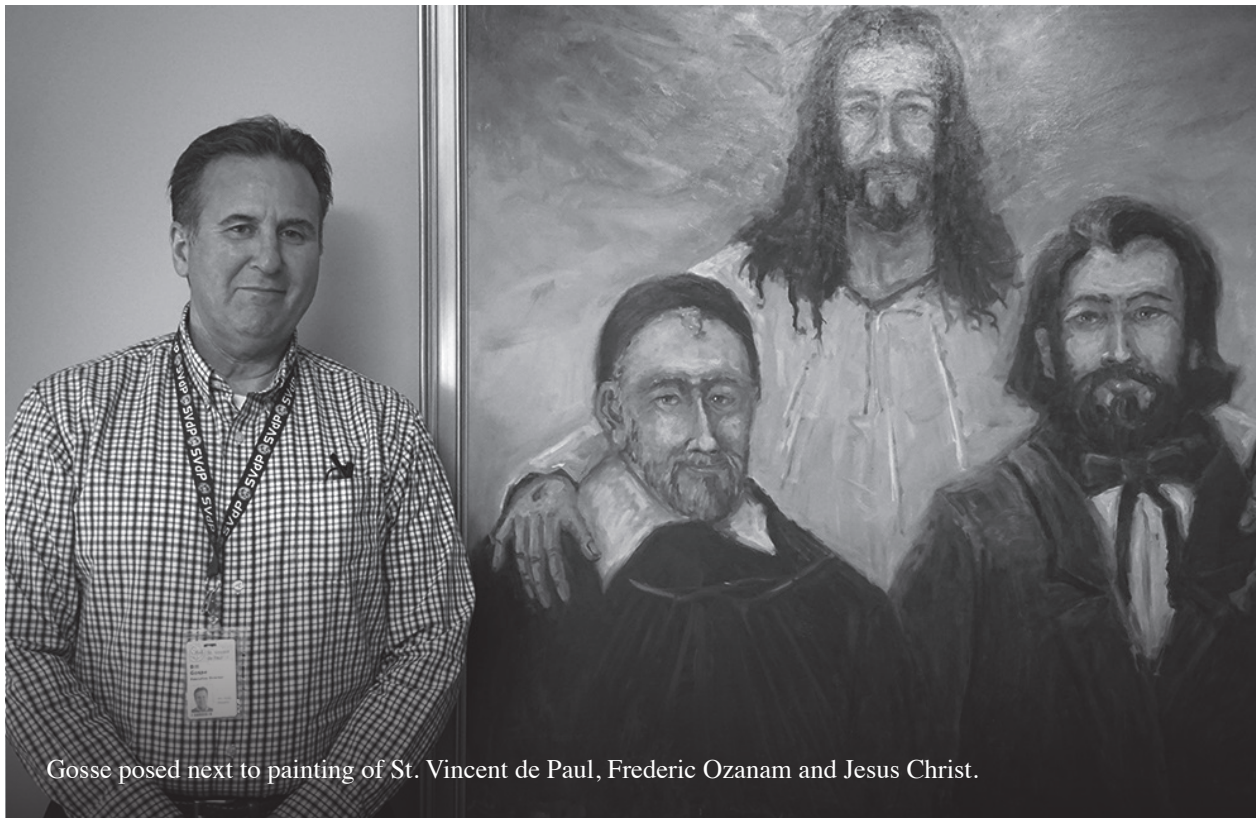


# Member spotlight – St. Vincent de Paul Green Bay



Gosse posed next to painting of St. Vincent de Paul, Frederic Ozanam and Jesus Christ.

Many of us know the local St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) for its thrift shops throughout the community. It's these storefronts and other partnerships that allow the organization to serve as a "true charity" to the Greater Green Bay community.

The organization's fundamental goal is to help people with emergent care, said Bill Gosse, executive director of SVDP Green Bay. SVDP donates everything from gas cards to dog food, with no set limit on what it can give.

"Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul make a point to ask: "How best can I help someone right now?" said Gosse. "No act of charity is foreign to us."

Gosse became involved with SVDP Green Bay in part because of his experiences witnessing homeless people on late-night walks home from baseball practice at Marquette University. "I can't imagine living on the street," says Gosse, "I can't imagine wondering where I am going to sleep tonight... what I am going to eat today. But seeing those people helped me understand and be empathetic toward others who need our help."

Though many SVDPs operate without thrift stores, the Green Bay District Council puts the money they earn from donations at the four local thrift stores--the newest being in Howard--toward their "systematic change" programs. These are classes and workshops designed to educate a variety of people, as well as help those in need find and prepare for jobs.

The Bridges out of Poverty program is a day-long workshop educating people on what it's like to live in poverty. The Getting Ahead program is a 16- to 20-week course designed to help struggling individuals work through challenges with the help of a mentor while local parishes provide meals for the workshops. The Back2Work program partners with local corporations to provide paid internships and job opportunities for people out of work or those looking for better-paying work. Immersion is a program that helps formerly incarcerated people transition back into the workforce and will soon expand to help them acquire places to live as well.

Gosse states that the programs can help anyone "who want[s] to change and

move past their time of poverty.... We will be the biggest cheerleaders they have ever had."

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has temporarily decreased the number of available seats in these workshops. However, Gosse is excited for the return of the "Vincentians" (the name for the SVDP home visit volunteers) special visits once conditions are safer. SVDP continues to accept donations at all four Green Bay locations, with gently used furniture being in great demand.

SVDP Green Bay hopes to expand its programs to help area veterans, as well as partner with more corporations in the Back2Work program. The organization is also hoping to implement a transitional living program to provide homes for people who need a temporary place to live.

"For me, the most rewarding aspect has been to work for a worthy cause," reflects Gosse.

For more information on St. Vincent de Paul Green Bay or to see store hours, visit [svdpgb.org](http://svdpgb.org).

## CHAMBER EVENTS AT A GLANCE

### Current Young Professionals After 5: Mixology: Mix & Mingle

Thursday, April 1, 6-8 p.m.

Join Current Young Professionals for the April After 5 virtual cocktail party with crafty guest bartender. Must be 21 and older to drink.

FREE for CYP members, \$5 for guests.

### 2021 Legacy of Leadership Virtual Celebration & Fundraiser

Monday, April 5 – Thursday, April 8

Leadership Green Bay is hosting the annual Legacy of Leadership event as a virtual Facebook event over the course of four days. More information is available at [GreaterGBC.org/Legacy](http://GreaterGBC.org/Legacy).

FREE to all.

### Virtual Power Networking Breakfast

Tuesday, April 6, 7:30-9 a.m.

Join us for a virtual opportunity to introduce your company and what you do in a two-minute round robin style networking session. This is a great way to practice that new elevator pitch and meet other Chamber members.

FREE for members, \$35 for nonmembers.

### Above and beyond healthcare benefits to enhance a caring culture

Tuesday, April 13, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join our virtual discussion with area experts on the importance of a healthy workforce and the resources and benefits that are available. The webinar will include action items for creating a caring culture, decision-making strategies and examples of businesses working with their employees.

\$15 for members, \$30 for nonmembers.

Learn more about all events at  
[events.gretergbc.org](http://events.gretergbc.org)