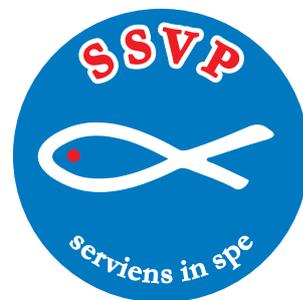


Society of St Vincent de Paul Singapore

Annual Report 2021



**Jules-François-Louis
Devaux**

(1811-1880)

One of the founder members
of SSVP along with
Blessed Frédéric Ozanam



Vincentian Vocation

The vocation of the Society's members, who are called Vincentians, is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love.

Members show their commitment through person-to-person contact.

Vincentians serve in hope.

CONTENTS

Foreword.....4
By Florence Tan

Message6
By Fr Eugene Vaz

Overview.....7

Organisation Chart8

Highlights of the Year9

Activities of SSVP 10

SSVP in Action: Sub-committee Reports

- What SSVP gave its FINs during Covid 11
- SSVP Shop 12
- Faith Formation and Development..... 13

Governance..... 15

Governing Board..... 16

AGM Notice..... 17

Minutes of 66th AGM..... 18

Prayer of Vincentian Family 22

Vincentian Pledge..... 23

Foreword

by **Florence Tan**
President, SSVP National Council
(June 2016 – May 2022)

As the 5th National Council (NC) president, this is my last message and I would like to highlight some key outcomes of a Journey of Evolution achieved by SSVP under three strategic focus areas over the last six years: (i) enhanced financial sustainability for the Society, (ii) expanded avenues for impact and service to our community, and (iii) increased engagement between NC and Conferences.

The challenges were aplenty, and I am heartened that our team stepped up and adapted to the fast-evolving environment, successfully meeting each challenge with creativity, dedication and grace. I look back on this experience as an enriching, engaging and humbling one, and am glad that our team helped advance the Society's mission in serving our community and Friends-in-Need (FINs) and achieving financial stability for the Society and the poor we serve.

Enhanced financial sustainability for the Society

We improved the effectiveness with which we provide resources to our beneficiaries, and strengthened the level of accountability to our benefactors. With the consensus of all Conferences, we implemented the national Harmonised Financial Aid Framework and Centralised Cash Management Model. This enabled the Society to raise the level of financial aid to FINs regardless of their housing location.

With members' approval, SSVP Ltd., a company limited by guarantee, was incorporated on 28 February 2019, as an affiliate to manage the national Milk & Diapers Programme and Community Services Office. In March 2021, SSVP Ltd. successfully qualified as an Institution of a Public Character, enabling it to seek tax-deductible donations from a broader pool of donors, such as corporates and the general public. This is a major milestone as fund-raising is necessary to help support this affiliate's existing and future programmes for the poor in Singapore.

During 2020- 2021, parishioners were not allowed to attend church on-site to celebrate mass due to Covid-19



and when measures were relaxed later, could only attend in restricted numbers. This resulted in SSVP losing its primary donation source - the second collection across 29 churches on the 1st Sunday of each month. This setback saw new positive, creative responses and initiatives from all members to find alternative fund-raising avenues. Within weeks, the Society set up its online donation site.

With God's bountiful blessings, the Society's outreach efforts in 2020 - 2021 were blessed by much assistance, cash and in-kind donations from Lee Foundation (very generous \$2.1 million), Temasek Trust's oscar@sg Fund, Credit Suisse CSR, The Cocoa Tree and many other big-hearted individuals, corporates and foundations. All gave unconditionally and generously, which rescued the

Society from a low point of having only seven months cash reserves to a more resilient and sustainable reserve of 25 months at the end December 2021. The Society continues to be blessed and it received a \$2million bequest in early April this year. We are thankful for the trust of the public and donors in the cause, and we continue to focus our energies in serving our FINs.

The challenges for the Society and its Conferences during 2021 and going forward has been more on how to proactively reach out and adopt more FINs: and to stay nimble, resourceful and creative.

Expanded avenues for impact and service to our community

After making two proposals to the estate of an anonymous donor, the Society was gifted a very generous bequest in November 2017 in the form of a shophouse at 501 Geylang Road and an endowment fund. Officially opened in September 2019, SSVP House is home to the SSVP Shop - a social enterprise/thrift shop and SSVP's 31st Outreach Centre. This gift has enabled SSVP to take another step towards improving its financial sustainability, while bringing joy and value add to the local community. The space in 2021 continues to serve as an avenue for donors to gift pre-loved goods in support of the poor and environmental sustainability, and for camaraderie-building for our dedicated volunteers in our community outreach. We are especially thankful to all the volunteers (and Vincentians from all our Conferences, who take turns to volunteer at the shop every Sunday), that have made this project an ongoing success.

