

Cherish

ANNUAL REPORT 2024





Our Vision

We imagine a community where poverty is not a barrier to opportunity. We believe that each person has tremendous potential to thrive and succeed, and should have the opportunity to live in affordable housing, receive quality education, have access to healthy food, and reach their full potential.

Our Mission

To ensure those impacted by poverty have the skills, resources, and opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Our Values

DIGNITY: We recognize the divine within every person, offering respect, compassion, and hope, and giving special care to those who are materially poor or marginalized.

INCLUSIVITY: We embrace the unique characteristics, abilities, cultures, classes, faiths, orientations, identities, and races that make people who they are, recognizing we are one human family.

OPPORTUNITY: We support just policies and the elimination of barriers so that all people have the opportunity to succeed.

EQUALITY: We see those we serve as our equals in every way, seeking to fully understand them, trusting they know what is best for themselves and their families, and encouraging them to make their own choices.

COLLABORATION: We believe in the transformative power of building relationships and community, and in actively engaging partners in our work toward the well-being of all.

SERVICE: We humbly recognize service as an opportunity to receive, as much as to give.

EXCELLENCE: We relentlessly pursue the highest standards in all that we do, embracing innovation and best practices.

STEWARDSHIP: We use our resources responsibly and efficiently, and we hold ourselves accountable for the highest levels of integrity, transparency, and measurable results.

Dear Friend,

Cherish, our theme for this report, is a word with synonyms that include “appreciate” or “value.” But neither of those words truly capture the essence of what it means to *cherish*—which is about holding dear someone or something, with special love, care, and affection.

We all have things we choose to cherish. And it is a choice we make: to cherish people, pets, nature, special things, our community, or even our dreams. But it is our human connections that we rightfully cherish the most.

Under the first of our organization values listed on the opposite page, “Dignity,” we state: ***“We recognize the divine within every person.”*** It is with this grounding that we approach our work, recognizing and cherishing the gift of our shared humanity, and responding with love and service.

In this report you will read highlights of the work we do to help others in our community, especially those who are materially poor, marginalized, and struggling. But I hope you will also get a glimpse of the immense value we place in offering our services with exceptional care and affection for those we serve.

There are many involved with our organization, including donors, volunteers, staff, funders, and partners, all of whom help make our work possible. Just as we cherish the children, adults, and families we serve, we equally cherish those who support our mission of helping those impacted by poverty have the skills, resources, and opportunities to achieve their full potential.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting our work and making our community a better place for all. Your involvement makes a powerful difference for those who need our help, support, and generous kindness.

Sincerely Yours,



John J. Schiavone
PRESIDENT AND CEO



Chima Dike
BOARD CHAIR



2024 Impact: By the Numbers

1,081,748

Meals Served



48,271

Shelter Nights Provided

566

Children & Families Served by Head Start



44

Individuals Completed Food Service Training

116

Veterans Served



88

Children & Families Served by Early Head Start



552

Individuals Provided with Rapid Rehousing



305

Individuals Provided with Permanent Supportive Housing

113

Children Served by Camp Discovery



198

Children Served by Camp St. Vincent



\$1,410,500

Rent & Utilities Assistance

\$455,220

Food Assistance

Our Programs

Shelter Services:

- » Hannah More Family Shelter
- » Interim House Family Shelter
- » Sarah's Hope Family Shelter

Food Access:

- » Beans & Bread Meal Program
- » Good Harvest Community Kitchen

Affordable Housing Development

- » Home Again Housing Services

Community Based Assistance:

- » SVDP Conferences

Supportive Housing:

