



YOUNG SVP
Newsletter

East Region

Spring/Summer
2016





welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Young SVP East Region Newsletter. This publication will be a space for young people who are engaging with the Young SVP Programme to share their work, receive recognition and see the projects their peers are undertaking around the region.

These projects highlight the hard work and dedication of young people working towards social justice in Ireland.

This newsletter will be circulated to members and participating schools in the East Region.

If you would like to find out more about the Young SVP Programme please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Clare Mander-Youth Development Officer (East Region)

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A Message from the Regional President

Greetings fellow Vincentians,

I am delighted to get this opportunity to communicate with you through our latest newsletter.



Clare Mander has just taken up the role as Youth Development Officer for the East Region and we are delighted with the progress she has made in such a short time. I would like to express my thanks on behalf of the East Region to Deirdre Walsh who previously filled Clare's role.

I quote from Section 3.5 of our International Rule:

"Members of all ages strive to preserve the spirit of youth which is characterized by enthusiasm, adaptability and creative imagination".

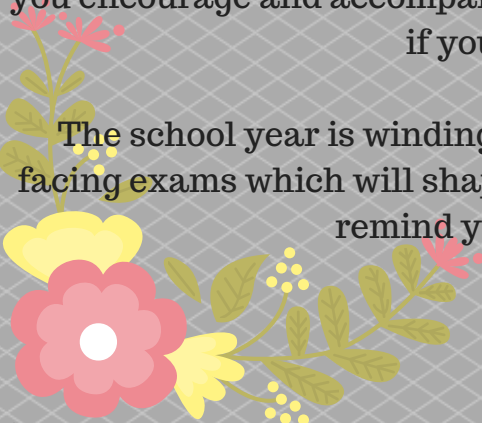
Founded by young people, the Society from the beginning has sought to maintain a spirit of youth. We need to harness your energy for the greater good of the Society and the families and individuals who approach us for assistance. I attended the Dublin North County School Get Together recently in Lusk Community College. The energy and creativity of the young people from the seven schools who attended this gathering was very obvious. The Youth Conferences in North County Dublin are making an impact for the good in their communities and most importantly are enjoying being members of the Society.

I would like to acknowledge the support of teachers from all schools who have Conferences or carry out activities on behalf of the Society

As members of the Society we share a common Vincentian Friendship. Pope Francis wrote:

"I especially ask Christians in communities everywhere to offer a radiant and attractive witness to fraternal communion. Let everyone admire how you care for one another and how you encourage and accompany one another. 'By this everyone will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another' (John 13:35)"

The school year is winding down, a long summer of adventure beckons. Some of you are facing exams which will shape your life. I wish you every success in your endeavors. I would remind you that there are many roads to the one goal.



Best regards, Liam Casey
East Region President



Greetings from your Regional Youth Rep

It is a great privilege and honour to take up the role as Youth Rep for the East Region.

As a member of SVP for many years and as a secondary school teacher I can attest to its importance in the lives of young people. It is character building, it is eye opening but more importantly it is motivational. We need young people in the SVP and where better to introduce them to its work than in school and university.

In school & university settings SVP is invaluable. It embraces and harnesses the spirit of Frederic Ozanam in a youthful & energetic manner. I see it as a win-win situation. There is fabulous work done and this work benefits young people greatly. It benefits them more than we can imagine.

Young people have a huge amount to offer. We need you - we need your energy, we need your enthusiasm. We want to hear your ideas and opinions on key issues like social justice and poverty. We want to encourage and help you in becoming active and responsible citizens.

Teachers are crucial to this - we need you too. None of this is possible without you. We need you to facilitate this work. There is a huge amount of work being done in schools and we want to support and enhance that.

Keep up all the good work and if there's any help we can lend you please get in touch. I look forward to meeting and working with you over the coming months.

Ciara Reid- East Region Youth Rep



St Gerard's School, Bray- 2016 Conference



The St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Gerard's School Bray have had a fantastic year. We are proud to say that each member of the Conference put their best foot forward and fully immersed themselves in all of our activities. From working together as a community, we achieved great success this year.

In October, we held our first bag- packing event, which not only raised awareness about SVP in the local community, but saw €3502 raised. In March, we raised further funds bag-packing. In total, the Conference have raised a staggering €5253 this year.