There was increased community engagement too. Conferences (and SSVP Shop) conducted many parish/volunteer engagement projects like Care Packs for residents in Migrant Dormitories and Rental Blocks, Minor Home Improvements Projects for FINs and those living in rental blocks. This helped residents to engage with many Catholic and other voluntary social work organisations.

When we brought to focus the needs of our young FINs, the Conferences of St Bernadette, St Joachim and the Church of the Transfiguration continued to maintain and develop their Tuition/Mentoring Programmes; and NC also helped source refurbished notebooks for the students during the Covid home based learning period. These projects enabled us to spread the word of God's grace and our mission. In addition, more and more members of the public have come forward to donate and volunteer their time with SSVP during the five national care pack packing and distribution events organised between June 2020 to April 2022.

Increased engagement across NC and Conferences

As an NC, we strove to help Conferences and members to develop their spiritual life, to intensify their services and to diversify their activities, so that Vincentians are always encouraged to be more responsive and proactive in catering to the needs of those who are suffering. We conducted regular structured dialogue sessions between the NC and the Conferences (Executive Committee, and Members), to discuss new ideas on how to improve and advance our mission. These dialogues continue to be organised, formalising the sharing and development of new ideas and initiatives, and increasing focus on governance and transparency; and further strengthening our organisation, operations and community building.

Sincere appreciation to our many stakeholders

We continue to be extremely grateful to our generous parishioners and all donors who enable our Society to continue to serve the poor and our larger community.

We are thankful for God's grace as we continue to deepen our spiritual journey, with support from our Patron, his Grace Archbishop William Goh; with the heartfelt, generous and supportive guidance from our national spiritual advisor Reverend Father Eugene Vaz; and all other parish priests and spiritual advisors who have made it possible for SSVP to continue to make a meaningful difference to our beneficiaries.

We are also appreciative of our dedicated Vincentians and volunteers, who continue to set aside their personal time to visit our FINs regularly, providing resources to make a positive difference in their lives, especially during the recent restrictive and high health risk environment.

We rely and trust in our Lord, and offer our individual and collective prayers, as we continue to spread His Love to our neighbours in our communities, families and FINs. The multiplier effect on our network of friendship and support grows exponentially beyond one's expectations, and it is with that grateful heart that we look forward to the year ahead in our journey as Vincentians.

I thank God and fellow Vincentians for the opportunity to serve as the Society's national president. I also thank my family for their unwavering support and love during my term. This act of service has enriched my life, spiritual growth and most importantly my Love for God.

Charity, hope and love to all.

Message

by Fr Eugene Vaz

Spiritual Advisor, SSVP

My dear fellow Vincentians,

We praise and thank God for bringing us together for our AGM 2022. Despite being restrained by the cautionary Covid-19 measures, we have kept our spirits high and, rooted in the Lord, we have responded, as best as we could, to the needs of our Friends in Need (FINs).

The AGM is a grace-filled moment to discern how we should move on in the coming year.

This year is going to be special because we will be having a new National Council (NC) president and a new National Council.

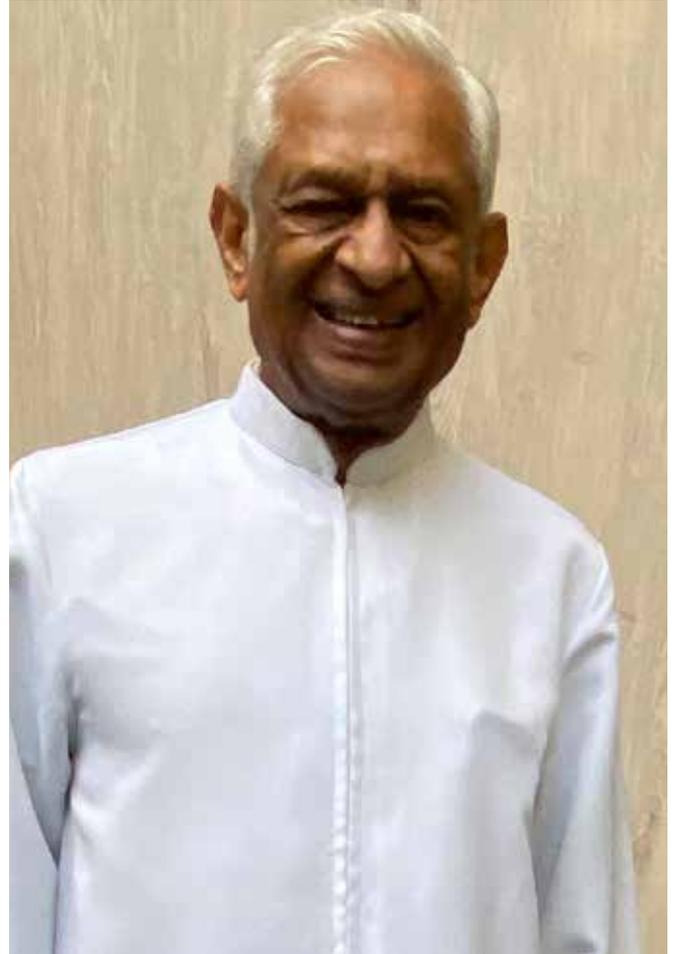
We thank outgoing NC president Florence Tan for all her years of love and service to the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Singapore. We look forward to her continued presence and commitment with us.

