

'Mini Vinnies' groups, each locally run by a trained Mini Vinnie Co-ordinator, give primary school children an introduction to the Vincentian life-style with child friendly resources.

**Youth SVP** provides 11-18 year olds with an opportunity to engage in voluntary work in their local community whilst developing their faith and spirituality.

**SVP 1833**, recalling the year in which the Society was started and aimed at young adults between 18 and 30-something, provides opportunities for members to get involved in a range of projects from traditional befriending to soup kitchens and night shelters.

## We haven't forgotten those overseas who need our help

Through linking groups in England and Wales with SVP groups in India, Sudan, South Sudan, Guyana, Grenada and Romania, we aim to create a unique worldwide



community of love and solidarity, dedicated to sharing the necessities of life with as many of the world's poor as possible. This includes vocational training in India and baby feeding in Sudan.

## We campaign for social justice

We campaign for social justice through strategic partnerships and specialist networks. We do all we can to be an agent for change for greater social justice, so that individuals and families may be helped to develop more sustainable and tolerable lives.

## What can you do?

- Join the SVP - whatever your age
- Become a *Friend* of the Society
- Make a one-off donation
- Include the SVP in your will
- Pray for the work of the SVP



“ I want to embrace the world in a network of charity. ”

*Bl. Frédéric Ozanam (founder of the SVP)*

## Contact us

Call us on **0207 703 3030**

Email us at **info@svp.org.uk**

Follow us on Twitter

**@SVPEnglandWales**

Find us on Facebook: **SVPenglandandwales**

Write to us at **SVP National Office,**

**9 Larcom Street, Walworth, London SE17 1RX**

Alternatively, your local contact is:



St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) reg charity 1053992

## Visit our website

Visit our website to find out more about our work around the country - visit **www.svp.org.uk**  
Activities may vary between localities depending on local needs.



**St.Vincent de Paul Society**  
(England & Wales)



Combating  
isolation  
since 1844

**The St Vincent de Paul Society**  
**An introduction**



## Who are we?

The SVP is an international Christian voluntary membership organisation that tackles poverty and disadvantage by helping and supporting vulnerable people. Active throughout England and Wales since 1844, our main objective is the relief of poverty in all its forms without differentiation on the grounds of race, colour, creed, ideology or gender.

## What do we do?

Members look for opportunities to help those in need and, when asked, visit individuals and families where they are living and assess their needs. The main purpose of our visits is to extend the hand of friendship. More specific practical assistance can be given depending on the nature of the help required and the capacity of the local membership.



“ You have helped to change my life.  
Thank you from the bottom of my heart. ”  
*Letter from a beneficiary*

## Thousands of volunteers

The SVP's 'one-to-one' approach is possible thanks to the energy and commitment of nearly 10,000 volunteer members who, motivated by their faith, work to help the most vulnerable in their communities. Each year these volunteers make almost half a million visits to the homes of those in need.



## Community projects

The work of the members is extended locally into the community in a very visible way through our projects which help provide for the multiple material needs of people in less affluent communities. Our Community Shops may resemble charity shops, but their purpose is not just to raise money for the charity, but to provide affordable goods to the community. They also offer local employment and volunteering opportunities, are a visible presence of Christian concern and reduce wastage of materials that would otherwise finish up in landfill. Many of the shops are associated with local SVP furniture projects, where in emergencies goods are made available free of charge to families. Support Centres offer specialist debt advice, back-to-work skills training and counselling.

## Supported Accommodation

The SVP offers supported accommodation for homeless people, and operates two Home Office Approved Premises for offenders on licence.

## We provide holidays

Each year our holiday homes and children's camps provide holidays to about 2000 adults and children who, in the current economic climate, find it hard to afford a break. The camps are run by teams of enthusiastic volunteers, many of whom return year after year to help as leaders.

## Inspiring young volunteers

Our youth programme takes our Vincentian values, especially the befriending of others, into primary and secondary schools, as well as colleges and universities.



“ The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. ”  
*Mother Teresa*