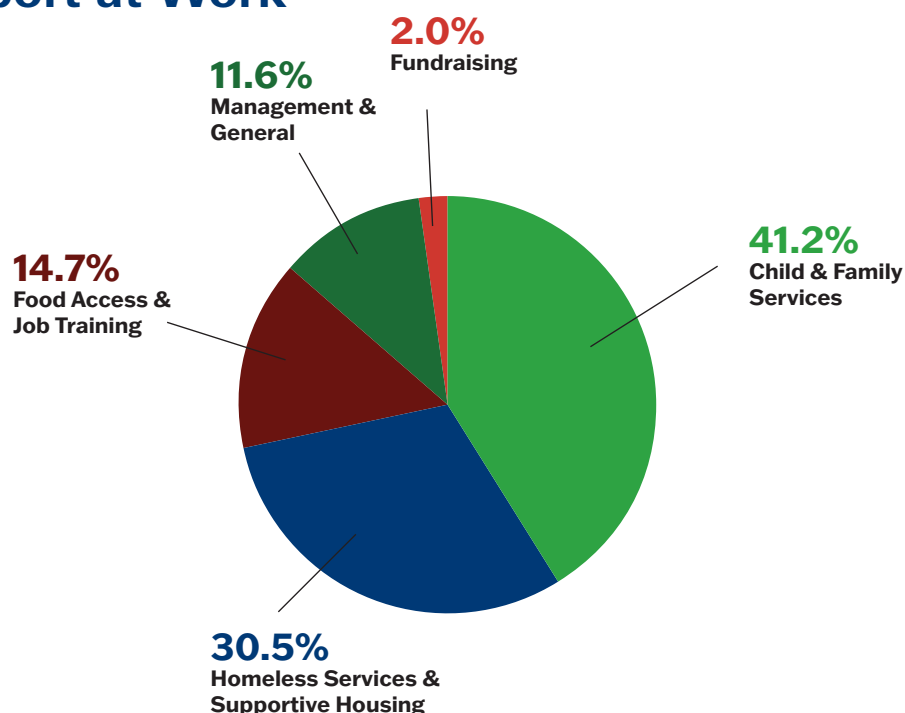
- » Beans & Bread Housing Services
- » Home Again Housing Services
- » Front Door, Baltimore City
- » Front Door, Baltimore County
- » Home Connections
- » Interim Gardens
- » Promise Housing
- » Veterans Housing

Child and Family Services:

- » Head Start, Arlington
- » Head Start, Arts Center
- » Head Start, Fatima
- » Head Start, Patterson Park
- » Head Start, Pimlico
- » Head Start, Somerset
- » Early Head Start, Arlington
- » Early Head Start, Arts Center
- » Early Head Start, Arundel
- » Early Head Start, Sarah's Hope
- » Camp St. Vincent
- » Camp Discovery

FY 2024 Financials

Your Support at Work



Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Cash and Investments	\$ 6,840,579
Grants and Accounts Receivable	4,590,232
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets.....	534,796
Property, Plant, and Equipment, net	16,556,843
Total Assets	\$ 28,522,450

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 2,688,261
Line of Credit.....	421,505
Lease Liabilities	336,857
Deferred Income and Government Grants	643,565
Total Liabilities.....	\$ 4,090,188

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions.....	21,539,895
With Donor Restrictions	2,892,367
Total Net Assets.....	\$ 24,432,262

Total Liabilities and Net Assets..... \$ 28,522,450

Statement of Activities

Net Assets, Beginning of Year.....\$ 25,048,216

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions and Grants	\$ 3,493,850
Government Grants and Contracts.....	22,916,980
In-Kind Donations.....	2,151,366
Other Income.....	2,017,927
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 30,580,123

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 26,308,603
Management and General.....	3,555,594
Fundraising.....	614,687
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 30,478,884

Depreciation	717,193
Change in Net Assets	(615,954)
Total Net Assets, End of Year.....	\$ 24,432,262

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Donations are fully tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Our audited financials and 990 tax return are available on our website at www.vincentbaltimore.org. We are a charity in good standing in the State of Maryland. The document is available on the Secretary of State website at <https://sos.maryland.gov/Charity>

Food Access



Food is more than just sustenance for the body; it is a source of nourishment, healing, and well-being. Many people in Baltimore face food insecurity every day due to the ongoing lack of access to healthy, nutritious options. Lack of access to affordable nutritious food is associated with increased risk for chronic health conditions including diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and mental health disorders.

The lingering effects of the pandemic continue to impact the Baltimore region, with food insecurity rates increasing from 18% to 22% in Baltimore City and with 33% of children being food insecure. By expanding food access, we ensure that individuals and families don't have to make impossible choices, like choosing between food and healthcare, or food and a place to call home.

Our Beans & Bread program provided over 50,000 meals last year to those who are low income or experiencing homelessness.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul conferences provided over \$335,452 in food assistance to thousands last year.