We also thank all the outgoing members of the National Council for their commitment and devotedness to the development of SSVP in Singapore. We pray that they may continue to inspire and motivate their respective Conferences to even greater heights in loving and serving the poor.

We welcome the new National Council President and National Council and we thank them for stepping up to serve the interests and concerns of SSVP, locally and globally.

Let us commit ourselves to work with them wholeheartedly and selflessly in the spirit of St Vincent de Paul and following the example of Blessed Frederic Ozanam and the very first Vincentian team.

“Yours must be a work of love, of kindness, you must give your time, your talents, yourselves. The poor person is a unique person of God’s fashioning with an inalienable right to respect. You must not be content with tiding the poor over the poverty crisis; You must study their condition and the injustices which brought about such poverty, with the aim of a long term improvement.”— Frédéric Ozanam



Let us also remember that the Church in Singapore and all over the world is seriously preparing for the Synod which will take place in Rome in October 2023.

The meaning of the word synod is “journey together”. We are reflecting on how we can be a Church journeying together.

I take this opportunity to encourage all our members in all our Conferences to spend time together in conversation and dialogue – even if it means to hold some extra meetings – to seriously discern how we are “journeying together” as Vincentians:

- In proclaiming the Gospel to the poor,
- In truly listening to the poor,
- In lovingly responding to their need.
- What more must we do to truly listen to one another at every level of SSVP?
- What more must we do to “journey together”?

Wishing you all the best and God Bless!

Fr Eugene Vaz

Overview

Society of St Vincent de Paul (National Council of Singapore) is a part of the global Vincentian family, an international lay Catholic voluntary organisation dedicated to the sanctification of its members through serving the poor and disadvantaged. It was registered as a charity in Singapore on 15 May 1961.

Unique Registration Number	:	S61SS0149B
Registered Address	:	7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh #04-01 Agape Village Singapore 319264
Auditor	:	Veronica L & Associates
Bankers	:	DBS Singapore UOB, OCBC Bank
Lawyers	:	None

Our Vision

That the poor and marginalised whom we serve become self-reliant and lead fulfilling and dignified lives.

Our Mission

To serve and journey with the poor and marginalised, regardless of their race, nationality and religion, bringing them hope for a better life and a better future.

Organisation Chart

PATRON

His Grace Most Rev. William Goh, DD.
Archbishop of Singapore

SPIRITUAL ADVISER

Rev. Fr Eugene Vaz

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Florence Tan

Vice-President

Noel Low

General Secretary

Patrick Neo

Assistant General Secretary

Lisa Lim

Treasurer

Martin Loh

Assistant Treasurer

Gabriel Lok

ORDINARY MEMBER

Particular Council City President

Adelaine Ng

Particular Council East President

Lawrence Wee

Particular Council North President

Teresa Kwok

Particular Council Serangoon

President

Michael Koh

Particular Council West President

Joey Goh

Anselm Vincent

Benjamin Liew

James Ang

Patrick Foo

Stanley Lim

Thomas Lew

SUB-COMMITTEES / ROLES

Best Practices - Financial & Code of Governance

Gabriel Lok/ Martin Loh

Best Practices - FINs

Pius Ong

Faith Formation & Development

David Lau

Dying with Dignity

Paul Foo

SSVP Shop

Teresa Yeo

Media & Communications

Patrick Jonas

Legal Advisors

Chan Yuen Leng/ Lew May May

International Twinning

Adrian Cher

PDPA Officer

Benjamin Liew

St Vincent Home

Patrick Foo

Youth Coordinator

Anselm Vincent

SSVP Conferences by Districts

CITY

St Bernadette
Our Lady of Lourdes
Sacred Heart
St Peter
St Teresa
St Michael

EAST

Holy Family
Holy Trinity
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour
Our Lady Queen of Peace
St Stephen
Divine Mercy

NORTH

Christ the King
St Joachim
Our Lady Star of the Sea
Risen Christ
St Anthony
Holy Spirit

SERANGOON

St Anne
Immaculate Heart of Mary
St Louise de Marillac
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
St Francis Xavier
Church of the Transfiguration

WEST

Blessed Sacrament
Holy Cross
St Ignatius
St Mary of the Angels
Our Lady of Fatima

Highlights of the Year

Summary Financial Performance

Total Income : \$6,410,487

Total Expenditure : \$4,117,701

The Society achieved a net surplus of \$2.3m for 2021 which was marginally lower than 2020 with a drop of \$44k largely due to a reduction in income of \$579k but largely offset by reduction in expenditure of \$534k. There was a drop of ~ 6% of FIN numbers supported between 2020 to 2021 whilst average aid levels also declined by 5%.

