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St. Vincent de Paul Georgia Implements Emergency Food Drive to Collect and Distribute Food for Families in Need During COVID-19

ATLANTA (March 26, 2020) –St. Vincent de Paul Georgia’s (SVdP Georgia) modified its food pantry operations last week in order to meet the increasing need of food for neighbors in need and to promote social distancing to adhere to CDC guidelines during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

With its army of 5,000 volunteers, SVdP Georgia operates 38 food pantries across the state and while that’s still a core part of its mission, it must now place more focus on both providing healthy food to those who need it most, while minimizing health risks to volunteers, staff and the communities they serve.

The COVID-19 pandemic is presenting challenges for organizations world-wide and St. Vincent de Paul Georgia is no exception. The organization anticipates that sourcing food through their normal channels will continue to become more difficult with the spread of the virus.

SVdP Georgia needs the community’s help now more than ever and donating towards the Emergency Food Drive will help them prepare for the inevitable changes resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak.

"Our first and foremost concern is the safety of our staff, volunteers, clients and the community in general, so whatever it is we need to do to help stop the spread of the virus, and still continue to feed our neighbors in need, we will do it," said John Berry, CEO of SVdP Georgia.

SVdP Georgia’s Food Recovery & Distribution Program (FRDP) in partnership with Kroger, Sam’s, and Aldi typically supports its food pantries with 38 tons of fresh and frozen food each month. The effects of the pandemic have put a significant strain on the collections this month and donations are greatly needed in order to help families that need it most.

In order to continue to feed those in need, SVdP Georgia will be hosting no-contact emergency food drives until the FRDP can get back on track in its traditional way. The following SVdP Georgia Thrift Store and Family Support Center locations will host drop-off sites and will be operating to accept donations Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm:

Lilburn SVdP Thrift Store: 4974 Lawrenceville Highway, Lilburn, GA 30047

Kennesaw SVdP Thrift Store: 2722 Summers Street, Kennesaw, GA 30144

Marietta SVdP Thrift Store: 787 Roswell Street, Marietta, GA 30060

Chamblee SVdP Thrift Store: 5463 Peachtree Road, Chamblee, GA 30341

Chamblee Family Support Center: 2050 Chamblee Tucker Rd., Atlanta, GA 30341 (Behind building)

“Last year, over 780,000 pounds of food was collected and redistributed to those facing hunger, so to imagine the number of families feeling that uncertainty on top of this crisis made it that more important for us to mobilize our resources to continue to serve them,” said Darrell Hooker, SVdP Chief Operating Officer.

Throughout the changes in the local issuances of Shelter in Place orders and other stay at home guidances, SVdP Georgia will continue to accept clients for food pantry appointments across the state, as food donations remain available and coming in, though this operation will also have no-contact adjustments that adhere with CDC guidelines.

Many SVdP food pantries such as at St. Andrews Catholic Church in Roswell are helping families in need who do not have school aged kids and cannot receive food from the school program. Instead of a drive-up method, they are delivering food on Saturdays and Wednesdays, and the parish is accepting canned food and toiletries for their food pantry Monday-Friday from 9am to 1pm.

Other SVdP food pantries, like at St. Peter Chanel in Roswell and St. John Neumann in Lilburn are providing neighbors with food using the drive-through method. The St. Vincent de Paul food pantry at Holy Family in Marietta has set up non-perishable food bags on a cart in their narthex where neighbors can schedule an appointment to pick up.

SVdP Georgia is hoping that those in the community who can help, will do so by donating any extra food they have or by making monetary donations during this time that can help purchase bulk food from partners.

For a list of items most in need, click [here](#). This list is not exclusive and all non-perishable items will be accepted.

Those in need of food should contact the SVdP assistance line at 678-892-6163 to be connected to their local Conference for help. SVdP is seeing increased need throughout the state of Georgia. Whether you're newly out of work or otherwise struggling through this crisis, don't be afraid to reach out—it's what they're there for. For more information about SVdP Georgia, [click here](#).

ABOUT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL GEORGIA

Respecting the dignity of each person, St. Vincent de Paul Georgia brings hope and help to those in need so they may achieve stability and move toward self-sufficiency. Through partnerships and collaboration with others, St. Vincent de Paul Georgia offers financial, material, educational and spiritual support to develop and deliver programs and services to those in need throughout the state.

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