The month of December saw another huge success; the Conference succeed in packing around 400 hampers. These hampers contained much needed food items and were later delivered to families in need across the local parish.

During the first few months of the New Year, the Conference focused its efforts on raising awareness about the mission of SVP within the school community. We believed that in order for the Conference to be a success in the future, we must start to incorporate the younger year groups into our activities. We successfully raised this awareness by giving speeches and presentations to each year group at their respective assemblies.

An important part of the SVP mission is to make the elderly members of our communities feel included. In February, we invited retired members of the local community to come and see the Transition Year production of Grease. It was a very enjoyable night and we hope to see it happen again next year.

At the beginning of April, the Senior Conference held their first appeal. The Stationery Appeal saw boxes upon boxes of fresh copies, pens and markers, to name but a few donated items, come through the school doors. The collected items have been stored and will be distributed to disadvantaged schools in the locale, in time for the beginning of the school year in September.

Our Conference Representatives in the Junior School also had extreme success with their Toy Appeal at the end of last year. Each donated item, newly-purchased, went to less fortunate children whose parents couldn't afford an extravagant Christmas.

The Conference would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and students who donated to each of the appeals. Altogether, the Conference had a superb year and we hope that we here at St. Gerard's can continue to try and make a difference in our community.



A Profile of a SVP School Conference-Holy Child School, Killiney Co. Dublin

The SVP School Conference in Holy Child School, Killiney, is named after our Foundress, Cornelia Connelly (1809-1879). Our school motto is 'Actions not Words', and our school is a member of the Le Chéile Trust. We have been supporting local SVP Conferences for over 30 years; in 2008 we established an official School Conference, mentored by our Chaplain, Mrs Ellen Moisselle, and helped by Ms Paula Cluskey.



Cornelia Connelly SVP Conference has a Leadership Team of 15 Fifth Year students. Alongside this team each class nominates a SVP Representative who attends meetings, and co-ordinates the activities within her class. All 33 SVP Student Representatives are proud to wear the Holy Child Killiney SVP badge which has the logo of the Society encircled with the words 'Cornelia Connelly Conference'.

The volunteers in the Leadership Team are interviewed for their roles of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, P.R., Education officer and class mentors.

We have a lunchtime meeting each Tuesday. This begins and ends with a prayer; we light our SVP candle, discuss and plan our activities and events.

The Conference Fifth Year Leadership Team co-ordinate these meetings, and, if we are planning an event or activity, the Class Representatives from each year also attend - this means that the whole school is involved in the work of SVP.

Mrs Moisselle attends the Area Meeting each month; she shares news with us about National Campaigns or new initiatives. We are proud that the Area President, Ann Cuffe Fitzgerald, is a past student of Holy Child.

Our Conference has very strong links with 4 local Conferences- Killiney, Shankill, Loughlinstown and Sallynoggin- and also with the National Rehabilitation Hospital Conference. This year we supported these Conferences by delivering Christmas Appeal letters, donating 27 food hampers, sponsoring gifts for 18 families, fundraising for 22 hospital bags for long-stay patients, and providing entertainment at local SVP Coffee mornings.

We invite a local Conference President to address the school community at our Christmas Assembly and we were delighted to welcome Terry O' Regan who gave us an inspiring talk on the work of her Conference in Killiney.



Each term we organise an Afternoon Tea Gathering for older people in the locality. Students bake lovely food for up to 35 guests, and we have excellent musical performances from girls who unselfishly give of their time and talents; we really enjoy chatting and getting to know our guests.



Each year the Fifth Year Team Leaders also plan a Peer-Teaching class for Third Years focusing on the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul as a Community of Faith, a topic in their Junior Certificate Religious Education Exam. This is a big challenge: we prepare the class by researching the content for a PowerPoint and planning activities; a career in teaching seems daunting after seeing the amount of preparation for one 40 minute class period! At the end of the class we give the Third Years a treat of a 'Freddo' chocolate bar - this helps them to remember the name of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, founder of SVP !

Our 33 Conference members also had the opportunity to visit the Daughters of Charity of Vincent de Paul House, Dunardagh, in Blackrock. We received a wonderful welcome from Sr Ann Neylon; we visited their Heritage Room, learning about different Vincentian groups who work with Prisoners, Immigrants and in disadvantaged areas encouraging people to vote.

