

RE: COVID Relief Bill \$\$

Dears Friends and Neighbors,

President Joe Biden signed the huge COVID Relief Bill Thursday, March 11, 2021. This legislation provides, among many other things, \$1400 for each individual in a family whose income is less than \$75,000 for an individual or \$150,000 for a couple. It is meant to help low income families 'catch up' on the arrearage of rent and/or utility (water, heat, electric) payments.

One of the criticisms of the bill is that payments go to all those meeting the financial requirements. Many do not need these funds. I recently had a friend approach me with just this concern. He knew that the St Joseph Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVdP) works with those in real need. His solution was to send us the amount of his relief check!! This way his funds would go to those most affected by the pandemic – the poor – those who have borne the brunt of this crisis.

For those of you that might consider such generosity, let me introduce the St. Joseph SSVdP Conference. We are a Catholic lay ministry to Those In Need – with a one hundred (100) year history in Marinette and vicinity. We are a faith-based non-profit corporation organized under 501 (c)(3) and certified as a Charitable Organization by the State of Wisconsin.

We work directly with anyone in need, without regard for race or creed. Our mission includes both immediate help (Vendor payments for rent, utilities, etc.) and assistance in long range planning and support to attain goals leading to fiscal independence and sustainability.

We collaborate with other local non-profits, Federal and State programs, i.e. Human and Health Service programs.

Our primary intervention tool is the home visit. We operate in teams of two. Prayer is intrinsic to our interventions.

Funding is comprised of donations from Holy Family Parish, parishioners of Holy Family Parish, St Mary's – Peshtigo and SS Joseph & Edward – Walsh, other community individuals and grants secured on a local (Tri-County United Way, WPS Foundation, Stephenson National Bank and Trust, Provident Health Foundation and M & M Area Foundation, etc.), state (Rural Housing, NEWCAP) and federal level (FEMA-EFSP).

Please consider a donation to our conference for a **corporal work of mercy**. One Hundred percent (100%) of your gift will go to a local individual or family in need. Last year we served 488 different local families and this year we have already served 428 different families!

Better yet, join our ministry. We meet the second and fourth Monday at 5:00 pm at Holy Family Parish Hall and we are open to the public.

It's Lent, almsgiving is good for the soul and for individuals and families in need!!

Our address is St Joseph SSVdP Conference, PO Box 563, Marinette WI 54143-0563. Make checks payable to SJC-SSVdP.

In the spirit of St Vincent de Paul,

David Harper

St Joseph SSVdP Conference - Spiritual Advisor