



®



The Amélie Ozanam Legacy Society
at St Vincent de Paul of Seattle | King County



Frédéric & Amélie

In the heart of 19th-century France, amid the upheaval of revolution and the cries of the poor, two souls found each other by divine providence. Frédéric Ozanam, a brilliant scholar and passionate advocate for the poor, and Amélie Soulacroix, a woman of grace and quiet strength. Their life together, so rooted in our Catholic faith, created a legacy that has echoed far beyond their own time.

At the age of 20, Frédéric gathered a handful of Catholic students to answer a challenge: “What is your church doing for the poor?” With quiet conviction, they began visiting families in desperate need, bringing food, warmth, and dignity—not as charity, but as acts of justice and friendship—and the Society of St Vincent de Paul was born.

Ever since, our Society has walked alongside the suffering, responding with humility and compassion to those on the margins.

As the founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Frederic saw Christ in the poor, the forgotten, and the voiceless. In Amélie Soulacroix, he saw the same spirit—compassion, devotion, and a deep commitment to the Church.

When they married in 1841, it was a union sanctified by a shared mission to serve. In a letter to his cousin, Frederic wrote fondly of his bride:

“...and in her sweet company, that knowing and lively kindness, that Christian union under the eye of God, I have found the only kind of good fortune which does not dry up.”

Frederic and Amélie saw their love as a vocation—not for themselves alone, but for the service of others.

As we know, their time together was brief. Frédéric, never strong in health, grew increasingly ill, and in 1853, at just 40 years old, he died in Amélie’s arms.

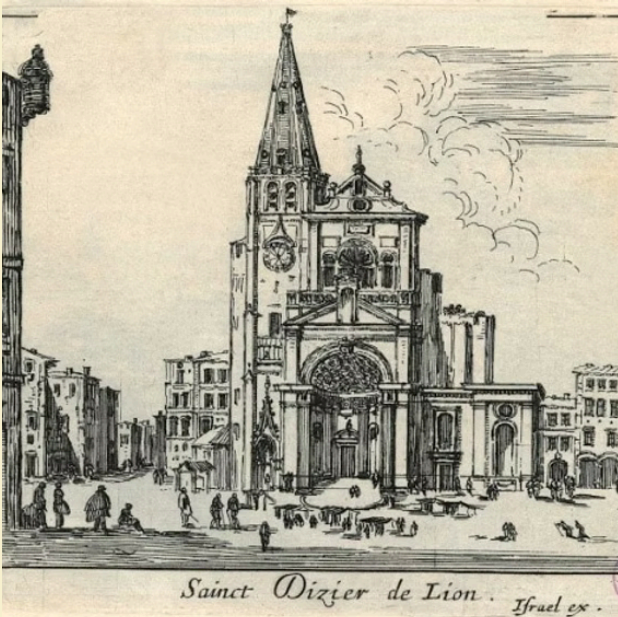
Yet this was not the end of their story.

(cont.)

“

It is God indeed, who in His grace, brought us together, otherwise we should not have been so happy.

”



Frederic and Amélie were married in the church of Saint-Nizier in Lyons, 1841.

Amid her grief, Amélie chose not to retreat from life, nor to remarry, though she was still quite young. Instead, she consecrated the rest of her life to a quiet but powerful mission: **preserving Frédéric's legacy.**

For the next 35 years, Amélie dedicated her life to gathering, editing, and publishing Frédéric's writings and letters.

She preserved his works and encouraged the continued growth of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, while raising their only daughter with a profound awareness of her father's life's work.

Before Amélie was 74, she knew she was approaching the end of her life, and in an excerpt from one of her prayers, wrote:

"Let me be reunited promptly with my beloved, and let us, O Lord, behold and worship you together for all eternity."

In 1894, Amélie was buried beside her beloved Frédéric, leaving behind a legacy of her own - legacy of unwavering love, of self-sacrifice, of a life entirely given to God through the vocation of marriage.

Their story is a testimony: that faith can endure loss without despair, and that love, when rooted in Christ, is stronger than death.

"It is for [friendship] that in Paris we wished to found our little Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and it is also for this reason perhaps that Heaven has seen fit to bless it."



Amélie understood that what Frédéric had built was not meant for one moment in time - it was meant to endure.

At St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle | King County, we stand in this same lineage.

Our Vincentians feed the hungry, visit the lonely, and comfort the suffering because we believe, as Frédéric did, that every person deserves to be seen, heard, and loved.

Like Amélie, we are called to look beyond the needs of today, to preserve and protect this mission so that it can continue long after us.

A Society of Friends

In the chill of winter, a young man from Chicago, Charles Albert, stepped into a city in flux and founded Washington's first St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Within a year, that spark ignited a movement.

