



Vincentian Family Profile

Organization: Gateway Vincentian Volunteers

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In the space below, please answer the following questions: Who are we? What is/are our mission and goals? What are the primary activities in the St. Louis region? Also, please list available publications and resources.

The Gateway Vincentian Volunteers Program is a yearlong service ministry for young adults, ages 21-30, sponsored in part by the Vincentian Priests and Brothers of the Midwest Province. The GVV program was begun in 1999; the Vincentians had housing available in South St. Louis and wanted to find a way to spread the charism of St. Vincent DePaul to young adults. The first group of volunteers arrived in 2000, and at the end of this year (2009-2010), 63 volunteers will have completed the program.

The mission of the GVV program is to provide young adults with an experience of living in community and working with the poor in the spirit of St. Vincent DePaul, whose life's work was dedicated to serving the poor and needy. It is our goal that by working, praying, and living in the spirit of Vincent, these young adults will develop a consuming commitment to improving the lives of the poor and marginalized in our society.

For ten and one-half months each year, Gateway Vincentian Volunteers live in community with one another and with the priests and brothers of the Vincentian Arsenal Street Residence. They work full-time in agencies and organizations that serve people living in poverty. Over the years, GVV volunteers have served at the following organizations: Community Alternatives, Covenant House Missouri, Family Center of East St. Louis, The Franciscan Connection, Guardian Angel Settlement Association, Immigrant and Refugee Women's Program, Institute for Family Medicine Community Outreach, Little Sisters of the Poor Senior Home, Marian Middle School, Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing Opportunity Council, Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, North Grand Neighborhood Services, Our Lady's Inn, Peter and Paul Community Services, Places for People, St. Frances Cabrini Academy, St. Louis ARC, St. Louis Catholic Academy, St. Vincent DePaul Criminal Justice Ministry, St. Vincent DePaul Parish, and Vincent Gray Alternative High School.

The GVV program also has a strong formation component. Each Wednesday evening, the volunteers gather for celebration of the Eucharist with the Vincentians. Mass is followed by dinner and a formation session. Formation sessions center around five themes: Vincentian Spirituality/The Call to Serve the Poor, Building Community, Prayer/Reflection, Growing in Faith and Theological Understanding, and



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Issues of Social Justice. The volunteers also gather each Friday evening for vespers and dinner with the Vincentians.