Major Financial Transactions

Cash Aid to FINs : \$2,672,847

Ration Aid to FINs : \$432,966

Principal Funding Sources

General Donations

No funds are in deficit

Purpose of Restricted / Endowment Funds

The charity has disclosed its restricted / endowment funds in the Financial Statements, Note 3, page 14. Please refer to the Financial Statements for more information.

Summary Financial Performance - Income

Donations :\$6,363,414

Donations in Kind : \$26,547

Government Grants : \$6,935

Other Income : \$9,612

Total Income : \$6,410,487

Summary Financial Performance - Expenditure

Friends In Need Outreach : \$3,602,148

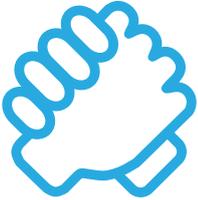
Manpower Cost :\$133,596

Depreciation : \$201,680

Others : \$180,277

Total Expenditure : \$4,117,701

Activities of SSVP



Befriending, journeying and visiting 2,639 Friends-In-Need (FINs) in 1,607 households



Giving supplementary cash aid and food aid for families of the underprivileged, unemployed, sick and aged.



Providing FINs with transport facilities to visit the hospital and to secure medical treatment.



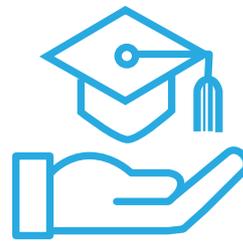
Assist FINs and their children in securing employment



Bringing cheer to the underprivileged during special occasions including Christmas and Easter



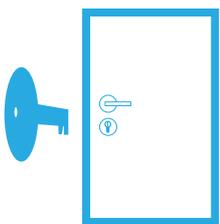
Member's participation at Masses offered for the sick and deceased persons.



Providing scholarships and bursaries for children of FINs to attend University, Polytechnic, and other tertiary institutions.



Providing free tuition to primary and secondary school pupils.



Providing shelter for seniors above 60 on public assistance at St Vincent Home#



Providing milk and diapers to infants and children*



Helping FINs with more holistic care plans by working with social service agencies such as family service centres, social service offices, as well as assistance of social work practitioners from Community Services Office*



Outreach initiatives such as home improvement projects, providing essential care packs to the vulnerable and needy reached out to 2,000 households / 3,000 beneficiaries.



Providing affordable quality preloved items at SSVP Shop



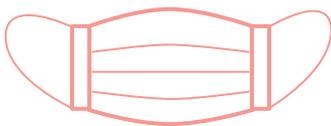
Visiting the FINs in hospitals and Homes.

To find out more about the Society's activities, read our official newsletter [SSVP News](#), or go to [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

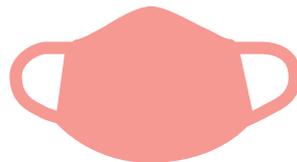
**including collaboration with SSVP Ltd., an affiliate of the Society
#In partnership with Catholic Welfare Services*

SSVP in Action:

What SSVP Gave its FINs in 2021 During Covid



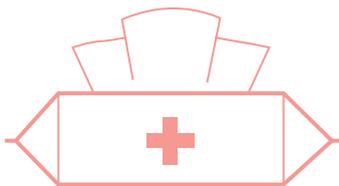
**Disposable masks:
2,000 boxes**



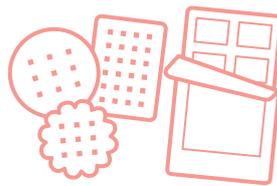
**Reusable masks:
4,900**



**Hand sanitiser bottles:
4,000 boxes**



**Anti-bacterial wipes:
6,000**



**Biscuits:
2,000 boxes**



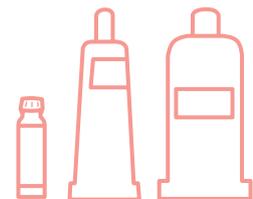
**Coffee:
40,000 sachets**



**Milo (1kg pack):
2,000**



**Cereal:
2,016**



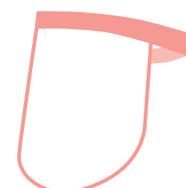
**Medicated oil/cream/
plaster:
6,604**



**Umbrellas:
2,000**



**Bedsheets/blankets/
pillows:
350**



**Face shields:
5,400**

SSVP help for FINs at a glance



Cash aid:
\$2,672,847



Ration aid:
\$432,966



Gifts, funerals, etc:
\$43,612



Education aid:
\$91,727



Transport aid:
\$10,535



Medical aid:
\$7,003

The Vincentian Way of Life

Service in Hope

4 Principles of the Vincentian Way of Life

MINISTRY

Reach out and provide holistic assistance to the poor and marginalised



TRANSFORMING LIVES

Involve more parishioners in building a missionary church through SSVP work



FELLOWSHIP

Journey as a community towards a wholesome Christian life and working together for a common purpose



