2025/2026

ANNUAL REPORT

St. Vincent Place

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is a privilege to serve as Board Chair of St. Vincent Place and to be part of an organization that makes such a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families in our community.

Through our food bank, soup kitchen, Lunches for Learning program, Period Pantry, thrift store, and transitional residence, St. Vincent Place continues to provide essential services with dignity, kindness, and compassion. This work would not be possible without the people who give so generously of their time, resources, and expertise. I am continually inspired by the compassion and dedication of our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners, whose commitment sustains our mission and strengthens our impact.

As a Board, we remain focused on ensuring the long-term sustainability of our organization while responding to the evolving needs of those we serve. I am proud of the dedication shown by everyone who contributes to our success, both on the front lines and behind the scenes.

Rising food and housing costs continue to challenge many households, and we are seeing more working individuals and families turn to our services for support. As demand grows, we must also recognize that these same financial pressures can affect the generosity of those who support us.

Looking ahead, we need our community to stand with us. Whether through volunteering, donations, or partnerships, every contribution helps us continue this important work. I encourage everyone to consider how they can support St. Vincent Place and help ensure our services remain availble to those who need them.



Thank you to everyone who stands behind St. Vincent Place. Together, we can build a stronger, more caring community where everyone has access to support, nourishment, and hope.

Susan George

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan George
Chair

Dan Puddister
Vice-Chair

Giancarlo Carota
Treasurer

Colleen Grisdale
Secretary

Mike Barker, Jeff Broadbent, Fil Lettieri, Rose-Marie Valade, Betty Vankerkhof, Vic Wearn
Directors

STAFF

Nat Cicchelli
Executive Director

Sara McCleary
Assistant Executive Director

Jessica Bougie
Office Administrator

Elizabeth Failes
Thrift Store Manager

Michele Devoni
Thrift Store Clerk

Rod Oliver
Cook

Jody Knight, Chris Daigle
Security/Maintenance

Andy Chiblow
Food Bank Helper

VOLUNTEERS

We can't emphasize enough how grateful St. Vincent Place is to the many volunteers who give their time to help those in need in the community. We often hear about organizations being short of volunteers, but rarely about those who have to turn volunteers away. That's exactly the position St. Vincent Place is in! We have so many dependable, regular volunteers helping out daily, weekly, or on a regular rotation that when we have new prospective volunteers reach out, we often have to tell them we have nothing for them to do!

Our food bank has 4 solid teams made up of about a half dozen members each who rotate Wednesdays and Saturdays. We also have another dozen or so volunteers who come in regularly to prepare the food hampers, package bulk items, count incoming donations, restock shelves, organize paperwork, and more.



In 2026, our soup kitchen has had 13 Wednesday teams and 13 Saturday teams, all of which have anywhere from 6 to 20 members.



Lunches for Learning has a group of 8 dedicated, reliable delivery volunteers who complete their routes each weekend without fail, as well as on-site volunteers to help with pick-ups and package preparation.

Our thrift store relies on another group of a dozen or so amazing volunteers who work tirelessly to sort, organize, and display incoming donations.



And of course, hundreds of others help out with our events every year. We're so fortunate to have such wonderful, thoughtful volunteers ensuring the organization's success!

Thank you for all you do!

FOOD BANK

We have been seeing record numbers in our food bank in 2026, up even from what we were seeing just last year. Steel tarriffs and other economic challenges resulting from conditions in the US are just one factor. Other issues contributing to this rise in access are the cost of housing, job access, and the failure of governments to index social services (OW, ODSP) to inflation.

September 2025 to August 2026

3,355
packages

5,818
people helped

GOULAIS RIVER ACCESS LINK

In April 2026, we introduced the Goulais River Access Link. This new program offers a way for clients in our neighbouring communities to the north - Goulais River, Aweres, Searchmont, Batchewana Bay - to use our food bank even if they struggle to get into the Sault. Clients may still only access the food bank once every two months, but thanks to a wonderful partnership, clients can complete their intake at the Goulais Fire Hall and the following day Goulais Fire & Rescue Volunteers will pick up the packages at St. Vincent Place and deliver them to the clients.



