



The members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for St. Thomas More would like to thank all the parishioners who donated to our ministry in the fourth quarter. Without your support, we wouldn't have been able to help families keep a roof over their heads, heat their homes, or put food on their tables.

We're seeing an increasing number of requests for utility and rental assistance, and our pantry numbers are growing as well, all evidencing the strain inflation, higher interest rates, and layoffs are putting on people. And thankfully, with your help, we're able to provide this assistance to prevent families from being evicted, or losing water, gas, or electricity services. In addition, we help them secure food through our food pantry, which is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 12:00 to 1:00 pm at the back of the church.

For the quarter ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, we deployed \$3,881 in rental assistance to help five families with housing needs. In addition, we deployed \$3,594 to help seven families pay their utility bills. And we served an average of fifty families at each of our Food Pantries by partnering with Second Harvest of Orange County and supplementing their deliveries at a cost of roughly \$1,750 a month. In November, we provided our pantry clients with a \$40 Kroger gift card to buy a turkey and fixings for Thanksgiving, and thanks to the Angel Tree, we were able to provide all of our pantry clients with Target gift cards to help with Christmas.

It's important to note that there was a period of roughly 6 weeks, from early October to mid-November, in which we were very low on funds and were not providing assistance. Fortunately, in mid-November we received a \$5,000 grant from SVDP's Orange County Council. And in December we were blessed with \$15,655 in donations from our parish community, which helps us tremendously as we head into the new year.

If you're interested in learning more about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and how we help those in need, please call 949-331-1020 or email us at [volunteer@svdpstm.org](mailto:volunteer@svdpstm.org). If you'd like to donate, you can do so through the e-giving portal on the church website. Thank you so much and God bless.

Rick Lamoreux,  
President, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Thomas More Conference.