SPIRITUALITY

A service as a way of acting on one's faith and responding to God's call to love God and one's neighbour



SSVP in Action:

SSVP Shop

The objective of providing an excellent customer experience and a common space for fellowship, with all net sales proceeds to help the poor, is a constant at SSVP Shop.

The year 2021 was fraught with various challenges as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. SSVP Shop closed for two months during two periods of “Heightened Alert” in May as well as in July. Measures taken when it reopened included stringent safe management and contact tracing processes. Hours of operation and the number of volunteers per day were also reduced to decrease the risk of Covid-19 affecting the Shop operations.

Despite all this, the Shop registered approximately \$150,000 earnings on an EBITDA basis (Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, amortisation) for 2021, a 27% increase from the previous year. Total revenue hovered at about \$190,000 with a strong online sale contribution of \$13,000. With the introduction of mobile wallet options such as “scan to pay” platform SGQR, e-payment transactions accounted for 37% of total collections.

The SSVP Shop Social Media Team developed a strategic marketing plan which successfully promoted the SSVP Shop and helped raise the Shop’s profile to attract more shoppers and donors online. The strong leadership also saw more volunteers coming forward to help. Despite the challenges, good progress has been made and it augurs well for 2022 and beyond.

From January to December 2021, Facebook followers grew from 1,650 to some 2,450 while Instagram numbers grew from 1,500 to about 2,500. Promotional campaigns were launched almost every month with highlights including:

February – Lunar New Year Online Auction of Dresses.
April – Easter sale with 30% off on all apparel and a hot cross bun distribution to our customers.
May – Volunteers upcycled Obi-belts for sale using donated men ties.



June – Online auction sale of vintage music/music T-shirts.

August – SSVP Shop was part of Renew Earth Sweat Shop pop-up showcase at Temasek Shophouse.

September – SSVP 2nd Anniversary sale and weekly auction sale of exclusive products.

November – 11.11 Live Facebook/Instagram sale was launched from 10am to 4pm.

December – Christmas sale with a 30% off for all apparel and volunteers upcycled gift tags with reused materials.

Our dedicated and loyal team of volunteers are steadfast in their engagement in the Shop. We continue to see more volunteers coming forward to help. The Shop Committee is grateful for all the engagement and dedication shown by the volunteers.

Our appreciation also goes out to all our fellow Vincentians from various Conferences for the invaluable contribution and support during Sundays. The time spent at the Shop is one way of helping the poor in a different way and it also helps Vincentians to bond as a community in service.

We would like to thank all our donors for their generosity and appeal to all to promote and patronise SSVP Shop.

Every item you donate and every dollar you spend goes towards helping the poor.

SSVP in Action:

Faith Formation and Development

Like 2020, the year 2021 continued to be difficult due to Covid 19 disrupting our lives. Physical meetings in groups were not possible. However, God works in all things to bring good to those who love Him. And trusting in Him, the Faith Formation and Development (FFD) team persevered and remained resilient to continue with online talks, Day of Recollection and retreats to raise members' spiritual lives and development.

We started the year with an online Day of Recollection on February 20 as part of the celebration of 200 years of Catholicism in Singapore (Catholic200SG). The theme of the day was Rediscover, Renew, Revitalise our Faith. The retreat was conducted by Fr Stanley Goh SJ. In his talks, Fr Stanley covered the topics of prayer and discernment, and renewal and revitalisation of our faith. The day ended with mass. About 70 Vincentians attended the Day of Recollection and the feedback from them was that they found it very useful in the development of their formation and development which is key to their vocation and service to their Fins.

The FFD team met all the Conference Presidents over two weeks on February 27 and March 6 to roll out guided prayer and reflection materials. The aim of FFD was to help Conferences play a greater role in the formation and spirituality of their members. Using the material provided by FFD, Conferences were advised to conduct faith formation sessions on a monthly/quarterly basis so as to give consistency, regularity and sustainability to the spiritual development of the members.

In addition, FFD also provided conferences with a set of prayer of monthly prayer and reflection material based on feast days and real life problems faced as Catholic believers. This was for members to slow down and contemplate so as to deepen their faith and spiritual growth.