There were displays about their work with older people and people with an intellectual disability - it is an interesting and inspirational exhibition.

We finished in the Chapel with a Blessing Ceremony, and were commissioned as Young Vincentians. We read Scripture readings about justice, reflected on some words of Frederic Ozanam, prayed a litany in honour of the Vincentian Founders- St Vincent de Paul, St Louise, Blessed Frederic and Blessed Rosalie- and were presented with lovely certificates.

Finally, 6 lucky Fifth Year girls from Holy Child are chosen each year as volunteers for Kerdiffstown House, helping with the older people from our area who are on holiday. Jennifer Cuffe, also a past student, is our adult mentor in Kerdiffstown, and she puts the girls through their paces! It is really hard work, but such fun, and that's a story for another article!

The SVP Conference in Holy Child is a very important aspect of our Gospel-inspired social justice school commitment. We are privileged to be involved, and really enjoy the different activities. Our Principal even bought us a microwave (nicknamed Fred !) so that we would never be late for lunchtime meetings. We highly recommend joining the SVP, in your school, your College or your local community.



Emily Massey, President
Kia Hayes, Vice - President
Alison Rae, Secretary



St Joseph's Secondary School-Rush, Co. Dublin

On the 10th December 2015 the TY students, with help from some 2nd and 5th years, assembled 280 huge family hampers. After months of fundraising, bag packing and some very welcome donations we had €11,000 worth of food.

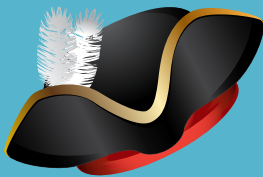


A very busy and enjoyable day and night was had by all!
Well done and thank you to all involved!



Ardgillan Community College

Here is a photo of students from Ardgillan Community College TY SVP group giving a presentation in Lusk Community College before the Easter Break on the work the school does for Saint Vincent de Paul.



The students fundraised €200 for the Sunshine House in Balbriggan by holding a Crazy Hat Day, Raffle and Games Room for 1st Years.



Here they are presenting the funds raised to Liam Casey, East Region President and Mary Ita Neill, Dublin North County Area Council



Colaiste Chill Mhantáin SVP youth sleepout into a new dawn...made it through the night!



Max Kane, Emma Kearns, Conor Wolahan, Codie Wright, Oisín Connolly, Luke O'Brien, Leoni Givens, Conn Cavanagh, Grainne McGuinness, Caitlyn Irons, Deivis Arnonmeda, Matthew Nolan, Rebecca Hughes, Scott Armstrong, Nicole Dunne, Megan Doherty, Sarah Byrne, Callum Ryan, Zach Kenny Murphy, Kelley Ferguson



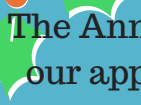
On Tuesday 15th March, students organized and participated in the annual Sleep Out in CCM. These are the members of the St Francis SVP youth Conference in the school. After doing research into homeless charities, they decided to Sleep Out in aid of The Mustard Seed, a charity who do night runs and soup runs for the homeless in Dublin. A total of €1124 was raised for this very worthy cause and well done to all who embraced the challenge!

Loreto College, Swords



The President of our Saint Vincent de Paul Conference is Niamh O' Halloran and our Vice President is Blessing Dada. They run the meetings with our teacher Ms Sheelan. We have a small committee of 25 members in our school. At meetings we discuss the events we would like to plan, discuss new ideas and ways to get more people involved in volunteering with SVP and how they can become more aware of the committee.

Our committee has held two important events this year: The Annual Food Appeal and a Senior Citizens Evening.

 The Annual Food Appeal was a collection of food from all the students in our school. We had our appeal for 2 weeks during Christmas time and collected around 40 full bags of food and Christmas items, such as, mince pies and selection boxes.

The Senior Citizens Evening was held in our school music room. We invited local senior citizens to attend our school for an evening of food and entertainment, provided by our students. We wanted to give back to our community.


We hope to hold more events to raise funds and awareness of St. Vincent de Paul. We have considered some of the following events that could be held in any school: bake sales, non-uniform days, bag packing, lunchtime concerts or competitions.

The Copper Race was our next event. We collected copper coins from all our students. The class that donated the most was rewarded with a movie day. Copper coins being discontinued helped to make our campaign very successful!