From the beginning, SVdP crystallized our mission and values: personal, neighbor-to-neighbor service; rooted in dignity and compassion for all those facing hardship.

Foundations of Service

1920s: First SVdP Conference in Washington founded at St. Benedict by Charles Albert.

Founded the Filipino Club in 1920, offering community and guidance to thousands of young men arriving to work who, though treated as immigrants, were US nationals.

1921: Conferences established at St. Alphonsus, St. James, Blessed Sacrament, and Immaculate Conception.

1926: First SVdP Thrift Store "The Salvage Bureau" opens at First & Battery.

1931: The "Food Depot" opens to distribute food and critical supplies to families.



Growth Amid Crisis

1945: Council reaches 30 active conferences; Salvage Bureau destroyed by fire.

1950s: After L.J. Esterman—lawyer, mentor, and later Benedictine priest—passed away, the Society established the Esterman Fund to help local Conferences meet special community needs.

1960s: SVdP invents Bundle Sundays—parish lot collection drives.

1963: Celebrates 150th birthday of founder Frédéric Ozanam.



Innovation and Adaptation

1970: Boeing layoffs strain local families

1977: Council approves new store and office at Fairview & South Lake Union.

1980: Women officially welcomed into SVdP membership.

1983: SVdP marks 150 years of global service.

1986: Pat Meehan becomes first female Council President.

1990: S Lake Union Salvage Bureau closes after 45 years.

1993–1994: Council buys and renovates property at 5950 4th Ave S; holds first capital campaign; SVdP named Seattle's Outstanding Human Service Organization.

Transformation and Impact

By 2000s: Over 80% of those served are non-Catholic.

2003: Council renames to Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle | King County.

2010: First Strategic Plan approved; revenue from grants and donors surpasses \$500K.

2012: Hosts National SVdP Convention in Seattle.

2013: Launches Centro Rendu to serve Latino and Hispanic families.

2019: Helpline handles 40,000 calls and 10,000 online requests annually.

2020: Celebrate 100 years in King County on the verge of another global pandemic, COVID 19.



“Your founder's vision of service brings renewal to the Church” - Pope Francis

2025 - 2030 Strategic Renewal Plan

St. Vincent de Paul recently launched our new five year Strategic Renewal Plan, which focuses on improving organizational effectiveness and capacity across all areas to ensure that SVdP remains resilient, mission-focused, and capable of addressing the evolving needs of our neighbors and our community for decades to come.

105 YEARS OF SERVICE



Seattle, Today

From those first visits to parish homes, SVdP in Seattle crystallized our mission and values: personal, neighbor-to-neighbor service; rooted in faith and dignity; sustained by innovation and community bonds.

That foundation, laid in the 1920s, still hums beneath every visit, connecting a century of care throughout the Puget Sound Region.

Last year, the SVdP Crisis Helpline received nearly 40,000 urgent requests for help.

*Over **900 Vincentian volunteers** form **48 local Conferences**, performing nearly **16,000 in-person home visits** each year.*

*Vincentians distributed **\$2.1 million dollars in rent assistance**, to keep families in their homes, preventing eviction and avoiding homelessness.*

*Vincentians dedicated over **84,000 hours to serving neighbors in need.***

*Over **\$580,000 in-kind goods and services** were provided by Vincentians, including food, basic necessities, mattresses, and clothing.*

*Case managers and Vincentians provided over **\$36,000 in thrift vouchers** to obtain clothing, household goods, furniture, and more.*

*The Georgetown Food Bank distributed **476,653 pounds of food** to neighbors in need with **39,585 total assistances.***

*Case managers exceeded **3,000 hours of in-person meetings**, partnering closely with our neighbors to find practical solutions to their unique financial challenges.*

*The ReRoute program helped **303 at-risk youth** improve their grades, work through behavioral issues, and build supportive relationships with peers and mentors.*

