

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Saint Matthew Conference
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November 5, 2020

Christmas Angel Tree Appeal

Hello St Matthew families,

Since the onset of the pandemic, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at Saint Matthew parish has been exceptionally busy serving 155 families in the Glen Abbey neighbourhood. In the past 8 months we have seen a 50% surge in calls for assistance. We know that the needs of our neighbours will only increase along with the rising COVID numbers, continued job instability and the arrival of the Christmas season.

We ask, if you are able, that you contribute towards our Christmas Angel Tree program. We are requesting cash/cheque donations that we can use to purchase grocery and gift cards in bulk at a discount. Cheques can be made out to *Society of Saint Vincent de Paul – St Matthew*. There is also an online donation portal that you may access on our website:
<https://www.ssvpsaintmatthew.org/Donate.asp>.

We have helped in all possible ways during these pandemic months: we made over 300 wellness-check phone calls, provided grocery cards totalling \$63,375 to our neighbours, gave a \$50 Walmart card to 124 students returning to school and 28 refurbished laptops to our students entering Gr. 9, covered emergency medical expenses, distributed 300 reusable masks made by our very own SSVp members, funded dental care, paid utility bills and in dire cases, rent. We figured out how to make it happen even though our budget was tight. Every donation dollar counted.

As Pope Francis says in his letter addressing the upcoming World Day of the Poor on November 15th, “We cannot feel ‘alright’ when any member of the human family is left behind and in the shadows.” Should you know someone who requires assistance, encourage them to contact Saint Matthew SSVp at 905-825-0219 (press 2 to leave a message). We will call them back promptly.

Thank you for helping our neighbours in our community.

Jennifer Monte
President – Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Matthew Conference

Stretch Forth Your Hand To The Poor (Sir 7:32)