In the middle of the year, on June 19, FFD organised a talk on ageing. The talk, titled Active Ageing in the 21st Century, was held over Zoom by Assoc Professor Philip Yap. He posed the following two questions to members: What do I hope for as I grow old and how has Covid-19 affected my perspective in life?

FFD ended the year's programme with a combined Annual and Induction retreat over Zoom. The retreat topic was titled Authentic Listening and Conversation. The speaker Lance Ng spoke about listening with awareness, which highlighted that at the heart of authentic conversation is listening. His second topic was about listening with authenticity. This examines the question, "how do I listen to life and therefore choose it?" He also spoke about listening to act and said that one who has listened well is the one who acts in mercy and compassion. The retreat ended with mass celebrated by Fr Eugene Vaz.

The FFD team urges all Vincentians to support its activities and events so that together all can grow in spirituality and be better Vincentians able to handle the multitude of challenges faced by our FINS and ourselves.

Governance

Role of Governing Board

The Board's role is to provide strategic direction and oversight of the Society's programmes and objectives and to steer the charity towards fulfilling its vision and mission through good governance. As part of its role, the following matters require Board's approval:

Approve budget for the financial year and monitor expenditure against budget;
Review and approve quarterly financial statements;
Regularly monitor the progress of the charity's programmes.

Reserves Policy

The reserves of the Society represent the total of the general (unrestricted funds) that are separate from the operating cash of the Society.

The Society endeavours to maintain reserves at an average of 2 years of expenditure under normal socio-economic situations in order to provide funding support to the charitable works undertaken by our conferences when required as well as any significant future use that may be decided upon by the Board. The reserve levels may be revised as appropriate by the Board.

Restricted funds if any are not considered as part of the reserve funds.

SSVP - Audit Report for FYE 31.12.2021

	2021	2020
General/Unrestricted Funds	8,124,791	5,789,474
Designated Funds	1,850,513	1,709,686
Total Funds	9,975,304	7,499,160
Annual Operating Expenditure	4,117,701	4,682,071
Ratio of Reserves	2.42	1.60

Conflict of Interest Policy

All Board members, Committee Members and staff are required to comply with the charity's conflict of interest policy.

The Board has put in place documented procedures for Board members and staff to declare actual or potential conflicts of interests on a regular and need-to basis.

Board members also abstain and do not participate in decision-making on matters where they have a conflict of interest.

Whistle-blowing Policy

Our charity has in place, a whistle-blowing policy to address concerns about possible wrong-doing or improprieties in financial or other matters within the charity.

Governing Board

Board Member	Current Designation*	Terms of Former and Current Appointments to Board	Occupation	Board Attendance
Florence Tan	President	NC General Secretary Oct 2011 - May 2016 NC President June 2016 - May 2022	Consultant	11/11
Noel Low	Vice President	NC Ordinary Member Jan 2018 - Sept 2019 NC Vice President Oct 2019 - May 2022	Retired	6/11
Martin Loh	Treasurer	NC Assistant Treasurer June 2020 - Sept 2020; NC Treasurer Oct 2020 - May 2022	Vice President, Finance	5/5; 5/6
Gabriel Lok	Asst Treasurer	NC Treasurer May 2016 - Oct 2020 NC Asst Treasurer Nov 2020 - May 2022	Retired	5/5; 6/6
Patrick Neo	Gen Secretary	NC General Secretary May 2018 - May 2022	Retired	10/11
Lisa Lim	Asst Gen Secr	NC Assistant General Secretary Sept 2020 - May 2022	Paralegal	9/11
Patrick Foo	NC Ordinary Member	NC Treasurer May 2012 - May 2014 NC Ordinary Member May 2014 - May 2022	Asst. Case Manager	5/11
Stanley Lim	NC Ordinary Member	NC Ordinary Member Jan 2012 - May 2016 NC Vice President June 2016 - Sep 2019 NC Ordinary Member Oct 2019 - May 2022	Financial Services Manager	8/11
James Ang	NC Ordinary Member	NC Ordinary Member Jan 2014 - May 2022	Manager	11/11
Benjamin Liew	NC Ordinary Member/ PDPA Officer	NC Ordinary Member Sept 2020 - May 2022	Director	6/11
Anselm Vincent	NC ordinary member/ Youth Coordinator	NC Ordinary Member Jan 2020 - Dec 2021	Student	6/11
Thomas Lew	NC Ordinary Member	NC Ordinary Member Sept 2020 - May 2022	Doctor	8/11
Joey Goh	NC ordinary member/PCW	NC Ordinary Member Jan 2018 - Dec 2021	Civil Servant	9/11
Teresa Kwok	NC ordinary member/PCN	NC Ordinary Member Oct 2021 - Dec 2022	Retired	2/2
Michael Koh	NC ordinary member/PCS	NC Ordinary Member Sept 2021 - Dec 2022	Retired	3/3
Adelaine Ng	NC ordinary member/PCC	NC Ordinary Member Oct 2021 - Dec 2022	Remisier	2/2
Lawrence Wee	NC ordinary member/PCE	NC Ordinary Member Oct 2021 - Dec 2022	Retired	2/2

DISCLOSURE OF REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS RECEIVED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

No National Council member was paid any remuneration for their services as a National Council member in FY 2021.

