



NEWSLETTER NO.3 - SEPTEMBER 2022

SSVP2U

As the saying goes, the more we get together, the merrier it will be. In the Vincentian family, it's not only merrier but it means being able to reach out to more people in need and getting to know our FINs better.

During the recent SFX Family Day, SSVP launched a new outreach program - SSVP Partner Program with the aim to shelter, feed, clothe, educate and empower the lives of those in need. A little bit of kindness goes a long way. Find out more on how you can partner with us in this issue.

**"How marvellous it would be if at the end of the day, each of us could say :
Today I have performed an act of charity towards others!"
Pope Francis**

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SSVP PARTNERS PROGRAM

Partner us to “**Walk with the Excluded**”, was launched on 7 July 2022 during SFX’s Family Day. The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in many challenging cases with varying needs of the hardcore poor and marginalized communities. SSVP Conference of SFX PJ broke out of its “silo” approach, collaborated with different partners, organizations and individuals, with the SFX Mobile Food Bank and flood relief activities **to do more for the poor**.

In line with the Jesuit’s Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) that calls for us “**To Walk with the Excluded**”, the SSVP Partner Pledge Programme aims to reach a wider group of marginalized communities on a more structured basis, together with SSVP Partners and parishioners.

The SSVP Partner Pledge Programme donations will go towards supporting the following programs:

- (1) Food aid for needy families
- (2) Sponsor-A-Child Programme
- (3) Temporary Shelter Aid
- (4) Medical Care/ Aid



Join us in this journey to Walk with the Excluded, to support and to empower communities.

SSVP Partner Pledge Programme

Signing up as a Partner of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul means you long to make a difference in the world and improve your life and that of others, wherever you are. Submitting this form is not a confirmation of your sponsorship. A society member will contact you to make the necessary arrangements to facilitate your sponsorship registration as soon as possible. **Kindly fill in the pledge form and WhatsApp the screenshot to +60122803177 / +60122775126 OR scan the QR code to fill up the details digitally.**



Name: _____
Contact No.: _____
Email: _____


Google Form
Link QR Code

I would like to Partner SSVP for: (*Kindly ✓ one or more boxes)	I would like to pledge to SSVP monthly: (*Kindly ✓ or fill in)
1. Food Aid for Needy Families <input type="checkbox"/>	RM 20.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Sponsor a Child Programme <input type="checkbox"/>	RM 50.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Assistance for the Homeless <input type="checkbox"/>	RM 100.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Medical Care/ Aid <input type="checkbox"/>	RM 500.00 <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Become a SSVP Volunteer <input type="checkbox"/>	One-time pledge of: _____

Account Name: **National Society of St Vincent De Paul**
Account No.: **80-0339056-4**
(CIMB BANK BHD)
(Tax exempt receipt will be issued for donations above RM50.00 upon request)

For further enquiries or information kindly WhatsApp Irene: +6012 277 5126 / Dave: +6012 280 3177
or by Email to partners@ssvpsel.org

SFX FAMILY DAY

A COLLECTIVE EFFORT BY ALL

The saying that one does not need to have deep pockets to help the poor was very apt at the recent SFX Family Day. The drove of parishioners who patronized the SSVP stall to purchase affordable prepacked snacks made by 3 needy families (all proceeds were channelled back to them) have helped these families to put some much-needed cash into their pockets. More importantly the brisk sales generated has also empowered them and given a sense of pride and self-worth.

The tremendous support and generosity of the SFX parishioners has given a morale boost to these families to not give up on days when they have little sales / orders but to persevere as there is always pockets of hope and opportunities to earn a decent living without relying on handouts.



Popcorn by Ms H.L. Tan a sole income earner with 5 young kids below 10 years of age

Curry puffs by Ms J, who at 22 works hard to feed and educate her 3 younger siblings

Vadai by Madam S who lost her job when her company relocated to Johor.

Besides selling prepacked snacks, SSVP also had a stall where a resident from Rumah Pengajian Xavier was able to utilize his skill in Henna drawing to earn some funds for his single mum. Ever mindful of the financial struggles faced by his mum, this talented and compassionate teenager laboured the whole morning creating lovely Henna drawings on the hands of SFX parishioners. His labour proved fruitful as he managed to earn RM700+ for his 5 hours of work. Well done, Arvint!

