

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDY 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2002.
ST. MARY'S CENTENARY HALL, P.O.S.

“INSTITUTIONS OF THE SOCIETY”

There is evidence all around us of the increase in “Homelessness.” Persons in this situation however come from all categories of society and all age groups. Although there exists the perception that the Society caters mainly/only for the elderly, our Society also provides shelter for others, bearing in mind at all times, **“I was homeless and you sheltered me.”**

Our Institutions consist of:

- 7 Homes for the Aged**
- 1 Children's Home**
- 2 Hostels**
- 3 Halfway Houses**
- 1 Rehabilitation Centre**
- 1 Geriatric Nursing Home**

The St. Peter's Conference, Carenage operates a Home for the Aged presently housing five (5) persons. The necessary formalities and regulations are still to be undertaken to have this Home formally as a “S.V.P.”.

The above institutions are managed by various Conferences and Committees, paid staff and in some cases, voluntary helpers. At the helm of management is the National Council along with the Particular council for Institutions. Bro. Louis 'Jim' Rodriguez, appointed as Executive Chairman responsible for Maintenance of Institutions, *with the assistance of Bro. Selwyn Vidal, Civil structural Engineer*, has been soliciting funds, manpower and advice. As a result, extensive and much needed maintenance work began and continues at most of our Institutions.

San Fernando and Penal Homes are to be rebuilt.

FINBAR RYAN GERIATRIC HOME

The Finbar Ryan Geriatric Home now houses sixty-three (63) residents. During the last year twenty-four (24) new persons were admitted to the Home, one returned to her family home and nine (9) passed away.

We continue to have Holy Mass on Sundays and First Fridays with Fr. De La Hunte and members of the Parish Prayer Group. Members of the Caring Committee, the Prayer Group and volunteers continue to visit the home to pray the Rosary and befriend the residents.

Maintenance work continues with the assistance of the Finbar Ryan Association which have assisted in many areas at the Home.

The lift is to be commissioned in the near future and work on the grounds at the Home is yet to commence.

We continue to be a Training Facility for Care of the aged students from various training programmes and second and third year social work students from the University of the West Indies.

Friends of the Home continue to be of assistance in our spiritual, financial and other basic needs. Our volunteer physicians, Drs. Randolph Phillips and Cynthia Low Chee Tung are of great support and we thank them immensely. Special thanks to Myrna Hadeed for her invaluable service.

However, there is an urgent need for more volunteers if the ever increasing needs of the elderly and the Home are to be adequately met.

THE CYRIL ROSS (SVP) NURSERY

There are thirty-two (32) children residing at the Cyril Ross (SVP) Nursery, 15 boys and 17 girls ranging in ages between 21 months and 17 years.

Three (3) children have left the Nursery and are residing with families.

We operate an Out Patients Clinic, once per month operated by Drs. Nosa and David John and two (2) volunteer nurses, Claire and Elsa. Two (2) out patients reside at the Nursery during the week and spend the weekend with their families.

Thirteen (13) children are attending primary school, one (1) child attends a special school and (1) a secondary school. The others who are of age attend our In-House nursery school and the others are toddlers. One (1) out patient attends our inner school.

With the volume of work now being done at the Nursery, an additional supervisor has been added to staff.

Beginning May, 2002, the Government of Trinidad & Tobago through the Ministry of

Health, commenced providing the Nursery with anti-retroviral medication for 41 children (25 residents/16 out patients). One (1) out patient stayed at the Nursery for a period for one month to begin anti-retroviral treatment.

We continue to provide assistance to out patients and their families when in special need.

Three (3) staff members (the manager, an attendant and volunteer nurse) attended the Francois Xavier Bagnoud Centre International HIV/AIDS Training Programme at the University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey in May, 2002. Their trip was financed by the organization – Pour L’Innocence.

In July, 2002, a supervisor and the volunteer physician, Dr. Nosa, attended the 14th International AIDS Conference, Barcelona, Spain for nine (9) days. This trip was financed by the Hibiscus Foundation and Pour L’Innocence.

Several corporate bodies have made significant contributions to the well being of the children. In addition participating schools in the RBTT Bank Young Leaders project made links with the Nursery. Twenty-five (25) schools visited and made contributions of one kind or another. Presentation College of Grenada made a gift of \$100 to each staff member as a token of appreciation. The Nursery benefits from the goodwill of many generous individuals as well as corporations.

Repairs and maintenance of the building have begun and continues.

Our staff, volunteers, Divine Infant Jesus and St. Charles Conferences, volunteer physicians and nurses work assiduously in bringing comfort, joy and well being to our children and the Home.

NAZARETH HALFWAY AND AUDREY MOLLINEAU HOUSES

These two Halfway Houses run in conjunction with the Government of Trinidad & Tobago continue to accommodate 45 persons with mental problems because of drugs, family problems, depression and other similar circumstances.

As part of their rehabilitation process, some of these residents are employed at various S.V.P. Homes. Some of them have progressed from supervised activities to regular employment.

At the Audrey Mollineau Halfway House residents are involved in providing a Laundry, Cleaning and other paid services to the public. Programme activities include medical, group, spiritual, social and recreational, educational and occupational.

CENTRE FOR SOCIALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Operated by the Society on behalf of the Government of Trinidad & Tobago, this Centre caters for the homeless. It continues to offer as its services, sleeping accommodation, meals and some measure of rehabilitation as well as counseling.

A Homeless Committee, Church Groups and a few volunteers assist as a support to the staff providing a twenty-four (24) hour service.

The Social Displacement Unit, a department established by the Ministry liaises with the Centre re: Independent Living Programme & Health Services.

HOMES FOR THE AGED

Our Homes for the Aged continue to provide shelter, care, concern and comfort to the male and female aged who are able-bodied. When unable to continue taking care of themselves or due to failing health, they are transferred to the Finbar Ryan Geriatric Home.

Residents continue to attend S.V.P. and other functions during the year. Beach outings, tea parties, birthday parties etc. Indoor activities include Eucharistic services held periodically, Holy Mass, reciting of the Rosary, visits by members of prayer groups, S.V.P. and other organizations. These provide upliftment and self-worth to our residents. The Homes enjoy the visits of volunteers and the assistance is always of tremendous value to us.

Gradually repairs, replacements, additional security are added to the Homes all for the benefit of making the lives of our residents more comfortable and safe.

THE SAN FERNANDO HOME has been moving nearer to rebuilding. Site preparation has begun and quotes from contractors are being sought.

PENAL HOME involved in discussions for sometime with regards to rebuilding has had promises from the Corporation and Powergen but due to Budgetary allocations has not borne fruit to date.

**TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR INSTITUTIONS
TAKE CARE OF THE HOMELESS**