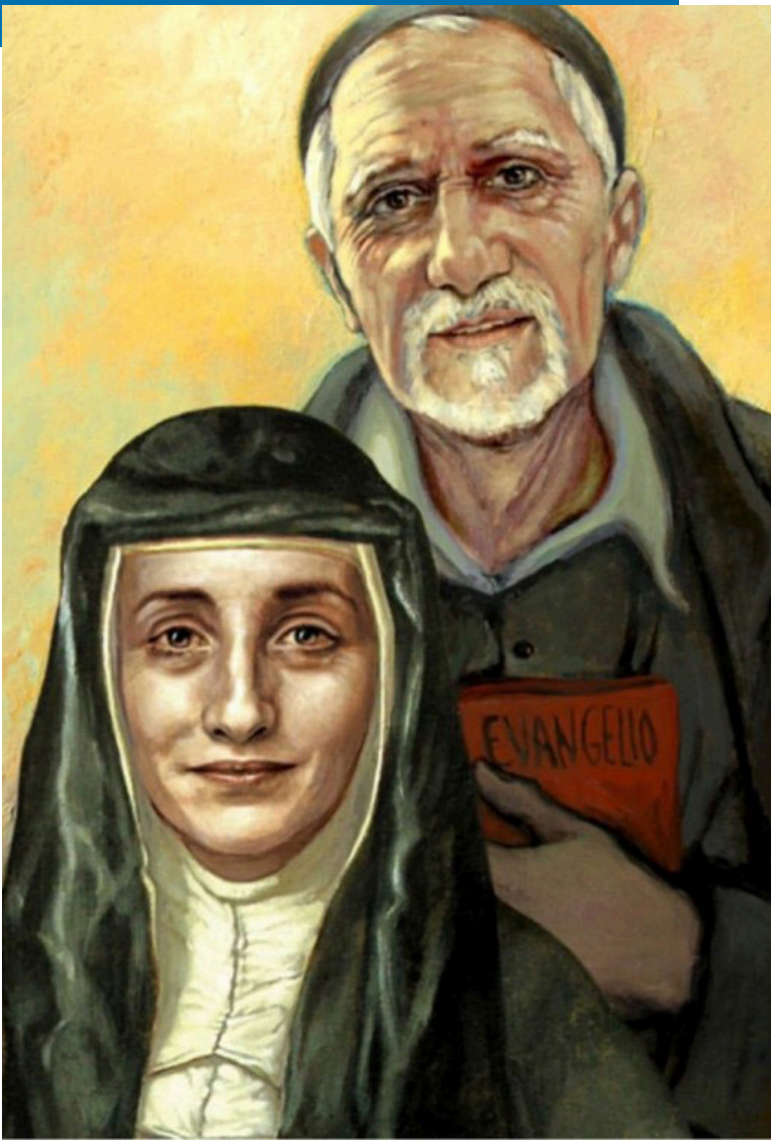
*Centro Rendu's Adult Education, ESL, GED, and high school completion guided **1,705 adult learners** toward quality employment opportunities.*

*'De Colores' Early Childhood team made **1,080 home visits**, creating a trusting community with parents of children age 0-5.*



At SVdP of Seattle | King County, we deliver on the Promise of Hope.





Leave a Legacy of Faith, Hope, and Love

From the work of our Founders to the thousands of families we serve each year today, our mission endures because of people like you: compassionate supporters who believe in preserving dignity, restoring hope, and walking alongside those in need.

The forms of assistance may have evolved, **but the heart of the work has not changed.** We meet people where they are, see them as our neighbors, and give willingly in respect and friendship.

You have supported St. Vincent de Paul's work with the poor while bringing God's presence to your family, your faith community, and the world at large.

"Human actions become actions of God when they are performed in Him and through Him."

– St Vincent de Paul

We ask you now to prayerfully consider joining the Amélie Ozanam Legacy Society by including the Society of St Vincent de Paul Council of Seattle | King County in your charitable work.

Such a gift is more than a financial act—it is a spiritual commitment. It says that you believe, as our founders did, that service to the poor is inseparable from service to God; that the mission is worth preserving; and that your faith is best expressed not only in the world you inhabit today, but in the one you help shape for tomorrow.

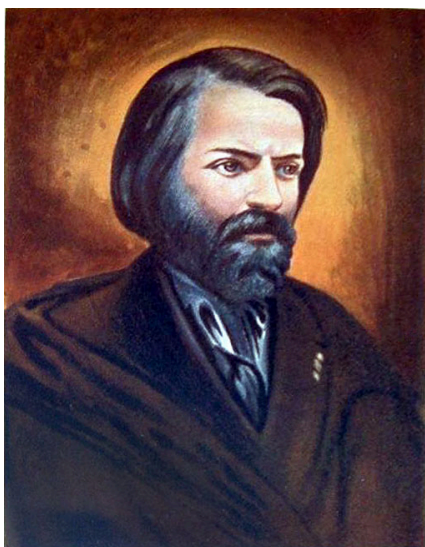
Leave a Legacy of Faith, Hope, and Love

By joining the Legacy Society, you do more than give—you become a living part of our history and hope, and help carry forward **a mission rooted in faith and proven in action.**

Securing the Future

In honor of Amelie Ozanam, whose quiet strength sustained Frédéric and their shared devotion to the poor, the Amelie Circle honors those whose transformative generosity - through **major gifts, endowments, capital support, and lasting bequests** - preserves the mission of the Society for generations to come, and ensuring that our capacity to serve is never diminished by time or circumstance.

