

January 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This past year has been very busy at the pantry. We have been a bee hive of activity serving the folks in the Martin, Plainwell and Otsego school districts. Thanks to all who support this ministry of St. Margaret Church.

We have seen a 30% increase in the various requests for assistance this year. From food, to emergency financial aid in helping with heating, electricity, housing and water bills and even with all the challenges of these increases, we have been able serve all abundantly. What a blessing! (Just give it away and more will come). It seems like we at Vinny's have heard that message and are certain of its value. I referred to a bee hive and that is exactly what we are, we are a hive of love, compassion and concern for every person we meet. Several times each week someone will tell a volunteer, "You folks are so kind". Well, that is a great verification of our effort to bring humanity into a person's life. Each one of us at St. Vincent de Paul realizes the value of being a servant to others. Please look at the numbers on the back of this message and know that we are using all your generosity to the max. However, the best part for us at SVdP is to give every person we meet some real hope that some how this year will be better for them. The IMPACT MESSAGE below, is something that was in last years message and is worthy of reprinting.

IMPACT

You never know the impact you have on those around you. You never know how much someone needed that smile you gave them. You never know how much your kindness turned someone's entire life around. You never know how much someone needed that long hug or deep talk. So don't wait to be kind. Don't wait for someone else to be first. Don't wait for better circumstances or for someone to change. Just be kind, because you never know how much someone needs it.

Nikki Banas

Peace and love, from the bees at the pantry!