Our Good Harvest Community Kitchen fulfills a critical need in the Baltimore region, providing access to healthy food to underserved populations. In 2024, we successfully provided over one million meals across 72 sites, serving low-income and homeless children served by afterschool programs, summer camps, Head Start sites, daycare programs, and shelters, as well as individuals and families in shelter.

Good Harvest Community Partner

The Dewees Recreation Center has been a long-time partner of Good Harvest, serving children aged 5 to 13 in their afterschool program. Many of the kids they serve don't have access to balanced meals at home, which is why Good Harvest's contribution is so crucial. As Amara Hill-Montgomery, the Recreation Center Director, shared, "A lot of the kids we serve don't get a healthy and complete meal at home. They aren't used to getting all the components they should be getting, especially for supper."

By providing these children with not only a meal, but an opportunity to explore new foods and expand their tastes, Good Harvest is helping them develop healthy habits for the future. "One of our goals is to expose them to food groups they are not familiar with, and Good Harvest plays a huge role in making that happen," Amara added. "These meals don't just fill bellies — they lay the foundation for a healthy future for these children."



STAFF MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Having cooked since she was five, Cheryl had always dreamed of doing more with her passion for food. A little over ten years ago, she enrolled in our Good Harvest job training program, which helped her earn a certification and begin her new journey in food services.

After completing the 12-week training program, Cheryl began working part-time as a Meal Coordinator at our Sarah's Hope Family Shelter. Cheryl quickly connected with the people she served. "I fell in love with helping," she recalled. "Once I got to know the people, I knew I wanted to do more for them."

Cheryl returned to school and, not long after graduating, took on the role of Intake Coordinator at Sarah's Hope. She later moved into a Case Manager position at our Hannah More Family Shelter, eventually advancing to her current role as Assistant Director at Beans & Bread.

Now, after 10 years at St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore, Cheryl's purpose is clearer than ever: providing fresh, nutritious meals that improve lives. "The population we serve would never get fresh fruits and vegetables if they didn't have places to go to like Beans & Bread," Cheryl explains. For her, good food is not just about filling stomachs, it's about healing and nurturing the mind and body.

The rewards of Cheryl's work come not only from the tasks she performs, but also from the meaningful connections she makes with the people she serves. "Whenever I give someone a plate, pack them a food bag, or hand them a blanket, they are so appreciative," she shared. "Those types of interactions make me want to come to work every day."



**Cheryl Johns, Assistant
Director of Beans & Bread**

“

*I fell in love
with helping.
~Cheryl J.*

Veteran Housing Services



St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore offers eight housing services programs, including the Veteran Housing Services Program, which helps low-income veteran families facing homelessness access safe, affordable housing, along with comprehensive case management and supportive services. We follow the Housing First model, which prioritizes securing stable housing for veteran families first, and then addresses their unique needs with personalized care. This year, our program provided housing and support to over 140 veteran families, giving them the tools and resources needed to regain stability and rebuild their lives.

Veterans deeply cherish the country they fought to protect, and by providing tailored support through housing assistance, healthcare access, and case management, veteran families can regain their footing and overcome the challenges they face. Through expertise and unwavering commitment, veteran families are guided toward lasting housing stability.



**Michael (US Army Veteran) and Sandra L.,
Veteran Housing Services Clients**

“They were mindful, they listened, and they helped us to work through what we thought were insurmountable challenges.”

Michael and Sandra, married for 30 years, raised children together, and now enjoy watching their grandchildren grow. Michael served in the US Army from 1978 to 1985, including time on the USSR border during the Cold War and as a unit armorer. After leaving the Army, he earned a degree from the University of Maryland and spent 25 years working for the Montgomery County School System as a tradesman, educator, and coach.

Following Michael’s retirement, they moved to Baltimore to start a small business, but the pandemic hit just as Michael’s venture was taking off. They lost their home and had to move into a rental unit that required extensive repairs. They moved again, only to face worsening conditions—water leaks, rodent damage, and mold. When

Sandra was hospitalized with pneumonia, they fell behind on rent.

Fortunately, Michael and Sandra were referred to our Veteran Housing Services program where their case manager worked with them to find a new home. “The housing staff were mindful, listened, and helped us to work through what we thought were insurmountable challenges,” stated Sandra.