These gifts are our quiet anchors—investments that hold steady through storms and generations, so the mission remains unshaken. These are stewards of legacy, building a foundation for the future with faith and foresight.



Responding Today

Inspired by Frédéric Ozanam's call to "embrace the world in a network of charity," these gifts recognize those who sustain the Society's daily work, ensuring ongoing operations and supports the SVdP 'Network of Care'.

We honor those whose commitment fuels immediate impact—meeting urgent needs, home visits, food and basic needs, eviction prevention support, and local outreach—through **recurring donations, IRA distributions, and ongoing, sustained support.**

These gifts are the pulse of our mission in motion. Its members give in ways that keep the Society agile, responsive, and deeply embedded in the life of the community. Their steady commitment powers the small miracles of everyday service—the meal delivered tonight, the eviction prevented tomorrow, the neighbor who feels seen and valued.

This is the heartbeat of our mission: ensuring no knock at the door goes unanswered.

Wills, Bequests, Trusts, and Beneficiary Designations

A carefully planned will forms the basis of your estate plan. A charitable bequest is a clear direction in one's estate plan documents to make a specific gift from an estate, and a bequest is generally a 'revocable gift', which means it can be changed or modified at any time.

You can designate a bequest for a general or specific purpose so you have peace of mind knowing that your gift will be used as intended.

We can help you help you work with your retirement plan administrator, insurance company, bank or financial institution to name SVdP as a beneficiary of bank accounts, IRAs, Life insurance policies or commercial annuities.

Donor-Advised Funds

You can make a gift directly through your Donor-Advised Fund using the DAF Direct portal on our website. Visit: www.svdPseattle.org/donate-to-us/planned-giving and click the blue button titled "Give through DAF Direct" at the bottom of the page.

IRAs and Qualified Charitable Distributions

When you reach age 70½, you can take advantage of making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA. An IRA qualified charitable distribution allows you to make a gift up to \$108,000 annually from your IRA to SVdP and avoid income taxes on the distribution.

Even if you don't itemize your federal tax return and take the standard deduction, you can still avoid taxes with this type of gift. You can make qualified distributions up to \$108,000 per individual or \$216,000 per couple each year to help people in need.

Gifts of Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds

Benefits of transferring stock directly:

- A charitable tax deduction on the full, fair market value of the securities on the date of the gift.
- Avoid paying capital gains tax on the stock's appreciation if you owned it for more than a year.
- Designate funds toward a specific program or toward the most urgent need
- SVdP will receive the full value of your generosity.

Note: Make sure you transfer the stock directly to SVdP versus selling it and then sending the proceeds. The value of a gift of stock is based on the average selling price on the day the stock is transferred.

Please reach out to begin the conversation about making your gift, and to learn more about the Amelie Ozanam Legacy Society.

Lisa Hubert

Associate Director of Development & Communications
(360) 900-9280 | LisaH@svdPseattle.org



2025 Bridge to the Future Campaign

St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle | King County is launching what we are calling the “Bridge to the Future” Campaign—a **critical short-term effort to preserve and strengthen our essential services in 2025 while laying the groundwork for a transformative capital campaign in 2026.**



During the COVID-19 pandemic, community needs surged dramatically—and have remained high ever since. Families who lost income, housing, or childcare have not yet fully recovered, and the economic ripple effects continue to impact the most vulnerable.

Yet, emergency public funding that largely supported this work—federal, state, and local relief dollars—have scaled back or been eliminated entirely.

As pandemic-era support vanishes, needs have not diminished. If anything, they have grown more complex and entrenched. As a result, new funding is needed to respond to the persistent crisis conditions in our communities. Across King County, individuals and families are facing deepening hardship. What were once considered temporary crises have become long-term conditions for thousands of our neighbors — conditions that demand a robust, coordinated, compassionate, and sustained response.

Without immediate investment, we risk losing ground at a time when our neighbors need us most. The Bridge to the Future campaign —targeting \$1.35 million in urgent needs—is designed to prevent service reductions, sustain and extend staff capacity, address vital infrastructure repairs, and keep our network responsive and resilient in the face of escalating community hardship.

Learn more about the Bridge to the Future.

Mirya Muñoz-Roach

Executive Director

(253) 394-1433

MiryaR@SVDPSeattle.org



The Society of St Vincent de Paul Council of Seattle | King County is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Donations to SVdP Seattle | King County are deductible. The Council's tax identification number is 91-0583891.

“

*Go into the house
of the poor, you
will find God
there.”*

– St. Vincent de Paul



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COUNCIL OF SEATTLE | KING COUNTY

5950 4th AVE S, SEATTLE, WA 98108 • 206-686-7677

www.svdpseattle.org