DISCLOSURE OF REMUNERATION OF STAFF

None of the staff of the Society received an annual remuneration of \$100,000 or more in FY 2021.

The Society has no paid staff who are close members of the family of any National Council member.



Society of St Vincent de Paul National Council of Singapore

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS hereby given that the 67th Annual General Meeting of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (National Council of Singapore) will be held on Friday 27th May 2022 at 7.30 pm at St Francis Xavier Major Seminary, 618 Upper Bukit Timah Rd, #02-01 St Francis Xavier Seminary Building, Singapore 678214.

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayers
2. Address by National Spiritual Advisor
3. Address by National Council (NC) President
4. To note the minutes of the 66th AGM held on 28th May 2021, which was confirmed at the NC meeting held on 21 June 2021.
5. To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021.
6. Election of NC President
7. Re-appointment of External Auditors
8. Matters Arising
9. Any other business

For and on behalf of the National Council,
Lisa Lim
NC Asst. Hon. Gen. Secretary
Dated: 11 May 2022



Society of St Vincent de Paul National Council of Singapore

7A Lorong 8 Toa Payoh, Agape Village #04-01
Singapore 319264 Tel : 65-68017480

Minutes of 66th AGM

Minutes of the 66th e-Annual General Meeting of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (National Council of Singapore) held on Friday 28 May 2021 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom.

Chair AGM 2021	:	Noel Low
Spiritual Director	:	Fr. Eugene Vaz
NC members present	:	Florence Tan Gabriel Lok Martin Loh Patrick Neo Patrick Foo Benjamin Liew Stanley Lim James Ang Joey Goh Thomas Lew Anslem Vincent Lisa Lim

A total of 72 members from various Conferences logged-in to participate in e-AGM 2021.
A total of 61 valid proxy forms were received and attended by 53.

1. WELCOME

A warm welcome was extended to members by the Chair of AGM 2021 Noel Low.

2. OPENING PRAYERS

Our Spiritual Director, Fr. Eugene Vaz, expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all Vincentians as he shared Matthew 28:16-2-. Fr. Vaz extolled Vincentians to reflect:

Do we model the unity of the Trinity,
“being of one mind and one heart,”
in our Conferences and the National Council ?

Fr. Vaz referenced that our AGM challenges us to our being Vincentians through our actions and compassion for our neighbours.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 65th AGM, 21st AUGUST 2020

It was noted that the Minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting held on 21st August 2020 was confirmed and adopted at the NC Meeting held on 21st September 2020.

4 ADDRESS BY NATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT (NCP)

NCP Florence Tan welcomed everyone and thanked members for making an effort to attend the AGM. NCP FTan encouraged members that despite the Covid 19 pandemic, we as Vincentians we should also look at the positive side that this pandemic has shown us, like our faith and personal resilience and strengths, which have helped us grow, mature and rise to the challenges encountered. She then gave a summary emphasizing the “Realites for the Future” facing the conferences and the Society:

- **Conferences’ Relevance & Sustainability**
 - Conferences need to review operations and resources
 - Assess Evolving FINs Needs (current and post Covid)
 - Make Conference’s needs known to parish and other benefactors
 - Communicate regularly with benefactors
 - Show personal conviction on our SSVP Mission
- **Diversifying Funding Resources**
 - Conferences to initiate new approaches
 - Access new donor sources
 - Calling experienced fund raisers to step forward
- **Collaborate with Community Partners**
- **Spiritual Formation & Development**

NCP FTan also thanked all members, Archbishop and the parish priests for their kind assistance on fund raising for the poor.

5. TREASURER’S REPORT (APPENDIX 1)

National Council Treasurer (NCT) GLok thanked Conferences for their timely submissions of the quarterly and annual Conference Accounting Templates which enabled the external audit to be completed efficiently.

He shared:

- (i) The Society’s Income and Expenditure.
- (ii) A summary of the NC funding to Conferences and donations status for the year 2020.
- (iii) A graph of the online donation appeal started in March 2020, which has significantly tapered down with an unabated south slope trend. He noted that expected 2nd collection in 2021 will continue towards a downward trend. Hence he echoed NCP’s comment on the need for conferences to try new approaches at conference level.
- (iv) With reference to the current reserves sufficient for another 12 months, NC will continue with the online donation appeal. NC and conferences need to collectively fund raise as the pandemic environment will last at least another couple of years.

