



SVdP Chicago Central Office Staff

*Looking for support or need help?
Reach out to one of us for assistance today.*

We are here to serve you!



Jen Ahern, CEO

Phone: (773) 779-6700, ext. 112 / Email: jen@svdpchicago.org

Overseeing thrift stores, warehouse, donation operations. Supporting Conferences and Friends in Need program. Managing organizational strategy, finances, and compliance. Developing fundraising initiatives and community partnerships. Leading staff and Council operations.



Elvia Rojas, Director of Conference Services

Phone: (773) 779-6700, ext. 107 / Email: elvia@svdpchicago.org

Conference and SVdP National liaison. Conference Annual Reports. Update Conferences on contributions, activities, etc. Provide guidance to the public regarding tangible/non-tangible donations. Friends in Need Program. General Inquiries.



Teresa Stack, Associate Director

Phone: (773) 779-6700, ext. 108 / Email: teresa@svdpchicago.org

Supports and assists CEO. Works with SVdP President on Weekly Newsletter. Marketing & Communications / Fundraising for the ADC. Social Media. Provide SVdP Committees with assistance.



Nicole Dio, Program Manager

Phone: (773) 779-6700, ext. 110 / Email: nicole@svdpchicago.org

Safeguarding and Virtus Training. Updating National Database. ServWare. Social Media. Diaper and Feminine Care Program.



Mary Kay Barbour, Program Administrator

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Friends in Need Program. Care Card Vouchers. Chicago Furniture Bank. General Inquiries.

The Role of Paid Staff in the Society

(excerpted from *For Your Love Alone* by Michael Syslo)

Any time spent reading and reflecting on the Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and most all of the other materials published by the Society will reveal the fact that the Society is essentially about the member and the Conference. Some material is provided about Councils and even less about stores and special works. Little is written about the role of paid staff – a role that is of significant importance in the life of the Society.

We have not asked for this statistic in any annual reporting cycle, but it is probably a good estimate that there are more than 4,000 paid staff in the Society throughout the United States. The roles they fulfill cover a wide variety functions from warehouse merchandise sorter to chief executive officer, truck driver to accountant, etc. However, two statements about paid staff are equally true, no matter where they are or what their specific role is:

1. Paid staff is essentially involved in the business side of the Society, fulfilling roles in offices, stores, and other special works.
2. Paid staff is employed to help Vincentian members do the work they are called to do, but not do the work instead of the Vincentian members.

The only exception to the second statement is in certain special works operated by Councils or Conferences that may require a person of professional status to actually provide the service. An example is in the case of a Council operating a free medical clinic. The service must be provided by a doctor or nurse who may be a paid staff person.

Every paid staff person in the Society has a twofold role to play. The first is obviously to fulfill the requirements of the job for which they are hired. The duties, responsibilities and reporting associated with each job vary throughout the country. For example, a bookkeeper for one Council or Conference may have different responsibilities from a bookkeeper of another Council or Conference, even though their job titles may be exactly the same. This also holds true for the executive director and any other position. However, the fact remains that each has a set of duties, responsibilities, and reporting requirements that he/she was hired to fulfill.

The second role that every staff person has is that of what I call the “Servant of the Servants of the Poor.” Every paid staff person is in some way commissioned to assist the volunteer members of the Society to do the work they are expected to do in the ministry they are called to. As an example, a Council’s executive director is expected to run the business of the Society, which is defined by the Council, Council President and Board of Directors. In addition, the executive director is also called on to assist in recruiting new members, to help Conference members understand their roles, to assist in providing training programs, and many other activities. A store manager not only ensures the store is operated according to Vincentian expectations, provides low cost merchandise for those in need, provides funds for the Council and /or Conferences to use to aid those in need, but also assists Vincentian members in providing direct aid to those who call for help.

You should be able to look at the job description of every paid staff person and read into it the second set of requirements they must fulfill as “Servant of the Servants of the Poor.” That effectively is their subtitle.