



SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

February 2022 Update



Our heartfelt thanks to all those that have supported our efforts this past year. Your prayers, donations and time has made a difference in the life of those we serve.

During 2021 we provided bagged lunches in Boitanio park to those in need each Sunday. We prepared about 2,050 bagged lunches which include two sandwiches, fruit, a juice box and a muffin generously donated by McDonald's.

We continued providing a modest bag of food staples each Monday. Due to COVID19 we moved to distributing the bags from the parking lot. Taylor Made Cakes donated baked goods each week to supplement the food bags. In 2021, we provided over 950 bags of food and served 1,477 adults and 333 children. These numbers represent about one-quarter of the people we served prior to the pandemic. We believe the decrease is a result of several factors, including the increased availability of community resources, the extreme weather we experienced over the course of the year and general isolation due to the pandemic. While the number of bags has decreased, sadly our costs have increased substantially. The cost of food has risen considerably which makes our efforts even more appreciated by our friends.

We have received over \$20,000 in donations from parishioners and considerable donation of food and socks from the Sacred Heart Catholic School. We have expended over \$19,000 to support our operations in providing food bags and lunches. We are fortunate to end the year with a modest surplus.

SSVP has been active in Social Justice initiatives by encouraging people to take advantage of the Canada Learning Bond which is open to all students whose families receive the Canada Child Benefit. We participate in the Thrive Community Poverty Reduction project and attend focus groups to explore ways to reduce poverty under the leadership of the Social Planning Council of Williams Lake. At our monthly meetings we acknowledge that we gather on Secwepemc traditional territory. We are committed to helping improve Indigenous Relations and learn about local history.

We continue to support our twinning partner, St. Jude's Conference located in the Commonwealth of Dominica.

We are optimistic about 2022. We have applied for two funding opportunities – an infrastructure grant and an operational grant - both of which have been approved. We also hope to increase the number of volunteers so we can meet our community's evolving needs. Please contact us if you are interested at ssvp@sacredheartwl.ca.

With the continued support of parishioners, Sacred Heart Catholic School and the community, we will continue to provide for those in need and thank God that we are collectively able to do this small bit for our community.