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St. Vincent de Paul Georgia Expands its Response to COVID-19 with \$150,000 in Support from United Way

ATLANTA (March 31, 2020) – As part of a robust response to the coronavirus pandemic, St. Vincent de Paul Georgia (SVdP) received \$150,000 in funding provided by the Greater Atlanta COVID-19 Recovery and Response Fund, a partnership between the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and United Way of Greater Atlanta. The gift is significant because it will allow SVdP to continue to support the growing need among the most vulnerable in the community caused by the coronavirus impacts rippling through the state.

SVdP's largest areas of response are food, housing and utilities. While the food supply situation has drastically changed due to partner grocery stores having less food for recovery, funding like this will support the charity's 38 food pantries continuing to provide food support to those struggling with access during this time. The food pantries have moved to a no-contact delivery model, either through drive-through services or via their home visit premise by delivering food bags to the doorsteps of those in need. Many of them also provide grocery gift cards, knowing that WIC-dependent families are often left with no other choice but to go home empty handed with many people leaving store shelves empty.

“It is due to the generosity of funders like UWGA and CFGA that St. Vincent de Paul Georgia is able to continue serving people facing financial ruin during this crisis. The outbreak of COVID-19 is straining on the families and individuals we serve who are struggling to pay rent, mortgage, or utility bills due to job loss or the loss of their wages,” shared John Berry, CEO of SVdP Georgia. “Just this month, we have served over 1500 individuals who have been impacted by the crisis, in addition to those who normally need our help when not even facing a pandemic. The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund grant will allow us to act upon the increasing critical needs of our neighbors who need us now more than ever.”

In addition to helping people stay ahead of the curve and not fall behind on rent and mortgage payments, the funding will also help SVdP support the families in metro Atlanta living in extended stay hotels. The coronavirus crisis has made families living in extended stay hotels even more unstable. With increased job losses expected, these families are not protected by the federal government's move to temporarily prevent evictions of renters and foreclosures of homeowners who cannot make monthly payments. With serving roughly 800 households in temporary lodging last year, SVdP recognizes the importance of serving those who don't fall under some of these safety nets.

Those in need of food or assistance should contact the SVdP assistance line at 678-892-6163 to be connected to their local Conference for help.

If you would like to donate to SVdP's emergency food drive, please visit www.svdpgeorgia.org/fooddrives for drop-off location information. For more information about SVdP Georgia's response to COVID-19 or how you can help, [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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