Thank you to the volunteers - both from SVP and Goulais Fire & Rescue - who make this program possible!

The Period Pantry

Created in March 2023, The Period Pantry is a program offered within and through our food bank. Whether or not they are also receiving a food bank package, clients are able to receive menstrual products when they come to us to access The Period Pantry.

1500
packages per year

LUNCHES FOR LEARNING

The Lunches for Learning program launched in September 2020 to help ensure that local children don't have to go hungry at school. The program has taken different forms over the years as we determined what works best to help local families while keeping the program sustainable long-term.

Every week, families receive all they need to send a complete lunch to school with their child. Families are now able to customize how much they would like of each of the options available, up to a specified total amount based on the number of children. Options include tuna, deli meat, fresh fruits and vegetables, yogurt, bread, wraps, and crackers. They can select the types of meat, fruits, and vegetables, and we do our best to accommodate dietary restrictions like gluten-free and Halal.

Although Lunches for Learning started out helping just 40 kids each week, we're now helping almost 400 kids every week. Thank you to all the donors and volunteers who have helped to keep this program not only running but growing to try to meet the ever-increasing need in our community.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Kelly Colter
Wendy DeGroot
Shelagh Ewing
Maria Gallo
Karen Gapp
Colleen Grisdale
Teresa Matibag
Monina Miranda
Dave Roy
Ali Smith
Kelly Wallace
Doris Welz
Gwyneth Wilcox

and of course...

VIC WEARN!

In 2025/2026,
Lunches for Learning
provided groceries for

63,330
LUNCHES



SOUP KITCHEN

Our soup kitchen serves lunches every Saturday at 11:30 and dinners every Wednesday at 4:30. Each meal is planned, purchased, and prepared by a team of community members who are dedicated to helping those in need. Thank you to the teams below who have served in 2026.

WEDNESDAY TEAMS

Algoma Angels
Judy Pratt

Mother Teresa Conference
Vince Plastino

Bethel Bible Chapel
Jen Sarlo

Team Rita
Rita Wagner

Broadbent Law Belly Boosters
Tara Bishop

CFS Wellness
Trevor Beaudoin

O'Sullivan
Lisa Damignani

Algoma Steel
Chelsea Gaudette

Delta
Lisa Collins

Summit
Derek Smith

Tancred Street D&D
Valerie Hunting

Emmanuel United
Joyce Biggs

SATURDAY TEAMS

McDougall Energy
Shauna DiGasparro

CSJ Associates
Irma DiRenzo

Murphy & Friends
Colleen Murphy

Barker Family
Mike Barker

Mother Teresa Conference
Joanne Lepore

Allen's Side Road
Mary Hill

Team Helping Hands
Anita Esson

Bethany Baptist Church
Peter Lobert

Summit
Derek Smith

Bethel Bible Chapel
Anthony Zappacosta

Team PUC
Lisa Ash

Westminster & Friends
Ruth Beaumont

Mount St Joseph CEC
Fil Lettieri

From September 2025 to August 2026, our soup kitchen served

15,000 meals

TRANSITIONAL RESIDENCE

St. Vincent Place made the change from operating an emergency shelter to a transitional residence (for men 18+) in March 2022. We assist men who are exiting the emergency shelter system but either aren't quite ready to live independently or are awaiting affordable housing.

Men are charged an affordable rent, and receive two prepared meals per day (plus a self-serve breakfast), and access to laundry facilities, TV, and Internet, in addition to their room.

Transitional housing has been demonstrated to help ensure success as one moves out of homelessness and into permanent housing. This mid-step offers supports they don't receive when living on their own, but enough independence to set them on the right path when coming out of the emergency shelter system.

THRIFT STORE

The thrift store continues to be an important part of St. Vincent Place's operations. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of the community, the store receives many donations of small household items and clothing every day which it then sells at a low cost to ensure these items are accessible to all community members.

Funds raised in the store support the work we do in the food bank, soup kitchen, and transitional residence.



DONATIONS

Nonperishables and Hygiene Products

We are very grateful to the community for its ongoing support through donations of nonperishables, especially since we know everyone is feeling the pinch at the grocery stores.

From September 2025 to August 2026, **$191,200** worth of nonperishables came to us as donations.