We believe that there should be a way for all SVP committees to be able to communicate with each other easily. Committees should be able to see and discuss each other's events and ideas. We hope to try and set up some form of social networking where all SVP committees shall soon be able to communicate together.

Catholic University School

This has been a very eventful and productive year for our St. Vincent de Paul committee. A lot of people signed up, and everyone was enthusiastic, creative and were happy to get to work. We were a little slow to start off, but when we established roles and set a plan to achieve them, we were moving in the right direction and we were very successful.

 This can be seen in the cake sale in October, which went amazingly along with the raffle held on the day. The proceeds, in excess of €3,000, went to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

This was quickly followed by the Clothes-ember campaign, where we asked students to donate any old clothes they could coming up to Christmas and they would be distributed among those in need on the streets of Dublin. We managed to gather 42 bags of clothes, which is a credit to the students of the school and the staff.

Throughout the year we focused more on money collections, and we started handing the tin around the oratory class that each year has once a week. This was a more efficient way of collecting and counting the proceeds, and it had a positive impact on the overall money donated each month. The proceeds went to the Sunshine Fund in Balbriggan and the Twinning initiative with a Conference in Zambia.

Collections were consistent throughout the start of the New Year and in April, Clare Mander, a Saint Vincent de Paul Youth Development Officer came to the school and we discussed many new ideas we could do next year, as it was too late in the year to start anything new.

Overall it has been a very promising year and we encourage all the soon to be Transition Year students to join next year. We would like to thank Mr. Conway for helping us make all this possible throughout the year as our Saint Vincent de Paul Supervisor.

Kevin Mullaney
CUS SVP President



SVP Clothes-ember 2016



We, the Saint Vincent de Paul committee in Catholic University School, discussed a myriad of charity events that we could use to support SVP. Inspired by the previous year's event, Socktober, we agreed on Clothes-ember. The simple premise of Clothes-ember was to encourage students to bring in unwanted clothes during the month of November.

Emails were sent out to each parent and posters were displayed around the school to promote the fundraiser. The bagged clothes were collected weekly from the office and sent to SVP headquarters to be distributed to the less fortunate in local areas. The fundraiser was very much a success as we were able to collect over 40 black bags of clothes.

This certainly wouldn't have been possible without the cooperation of the students and the parents; not to mention Mr. Conway who was always willing to work with our suggestions and who brought our dreams to reality.

Jamie McCormack and Jamie Nesbitt

Thank you & well Done to all the young people who have been involved in young SVP activities this year and to the teachers and SVP members who have supported them!



Here are some additional photographs of young people from the East Region taking part in Young SVP Activities



Spotlight on Social Justice

Caroline Fahey-Social Policy
Development Officer

Working for Social Justice

Working for Social Justice is one of the cornerstones of the work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Tackling social injustice was one of the principles which motivated Frederic Ozanam to set up the Society of St Vincent de Paul in the 19th Century. He said: “I am asking that you look after people who have too many needs and not enough rights – people who demand with reason a greater say in public affairs, freedom from poverty, access to education and security in employment.”

SVP members witness at first hand the impact of the housing and homelessness crisis, child poverty, educational disadvantage, low income and loneliness and isolation on individuals and families across Ireland. We are called to challenge these social issues, to engage with Government and policy makers to propose solutions and advocate for social change so that the common good is prioritised and the needs of poor and vulnerable people can be met.

Minimum Income Standard Calculator

The Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice has produced a calculator to help households work out how much income they need to meet their minimum essential needs. You can visit the calculator at www.misc.ie

You can find out if your household income is enough for you to afford food, clothing, transport, health and other costs and for you to take part in normal activities and set aside some money for a rainy day.

The experience of SVP is that many individuals and families do not have enough money to make ends meet and to afford the necessities they need every week. This means that people sometimes cut back on things like food, clothing, savings and health care so that they can afford things like education and housing costs. SVP advocates for all households in Ireland to have an adequate income, whether they are in employment or in receipt of social welfare.

MISc
MINIMUM INCOME STANDARD CALCULATOR

[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [HOW IT WORKS](#) [RESOURCES](#) [PARTNERS](#)

[LET'S GET STARTED →](#)

THE MINIMUM INCOME STANDARD CALCULATOR

Is your income enough to allow a minimum essential standard of living?