6. RESOLUTIONS

In accordance with guidelines from Registrar of Society governing e-AGMs during this period of Phase 2 Heightened Alert, the following resolutions were sent to members prior to the e-AGM and their (proxy) responses were sent to the Chair AGM 2021:

- a. To receive and adopt the Statement of the Management Committee and Audited Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2020, together with the Auditors’ Report thereon.

Total valid proxy: 53 For - 50 Against - 0 Abstain - 1

By majority vote, the Statement of the Management Committee and Audited Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2020, together with the Auditors' Report were agreed upon.

- b. To re-appoint Veronica L. and Associate as the Society's auditors and to authorize the National Council to fix their remuneration.

Total valid proxy: 53 For - 50 Against - 0 Abstain - 2

By majority vote, the meeting agreed to re-appoint Veronica L. and Associate as the Society's auditors and the National Council to fix their remuneration.

NCT Glok informed meeting that the Auditors have agreed to hold audit fee for year ended 31 Dec 2020.

- c. To elect Loh Weng Yhin (Martin) as National Council Treasurer for the term June 2021 to June 2023.

Total valid proxy: 53 For - 46 Against - 0 Abstain - 4

By majority vote, the meeting elected Loh Weng Yhin (Martin) as National Council Treasurer for the term June 2021 to June 2023.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

During the questions and answers session, the following questions were addressed at the session and via zoom chat session:

Responses to Questions from participating Vincentians:

- a. Question - Is there any restriction as to what organizations we can approach when trying to solicit funds?

NCT Glok said that there is no restriction on whom we can approach for donations. Only caveat is that if donations come with terms/restrictions, then NC must be consulted before we accept these to ensure that the Society is not put at risk by such terms.

- b. Question - How long has the auditors been serving the Society? Advisable to have a change in auditors for prudence?

NCT Glok said the current Auditors has been engaged for the past 10 years. The Commissioner of Charities' guidelines for intermediate level charities do not require charity to change or rotate the auditors. A change may be needed if Society moves to the top tier, like if and when our annual income exceeds \$10M a year, for two years. An exercise was carried out 4 years ago to evaluate alternative audit firms and this same firm had chosen based on that review.

- c. Question - What led to the success of the 2020 fund raising and if it is repeatable, given the current circumstances and challenges we are facing?

NCP FTan said in mid 2020 Vincentians sought help through various channels ie friends and families via WhatsApp and emails, including appeals to parishioners via WhatsApp chats, etc. This is definitely repeatable.

NCT Glok said that as the Society has primarily depended on physical 2nd Collection at masses, neither NC nor conferences have any donors database. The online appeal does not show much donors information due to banking privacy regulations. However NC will continue to post refreshed appeals on social media and rely on members to make concerted appeals.

8. CONCLUSION

As no other matter was raised, meeting ended at 9:30pm with Noel Low, the Chair for the AGM thanking everyone. FR. Vaz gave a blessing to participants.

Minutes recorded by: Lisa Lim, Asst. General Secretary, National Council

Proposed by:

Seconded by:

Signed by: Florence Tan, President, National Council

Date:

Prayer of The Vincentian Family

LORD JESUS, You who willed to become poor,
Give us eyes and a heart directed towards the poor,
Help us to recognise You in them –
In their thirst, their hunger, their loneliness and their misfortune.

Enkindle within our Vincentian family,
unity, simplicity, humility and the fire of love
that burned in St Vincent de Paul.

Strengthen us, so that, faithful to the practice of these virtues,
We may contemplate You, and serve You, in the person of the poor.
And may one day be united with You and them in Your kingdom.

Amen



The Vincentian Pledge

AS FAR AS WE ARE ABLE:

We PROMISE to do all we can to make Christ's Law of Love prevalent among all men and women, practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

We PROMISE to sanctify ourselves through prayer, attendance at mass and frequent reception of the Sacraments in order to fulfill better our duties as Vincentians.

We PROMISE to visit the Poor and the Sick in their homes and institutions in order to provide their needs both spiritually and materially.

We PROMISE to impart knowledge of our Faith to our friends in need and those we come into contact by sharing our Faith and the Good News with them by our actions.

We PROMISE to participate in the annual retreat and the 2 feast days of the Society so that our zeal for souls may be rekindled.

We PROMISE to help advance the works of mercy by our offering in the secret bag collection within our means.

We PROMISE to increase the influence of the Society by convincing qualified people, especially young men and women to join the Society and to guide them with our experience.

We PROMISE to pray for each other, so that we may be strengthened in our vocation as Vincentians.