Michael and Sandra were assisted in moving to a new home in a clean, welcoming community that they could finally call home. For the first time in years, they felt the weight of uncertainty lifted off their shoulders. Sandra added, “Our new neighborhood feels like a community. Somewhere that our children and grandchildren can visit.”

Early Childhood Education



Children from low-income families often struggle with lower academic achievement, which contributes to the ongoing cycle of poverty affecting many families. Through our Head Start and Early Head Start programs, we aim to change this by providing both educational and family support services, helping prepare children for kindergarten and beyond. Studies show that children who attend Head Start programs are more likely to complete high school, pursue higher education, and lead fulfilling lives, breaking the cycle of poverty and making meaningful contributions to their communities. Our early childhood education programs ensure that children reach grade-level readiness, laying the foundation for life-long success.

Beyond education, we offer a range of resources to support families. Our family service coordinators assist parents with critical needs such as housing, employment, finances, and healthcare, creating a stable and nurturing home environment for the whole family. By focusing on the well-being of both children and parents, we help families build a stronger, more supportive foundation for their futures.

When Klara A. decided to go back to school, she knew she needed a safe, reliable, and nurturing program for her two young children, Dereck and Gemma, to attend during the day. Klara enrolled her 10-month-old daughter, Gemma, and her 2-year-old son, Dereck, in the SVDP Early Head Start program. “I wanted to know that my kids were being treated well and educated.”

Since enrolling, both children have thrived. Gemma, once shy and unable to sit or crawl, is now almost walking, learning words, using sign language to communicate, and is much more outgoing. “One day I came early to pick her up, and I saw her crawling and sitting up. That made me so happy because I knew she was in good hands,” Klara shared. Dereck is learning a lot of words in English, developing his social skills, and excited to go to school. “He says, ‘Let’s go to sleep so I can go to school the next day.’” Klara added.

Klara feels reassured knowing her children are in a caring environment, allowing her to focus on her studies. “Before, I felt overwhelmed and like I couldn’t handle everything. But when I found SVDP, that all changed. I know my kids are safe, and I feel so relieved,” she said.

The support from SVDP Early Head Start has extended beyond just the educational experience, as the program has helped her navigate life as a single mom. “I truly feel comfortable sharing what’s going on in my personal life with the teachers and staff, because I know they care.”



**Klara and Gemma A.,
Early Head Start**

“

Before, I felt overwhelmed and like I couldn’t handle everything. But when I found SVDP, that all changed. I know my kids are safe, and I feel so relieved.

~Klara A.

Hannah More Family Shelter

At SVDP, we recognize that families should be cherished, and in times of crisis, it's crucial to keep them together. That's why our three shelters in Baltimore are designed to provide not only safety, but also a supportive environment where families can remain united. We go beyond offering shelter by providing personalized case management, resources, and care to help families overcome their challenges. Our mission is to ensure families don't have to face homelessness alone, supporting them through each step toward stability while keeping them together.

The Hannah More Family Shelter is an 85-bed facility in Baltimore County that offers a safe, short-term living space for families experiencing homelessness. Here, families receive the support they need to rebuild their lives and transition from homelessness to stability. Last year, we served 78 families, with 82% successfully moving into housing. Our shelter is designed to keep families together, offering private family units to accommodate intact families (two parents), single male heads of household, and older adolescent boys.



Left to Right: Daytwone M., Antonio M., and Briana W.

“We went from not knowing what the next day would bring, to having a job I love, a baby on the way, and moving into a house.”

In April 2024, Daytwone, Briana, and their son Antonio’s first day at the Hannah More Family Shelter was a mix of emotions. “We were grateful to have meals, showers, and a community that genuinely cared,” Briana said. Yet, it also marked a harsh reality. “Never did I imagine we’d need to seek help at a homeless shelter,” Daytwone reflected.

Their journey began in 2022 when Daytwone lost his mother. “I didn’t get any bereavement leave from my job,” he recalled. “That led to a series of setbacks.” After his car broke down and he lost his job, rental assistance came too late, and they were evicted. “We started staying in hotels, but they became too expensive and some were unsafe,” he shared. Antonio began missing school, and the stress of it all made things worse. “We were stuck in this situation for over a year,” Briana added.