The Minimum Income Standard shows the income people need in order to afford the goods and services that members of the public have agreed are a minimum essential for everyone in Ireland to have. This is a minimum standard that people agree no one should live below.

[Let's Get Started →](#)



Dublin North County, Annual Secondary School Get Together



Students from Ardgillan Community College at the Dublin North County, Annual Secondary School Get Together in Lusk Community College

Dublin North County, East Region Secondary Schools Annual Get Together took place on the 10th of March 2016. The event was organised by Dublin North County Area Council and was kindly hosted by Lusk Community College.

The get together was an opportunity to highlight and reflect on the positive work young people do, as well as, enabling students to share experiences and compare the impact of their activities and projects. The theme adopted for the meeting was **Young SVP – A Different Perspective.**

The meeting opened with the reflection “We cannot do everything” read by a student from Lusk Community College. Then Regional President Liam Casey addressed the guests thanking teachers & students for their committed contribution to the work of the SVP. A DVD 'Celebrating 170 years of Charity and Justice' was shown followed by a presentation on social justice.

The main part of the afternoon was facilitated group work and feedback. Students discussed topics on poverty and exclusion, justice and inequality, power and society and social justice. The student feedback was clear, characterising the Vincentian ways of working and representing the standards which members aspire to.

Young people have the vision of Frederick Ozanam and follow the inspiration of St Vincent de Paul. They said:

- A voice is powerful.
- Without committed volunteers, charities will not succeed.
- Everybody deserves to be treated equally no matter where they came from and what they do.
- Positive change needs new ideas and positive problem solving.
- Love, help, listening, respect, work towards improvement and show kindness to everybody

On the day, schools gave presentations sharing with us the range of activities they are involved in. Students from St Joseph's Secondary School Rush presented “Bumper Hampers 2015”. The students from Ardgillan Community College shared with us their many fundraising activities which they had run during the year. “Think Aloud, Schools Together” was the theme of the presentation from the Young SVP Conference in Loreto College, Swords. Students proposed having a communication system between school Conferences to help them all keep in touch and share ideas.

In conclusion, it is important for our Conferences to work with and support young people participating in programmes and initiatives that are designed to help society. Young people are a voice with a difference and are the voice of our future society. To quote Frederick Ozanam- “**I tell myself that the mission of a young person in society today is very serious and very importantI rejoice at being born at an epoch when perhaps I shall have to do much good**”.

Continuing with SVP After School

"I joined SVP because I saw what a direct impact the Society's work has on people's lives..."

"Volunteering with SVP makes me feel useful, like I am making a small but significant change to an unjust society"

"I joined SVP because I have always felt that if you are in a position to be able to help someone you should"

Quotes from College Volunteers



Intervarsity Weekend 2016

How can I set up an SVP Conference in my college/ IT?

Many 3rd Level Institutes already have an SVP Conference up and running.

College Conferences are always happy for new volunteers to participate. You may even run for a position on the committee!

If your 3rd Level Institute does not currently have an active SVP Conference why not set one up? Contact our National Youth Development Co-ordinator at youth@svp.ie or your Youth Development Officer to register your interest.

Our Youth Development Team will provide support and training in your volunteer work and will welcome you into our network of over 15 3rd Level Conferences.

There are many ideas and options for 3rd Level Conference activities. These include: Befriending Activities, Education Projects, Direct Aid, Campaigns and Debates, Research, Action and Raising Awareness, Fundraising & Organising Events

