

St Vincent De Paul Society

The Tranmere parish conference was officially established (aggregated) on January 14, 1935

Current Tranmere Conference Membership:-

President: Larry Covino

Vice President:Arpad Fekete

Secretary:Leo Priem

Treasurer: Kerron Gillen

Nick Carusi, , Chris Gillen, Sheila Hoogland, Julie Priem, Dean Rossetti

Mission

"The St Vincent De Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that inspires to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, hope, justice and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society."

Our Actions

Focus on understanding the gospel message of serving people in need

Striving to resolve the causes of poverty and disadvantage.

How Do We Do This?

- Spiritual Reflection

Whenever we meet we begin with prayer and a spiritual reflection.

We learn much from reflecting on Gospel values and from the sharing of our faith experiences.

We try to bring Gospel values into our actions in helping the needy.

- Community Action

This depends very much on the gifts, talents and circumstances of the individual members.

The central focus of Vincentians is to help people on a personal basis. Home visitation is an integral part of this.

There are many other actions members can be involved in:-

visit people who are homebound or in nursing homes, provide transport,

promote social justice issues in the parish, promote Catholic literature in the parish,

correspond with twinned parishes overseas, assist at Headquarters in office work, assist at

Norwood and Felixstow shops, assist at the Homeless Men's Shelter, assist at the Sewing Conference to make baby clothes.

- Local Action

A person in need contacts the Society's head office. We are then provided with the person's details and we contact them to arrange a home visit. We assess the immediate needs and provide support accordingly. The immediate emergency relief may be provision of food for the family provision of clothing from our local Vinnies shops. Provision of basic furniture items such as beds, chairs, etc. Provision of kitchen utensils, crockery, etc.

We encourage people to seek professional help to resolve the causes of the problems they are struggling with.

Often the most valuable help we give is a listening ear, a willingness to spend a bit of time with someone.

- International Action

The Society is an international network of groups, called conferences.

The Society in Australia cooperates with the Society in the Asia/Pacific region to fight poverty.

The key programs are:

- * Twinning Partnerships

Our Tranmere conference has 3 twinning partners in southern India.

- * Self Help Projects

Our conferences support Self Help Projects that have been planned by our twinning partners.

These projects may involve water supply, micro-credit, farming projects, etc.

The key factor is that these projects are sustainable in the longer term.

- * 'Assist a Student' scholarships

Annual scholarships valued at \$70 are provided to students in the Asia/Pacific region on the basis of need. The students may be primary, secondary or tertiary.