During this time, Briana worked three jobs, and Daytwone worked various odd jobs from sunup to sundown. Their unstable living conditions made it hard to stay together. Daytwone stayed in cold weather shelters while trying to reunite the family. After many calls, they came to our Hannah More Family Shelter. “Everyone was so welcoming,” he said, relieved to find a supportive environment.

The shelter staff played a vital role in their recovery. “We created bonds with the staff,” Briana said. “They gave us advice, helped Antonio to open up, and helped us get stable.”

Now expecting a baby girl, they are looking forward to a fresh start with a new home. Daytwone said, “We went from not knowing what the next day would bring, to having a job I love, a baby on the way, and moving into a house. Being here gave us the time we needed to get through it.”

SVDP CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT

SVDP Anne Arundel County Conference Parishes

- » **St. Andrew by the Bay, Annapolis**
- » **Holy Family, Davidsonville**
- » **St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park**
- » **Most Holy Redeemer Conference, St. Mary's, Annapolis**
- » **St. Josephine Bakhita Conference, Christ the King Catholic Church, Glen Burnie**



Anne Arundel County is the third largest county by population in Maryland and is home to just over 600,000 people. The county also is home to five St. Vincent de Paul Parish Conferences, comprised of 188 volunteer members that provide vital support to more than 100 individuals and families facing hunger or financial difficulties each week, addressing needs such as food, rent, utilities, and prescriptions.

Conference members meet with each client personally, carefully assessing their immediate needs. These conversations often reveal further areas where support can be provided, enabling the members to offer practical solutions to other challenges. In FY24, the conferences served 5,188 individuals and families providing \$649,700 in utilities, prescriptions, and housing support and provided another \$345,800 in food donations.

In FY24, 31 St. Vincent de Paul Conferences located in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Howard County, and Washington County provided:



\$1,410,500
in Utilities, Housing,
Prescriptions, and Other Support



\$455,220
in Food Assistance



28,600
Individuals Served

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore Leadership Team

Staff:

Shainna Ashe

*Program Administrator,
Early Head Start*

Syma Bajwa

Chief People Officer

Alexis Banks

Director, Rapid Re-housing

Edward Brown

Chief Financial Officer

Tasha Chance

*Director, Veteran Housing
Services*

Olutunde Clarke

*Vice President, Child &
Family Services*

Ronda Cox

*Director, Head Start
Family Services*

Denny Dingus

*Production Manager,
Good Harvest*

Meagan Ford

Senior Director, Data & Quality

Leroy Fowlkes

Senior Director, Shelter Services

Tami Gosheff

*Senior Director, Annual Giving
& Major Gifts*

Mary Helfrich

Chief Advancement Officer

Latasha Hicks

*Director, Education Services,
Head Start*

Deven Hill

*Director, Beans & Bread and
Promise Housing*

Laurie Holmes

Senior Director, Grant Funding

Jason Ledney

Director, IT

Dr. Jarrell McCrae, DSW, LCSW-C

Chief Operating Officer

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*Director, Permanent Supportive
Housing*

Crystal Pitt

Vice President, Homeless Services

John J. Schiavone

President & CEO

Cody Selbert

*Director, Talent Acquisition &
Compensation*

Bryan Straathof

Controller

April Wright-Ferguson

Senior Director, Shelter Services

Majid Zaghari

Vice President, Good Harvest

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*SVDP Board Chair
Constellation*

Christian Beach

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M&T Bank*

Amy Myers

*SVDP Board Treasurer
University of Maryland Medical
System*

Beverly Sikora

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Deborah Baker

Johns Hopkins Hospital

LaShaun Bethea

National Center for Assisted Living

Craig Bowden

SC&H Group

Lucas Carpenter

Price Waterhouse Coopers

Brian Deffaa

Lifebridge Health

Rev. Kevin Ewing

Spiritual Advisor

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Pinnacle CNC

Robert Helm

Robert W. Helm, PLLC

John Holtzman

Foundation Financial Advisors, Inc.

Elsy Mejia

PMM Companies

Marissa Oeste

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Benjamin O'Neil

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*Director of Operations
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Darlene Thomas

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Baltimore City-East*

Kathy Schiek

*District Council President,
Western Maryland*

Myrna Stuart

*District Council President,
Howard & Carroll Counties*

Karen Whittington

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