**Thank
you!**



A JOURNEY TO EMPOWERMENT

A MOTHER'S JOURNEY

Hui-Hui's journey of self-reliance started as a result of challenges from the Covid19 pandemic. Her family suffered loss of income, eviction and was hard pushed to put food on the table. She was introduced to SSVP by St. Jude BEC of Our Lady of Fatima, Brickfields, which saw us journeying with her throughout the past one and half years. Though there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel as movement controls were slowly lifted, things took a turn for the worse, when the breadwinner of the family faced some issues with the law and was away for an extended period.

We also partnered with a local foundation and worked out a plan for her to acquire a skill. With interests in sewing, Hui-Hui has plans to enrol in a sewing class in the near future, pending some financial stability for her and her children, and a future plan to run a home-based sewing business.

Whilst learning a new skill, she has also started a small business of selling popcorn. During the recent SFX Family Day, SSVP partnered with her to sell her popcorn to its members, friends and the SFX's community.

Stay tuned as we continue to journey with Hui-Hui.



Hui-Hui's popcorn endorsed by her children.



Hui-Hui and her five children - ages 8, 6, 5 (twins) and 2 years old

SAMARITAN HOPE HOME

NO ONE SHOULD GO HUNGRY

Samaritan Hope Home (SHH) at Pudu has been at the service of our homeless brothers and sisters since 2018. It was founded by Sr Fatima Emmanuel who has dedicated her life to serving the poorest of the poor.

SHH provides approximately 350 packs of food and drinks to the poor and hungry every day. SSVp started working with them during the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020. With the set-up of SFX Mobile Food Bank, we deliver rations to them every month, which Sr Fatima will share with the under-privileged communities in their vicinity, including migrants and refugees. This year, we started joining Sr Fatima in her Street Ministry to 'Journey with the Homeless' which is scheduled every 1st Monday of the month. The response from our parishioners has been overwhelming and we are fully booked until November 2022.

We are also providing SHH with lunch for the homeless every 1st Friday of the month. This is through the partnership with one of our Friends-In-Need, Jocelyn who will prepare and deliver the food to SHH. With this arrangement, we are able to support the hungry while empowering our FIN with more business.



During the most difficult time of the pandemic, Samaritan Hope Home was also supporting many families with provisions especially the Refugees. At this period of time Divine Providence sent us SSVp from SFX to supply some essential provisions. Since then, SSVp has been faithfully helping monthly with provisions and they have also rendered many other services to families. God bless their efforts to reach out to the most vulnerable of our community.



JOURNEY WITH THE HOMELESS

SSVP OUTREACH PROGRAMME



Homelessness is not always a choice—instead, it is a series of circumstances that are often unavoidable that lead a family or individual to this state. Each homeless person we met or have seen in our inaugural street mission on the 8 of August with Sister Fatima of Samaritan Hope Home, has a unique story - a story of loss and a story of hope.

As part of our SSVP Outreach programme, 'Journey with the Homeless' brought together SSVP members and other volunteers, late one evening in search of homeless individuals sleeping in public spaces around Jalan Pudu, KL city centre area. We had the opportunity to engage with them, provide them with noodles, buns and water, mosquito coil, shavers and medicated oil. Lending our ears and where possible, listening to their conversations, feeding them, and helping them with basic necessities made a difference, to not only them but us as well.

It's all too easy for people living on the margins of society to feel like they are invisible, and no one even sees them, much less cares about them. Tonight, we were given the privilege to think about the way in which Jesus identified himself with the homeless; he took every opportunity to speak about them, help them walk with them and nurture them. This remains the heart of his challenge to all of us. That when we look at people who are homeless, homeless, we see Jesus. Respond to them as we would to Jesus. Give to them as we would to Jesus.

Thank you, Sister Fatima, for leading us in this Journey and to all brothers and sisters who walked with the excluded today, for your selflessness, courage and for upholding the principles of human dignity. We look forward to making this collaborative effort with Sister Fatima and other volunteers grow more in the future.

We have a constant opportunity to feed the hungry in our needy world and we should do what we can to relieve the suffering of others.

'Journey with the Homeless' is held every first Monday of the month. Come and join us. If you would like to volunteer to journey with the homeless, please contact Sheila Mia @ 017-3419079

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One thing I will share is that the people living on the streets are just like you and me. You have nothing to fear. All they want is to be treated as a human being, to laugh, to talk and to not be stared at.



