

THE WORK OF THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

VISITING & BEFRIENDING

The core work of the SVP is to visit and befriend people in need, providing practical and moral support through this one-to-one contact. Visits are made to people in various situations including residential homes, hospitals and prisons. As well as personal contact, material assistance is also given to those in need. Although the SVP is a Christian charity, help is given to anyone in need with no discrimination on the grounds of gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religious beliefs. Through their personal contact with the people they visit, SVP members often recognise the need to help in other ways. The types of assistance given are diverse but the provision of food, clothes, furniture and assistance with meeting critical bills is not untypical. No act of charity is alien to the SVP.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS & SPECIAL WORKS

Community Shops

SVP shops are situated in areas of need. They are often the first point of contact for people in need. 28 shops served thousands of customers from Newcastle to Plymouth.

Furniture Projects

The SVP Operates 15 furniture projects which provide good quality second hand furniture at little or no cost to individuals and families.

Support Centres

The SVP runs two Support Centres in the UK. As with all SVP Special Works the doors are open to anyone. Individuals visit the centres, often on a daily or weekly basis.

Community Transport

Community transport accounts for more than 77% of all material assistance offered by the SVP.

Holiday Provision

The SVP runs summer camps for disadvantaged children providing a much needed holiday for young people. The SVP also runs holiday caravans around the country, giving families a holiday they would otherwise have been unable to afford.

Offenders and Ex-Offenders

The SVP operates two approved premises which accommodate offenders on Statutory Orders. Some offenders serve their community service orders working on SVP projects in conjunction with the probation service.

Seekers of Sanctuary

Visits are made to seekers of sanctuary either at home or in detention centres. SVP members provide practical support, including lobbying to MPs and providing letters of support when cases are under consideration.

OVERSEAS AID (TWINNAGE)

Through the International Twinning Scheme, the SVP is twinned in India, Romania, Sudan, Grenada and Guyana. Through these relationships, SVP members provide vial financial support to more than 1,765 SVP groups overseas.

Students are sponsored in India through vocational and technical training. Each year the SVP supports around 100 small project generally costing no more than £800.00 per project in India Sudan and Guyana. Recent appeals for nationally run projects in Sudan enabled us to send more than £320,000.00.

In Grenada, we funded some water storage tanks recently on the second island of Carriacou and in Romania there is still great need for the support which the SVP members bring to their communities.