This total does not include the food donated through food drives, which brings the total to almost **$250,000**.



Monetary

With the rising cost of living, particularly food and housing, it's getting harder and harder for people to find room in their budget to donate, but somehow people still manage and for that we are very grateful. The donations we receive ebb and flow, some months up from past years and some months down, but the community is always there to make sure we can keep helping those in need.

Because we receive no government funding, nothing we do would be possible without the financial contributions of local individuals, businesses, organizations, and service groups. Thank you, sincerely, to everyone who has donated to make the work done at St. Vincent Place possible.

We continue to accept donations as cash or cheques, via e-transfer, and online through CanadaHelps.

DONORS

We are incredibly grateful to every single donor. While we have too many individual donors to thank everyone by name, we do want to share shoutouts to two particular groups of donors who have helped make 2025/2026 successful.

Businesses & Organizations

Algoma District ETFO
Algoma Veterans Association
Arauco Canada
ASSAP Financial
Brookfield Power
Canadian Tire
Doanne Grant Thornton Fndtn
Fengate Capital Management
Guggenheim Securities
H&R Block
Indian Friendship Centre
Javco
Justwealth Financial
Kassam Equity Fund
Knights of Columbus
Labatt
Latter Day Saints
Lions Club of SSM
Northern Credit Union
Northside Toyota
Northern Snow
Ontario Pipe Trades Council
OPSEU Local 603
Pinchin
Pioneer
RBC
R Howard Webster Fndtn
Royal Canadian Legion
RCL Ladies Auxillary
Sandro's Restaurant
Savoy's Jewellers
Scotiabank
Senior Singers
Sixty Three Foundation
St. Mary's College
Steelworkers Humanity Group
Storey Design Group
Summit
Trim-Line of Algoma
Twin Equipment & Tool Rental
UBS Securities
Ubuntu Worldwide
UFCW Local 175
USW Locals 2251 & 2724
Village Media
Wesdome Eagle River Gold Mine
West Dynamics

Monthly Donors

Janet Acal
Samuel Beggs
Kari Buie
Maurice Charette
Kristen Comegna
Ross Davis
Joseph Douville
Beth Eady
Tracey Fyfe
Raya Gardiner
Cindy Goodall
Glory Hines
Joanne Horton
Ehsue Kaw
Stuart Lach
David Leith
Fil Lettieri
Denise & David Liguori
Nancy MacNeill
Jennifer Madden
Steven McMillan
Linda Mizzi
Eric Moss
Sharon Mulligan
Colleen Murphy
Michaela Murphy
Joan Myers
Mary Anne Nakamura
R. & J. Rashleigh
Jacob Reid
Kyla Rooney
Celia Ross
Kate Sizemore
Nathan Smith
Katherine Sylvestre
Jennifer Vosper
Elaine Warnock
Donald & Linda White
Mary-Claire Wood
Kaitlyn Wood

EVENTS

BIG BLUE FOOD DRIVE

The Big Blue Food Drive is held every year in the fall to help fill our food bank shelves ahead of the busy winter season.

Our 2026 Big Blue was held on September 26. Over **160** volunteers helped collect and sort **$33,761** worth of donated nonperishables, of which **76%** were staples.

Although this is less than we'd hoped for, this food goes a long way. We are very grateful to the community for their support and helping those in need.

Our other annual signature event is Coldest Night of the Year, a walk that helps raise funds for the hungry, homeless, and hurting across Canada.

This year's event was held on February 28. We had **259** walkers on **39** teams take part in CNOY here in the Sault. Together they raised **$124, 314** for St. Vincent Place! That goes a long way toward making our programs and services possible.

From June 15 to 19, we ran our third annual Help Us Can Hunger. This is a joint food drive with the Soup Kitchen Community Centre in place of the cancelled Stamp Out Hunger drive to help us get through the summer months when donations slow significantly. The drive brought in over **$5,500** worth of donations.



THANK YOU

St. Vincent Place remains grateful to all the volunteers and donors who make the organization run. It is impossible to name everyone in a document of only a few pages, but even if you aren't mentioned here by name, you are making a difference in the community. Thank you for all you do.

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