SHARING A MEAL

OUR LUNCH WITH FINS INITIATIVE

Too often still, we think we know what poverty looks like. It's the way we've been taught, the images we've been force-fed for decades. The chronically homeless, the undocumented immigrant, the welfare women living in People Housing Project (PPR) flats still too often referenced. These familiar images are outdated, hurtful, and counterproductive to focusing attention on solutions and building ladders of opportunity.

Today's faces of poverty and lack of opportunity look like, well—all of us, you and me, and our Friend-in-Need (FIN) Jo.

Jo is the central character of our story about poverty today, a young lady who worries about staying afloat, about survival and her siblings. Jo is her family's sole breadwinner since the death of her father in 2018. She has been responsible for her three young siblings since their birth. To provide for them, she has been doing odd jobs, food deliveries for retail outlets, waitressing being paid below market rate due to her lack of the NRIC, before setting up her own micro-business out of her home kitchen.



Everything that Jo does is for her siblings, that they may have a chance in life to be the best versions of themselves, to succeed in their education and to give back. For them, sharing is an attitude. Hanging by a thread economically, having so little money and possessions, and yet they are still be so happy, confident, so generous, and so willing to share with others.

“We have been serving others—underprivileged children in two orphanages as one family for many years now. After the loss of our father, we found ourselves in the same predicament as the children we feed. To me, that shouldn't be an excuse to stop helping them. And so, with the support that I hope to receive, it's helping me provide for my siblings as well,” she shared.

Jo has been looking at all possible avenues to increase awareness of her food catering business, going to neighbouring condos and leaving flyers in mailboxes, advertising on social media but the reach is not enough.

There's that iconic myth that you can pull yourself up and out of poverty and change a bad situation into a good one. In Jo's case, I wished it were true. The reality, however, is that finding opportunity without help from the community is virtually impossible. And the playing field is nothing close to level.

So, in our hopes to changing this framing, the Lunch with FINs initiative was created, a valuable opportunity for us to get to know better the families we serve every day, while gaining more insights to better share their stories with our networks and the larger community. Lunch with Jo was our first.

The lunch on Saturday, 13 August brought together our Vincentian brothers and sisters, as well as others in the SFX Church family, to listen to Jo as she talked about her experiences, to learn, to understand and to take action. All of us are called to be servants of Christ in our own ways. Simple acts of kindness can help someone.

*Together
We Can!*

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‘EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE
WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED
TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL
STEWARDS OF GOD’S GRACE IN ITS
VARIOUS FORMS.’

1 Peter 4:10

That day was yet another opportunity us Vincentians had—the privilege of serving, as we prayed, ate and sang together in faith-filled friendship. Having community and sharing it with Jo and her family made me realise how important this was to our spiritual growth, to make all of us stronger our journey as a daughter or son of our Lord.



RPX BOY'S ACHIEVEMENTS

VENI, VIDI, VICI

This year is a remarkable year for our boys in Rumah Pengajian Xavier (RPX). Their achievements in SMK La Salle, Petaling for 2022 are as follows:

Academic Carnival

Four of our boys achieved the top three placing for the following events:

NAME	EVENT	PLACING
Partha	Kuiz Kewangan (Matematik)	1st (Champion)
Arvint	Kuiz Kewangan (Matematik)	2nd
Arvint	Pertandingan Explorace (Sains)	1st (Champion)
Poul	Wordsearch (English)	2nd
Sakthi	Pertandingan Telephone Game (English)	3rd

Sports

SMK La Salle, PJ's sports day was held on 26th June 2022 and these are their achievements

NAME	EVENT	PLACING
Partha	1,500m 800m 4x400m 4x100m	1st (Champion) 1st (Champion) 1st (Champion) 2nd (1st runner up)
Poul	4x400m 1st Cross Country 2nd Cross Country	3rd 7th 5th
Nagulan	4x400m 4x100m 800m Virtual Run	1st (Champion) 2nd (1st runner up) 2nd (1st runner up) 3rd
Ashvin	4x100m	2nd (1st runner up)



Partha was nominated Athlete of the year. We are very proud that both he and Nagulan were selected to represent the school at the district level for running events and Poul for cross country.



Apart from the above, Arvint who is our home's best student, has received several academic awards including Tamil language, literature and art. He is also a top student in class and portrays strong leadership qualities.

KUDOs to the boys and we pray that they will continue to do well both academically and in sports as they are the future leaders for our country.



