spiritual Formation: Implement a Vincentian spiritual formation plan for members and volunteers in councils, conferences and special works.
- 1.2 Spiritual Advisors: Cultivate active and formed lay, ordained and/or religious spiritual advisor for every conference, council and region.
- 1.3 Formators: Provide information for regional and council formators.
- 1.4 Vincentian Pathway: Design and implement the Vincentian Pathway for all levels and positions/ roles/ministries of the Society.
- 1.5 Home Visitors: Develop a standardized formation process for home visitors, incorporating systemic change attitudes and actions.
- 1.6 Ozanam Orientation: Provide the new, revised Ozanam Orientation materials for councils, and implement formators training.
- 1.7 Leadership Development: Identify, attract, develop and support all leaders of the Society.

Goal 2:

Develop communication resources to serve persons living in poverty, members, donors, and collaborators.

- 2.1 Credible Voice: Establish the Society as a credible voice for those living in poverty in the United States, using both traditional and social media.
- 2.2 Consistent Message: Develop easily accessible key information and supportive materials to convey a consistent message regarding the Society's mission and values.
- 2.3 Poverty as a high-priority social issue: Raise the importance of poverty as a societal issue to the media and the public.
- 2.4 Communication Practices and Standards: Adopt professional communication practices, protocols, branding and graphic standards throughout councils, conferences, stores and special works.
- 2.5 Communication Processes and Technology: Improve internal communication processes and technology to foster a rapid, reliable transfer to and from councils, conferences and members.

Goals 3: Achieve unity at every level
Goal 4: Embrace systemic change

2012-2013 Goals

Goal 3:

Achieve unity at every level of the Society.

- 3.1 Extension: Revitalize and grow the Society in every diocese in the United States.
- 3.2 Twinning: Expand traditional and project-focused twinning domestically and internationally.
- 3.3 Governance: Develop and provide tools and guidance on governance accountability and operational matters for councils and conferences.
- 3.4 Credibility: Proactively identify and resolve situations which may harm the Society's mission or vision.
- 3.5 Relationships: Enhance awareness and acceptance of Vincentian staff and Vincentian member relationships.
- 3.6 Youth and Young Adults: Advance membership of youth and young adults in the Society through extension, awareness and acceptance.
- 3.7 Disaster Relief: Create disaster response plans that are effective and efficient across a broad spectrum of disaster situations.
- 3.8 Special Works: Provide a system of guidance and support for stores and special works.

Goal 4:

Embrace systemic change to deepen solidarity for and with those living in poverty.

- 4.1 Education: Educate all members of the Society about the nature and importance of systemic change.
- 4.2 Systemic Change: Create and implement a systemic change focus for national, regional and local Vincentian activities.
- 4.3 Advocacy: Strengthen and broaden Voice of the Poor and other advocacy initiatives of the Society.
- 4.4 Participation: Engage those we serve living in poverty in our systemic change decision making process.
- 4.5 Diversity: Increase awareness of multicultural/diversity issues and build cross-cultural competencies.
- 4.6 Member/Leadership Diversity: Achieve greater diversity in leadership and membership.

2012-2013 Goals

Goal 5: Establish collaborative relationships

Goal 6: Execute comprehensive development program

Goal 5:

Establish collaborative relationships with diverse organizations around issues of poverty.

- 5.1 Vincentian Relationships: Strengthen relationships within the Vincentian Family leadership around systemic change initiatives.
- 5.2 Exploration: Explore collaboration with Vincentian Family higher education around systemic change strategies.
- 5.3 Collaboration: Collaborate actively at the national level with Catholic, other faith-based organizations, and secular organizations such as for-profit, nonprofit and governmental entities to make poverty visible.
- 5.4 Election 2016: Make poverty an important focal point in the 2016 election.

Goal 6:

Execute a comprehensive development program for coordinated national and local giving to fund the Society's mission and values.

- 6.1 Stewardship Culture: Create a culture of stewardship throughout the Society and the country to address poverty in all its forms.
- 6.2 Council/Conference Fundraising: Expand fundraising capacity at council/conference levels.
- 6.3 National Council Fundraising: Expand the fundraising capacity of the National Council.
- 6.4 Collaborative Fundraising: Identify strategic national partners and work collaboratively toward raising funds that can be used for initiatives to end poverty.



National Council of the U.S.
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
58 Progress Parkway
Maryland Heights, MO 63043
www.svdpusa.org