Brigid O'Dea- Young SVP College Support

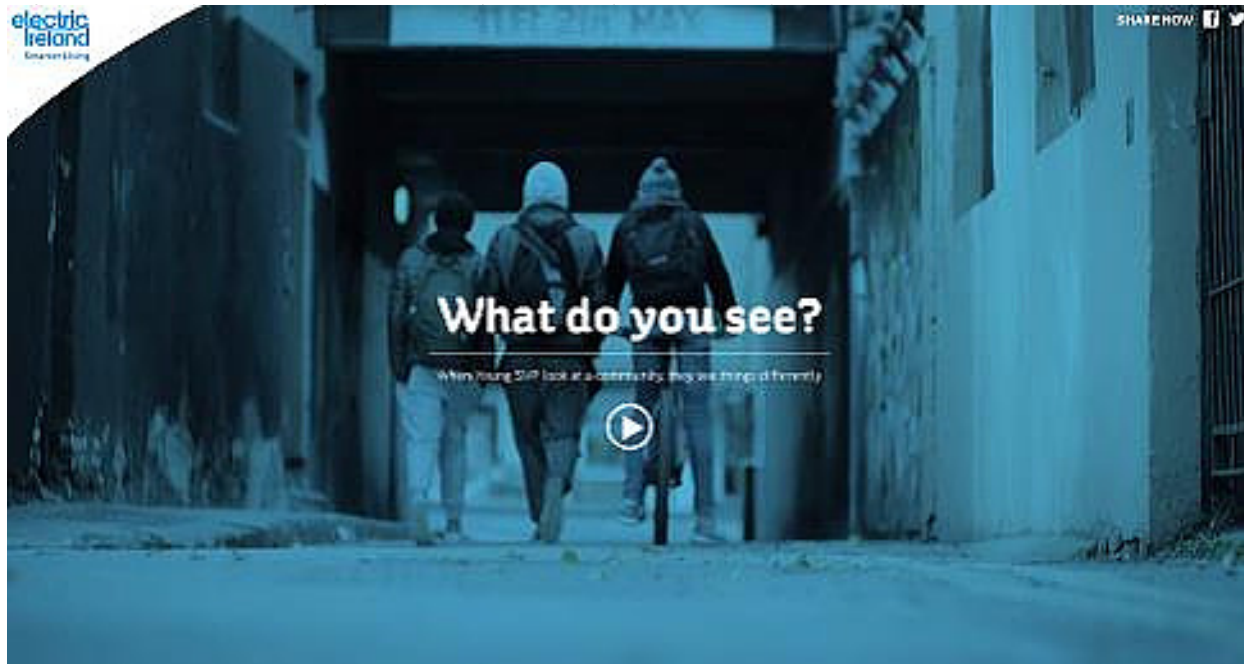
What will I gain?

- Join a large network of young SVP volunteers; share ideas, collaborate and make friends with like-minded people.
- Enjoy the opportunity to attend SVP social and training events, such as our annual Intervarsity Weekend.
- Develop an understanding of social issues and create awareness in your community on these issues.
- Learn new skills in event organisation, debating, communication, fundraising and education.
- Make a real contribution to your community and see the positive impact that you can have on those you work with.
- Work towards a more just, caring and sustainable future, understanding your power in achieving positive change within local and global communities.

... And have lots of fun while you achieve this!



#WhatDoYouSee?



The Young SVP Youth Development Programme offers volunteering opportunities to young people through participation in Young SVP through their schools and colleges.

We have been very fortunate to have the support of Electric Ireland over the last while and they recently ran a campaign for Young SVP via social media examining the attitudes of the media towards young people. They also created a striking video on our behalf highlighting their findings and the focus of our programme, which can be viewed on www.whatdoyousee.ie

If you would like to view the video, please visit the website above. The video can be viewed from two different perspectives-negative and positive. The negative version is what you will see immediately, which will show you the negative perception of young people that we often see in the media. If you hit the 'shift' button on the keyboard, or if you are using your phone or tablet, 'hit' the screen and the view will immediately change to a positive view!

This view is our reality. The reality that young people are unique, talented and doing amazing work with Young SVP!

A Society with a Spirit Of Youth



Reflection

"Members of all ages strive to preserve the spirit of youth which is characterised by enthusiasm, adaptability and creative imagination".

"People only become old when they lose the ability to teach or to learn. Let us not become old in the service of the poor".

(Section 3.5. of the International Rule of the Society)

Founded by young people, the Society from the beginning has sought to maintain a spirit of youth. The spirit of youth, such as, dynamism, enthusiasm, a forward looking view, a generous acceptance of risk and that special characteristic of young people-adaptability, are all qualities vital in our approach to need, in trying to discover new ways of service.

We should aim in our Conferences to cultivate this spirit of youth and to "dream dreams" in the interest of those we serve. Of course it will help if we have young members among us and ensure they are given responsibility.

From-The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
East Region, Quality Visitation: Some Key
Vincentian Principles

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to this publication. If you would like an article included in the next newsletter, please send in descriptions of your projects & activities and photos (with parent/guardian consent).

The aim of Young SVP is to provide opportunities for young people to engage in social action in their own communities, encouraging personal and social development.

If you would like more information, resources or to take part in the programme please contact:

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