



Rough Start to the New Year

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Prepares to Respond to Multiple Disasters



Tornado damage in Rowlett, Texas.
Photo: Liz Disco-Shearer



Flooding during the Christmas holiday in St. Louis, Mo. Photo: Catholic News Service/ Sid Hastings

The beginning of 2016 (as well as the end of 2015) brought severe winter storms, including tornadoes, and the resulting flooding is affecting much of the country. While it is still early in the process for the Society, we have strong indicators that the Society will be providing long-term assistance to families in perhaps 10 or more states in the near future. The water is still building downstream to more states and so numbers are not available just yet. As a result and to be prepared, we are appealing to the Vincentian Family to support the National Council's Domestic Disaster Fund.

We do not provide for immediate "first responder" services" from our Domestic Disaster Fund; however a Council can decide to do so on its own through existing resources. The Fund provides monies to help Councils and Conferences provide long-term housing, furniture and other assistance not covered by FEMA, American Red Cross and other short-term resources.

To support SVdP relief efforts, visit the National Council's secure donation page and [Donate Now](#).

The SVdP DSD and local Councils/Conferences are currently responding to disasters in:

- Alabama
- California
- Illinois
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- Oklahoma
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas



**Tornado damage in
Rowlett, Texas.**

Photo: Liz Disco-Shearer

Flooding may last only a day or two in a community but the impact can last for months, especially for poor families already in a flood-prone housing community. Resources from the government and first-responders may help but for only a few weeks, while displacement can be for weeks or months and compounded by the loss of so many possessions and sometimes even employment. Our Society of St. Vincent de Paul is often the community's only resort for such assistance. Our work will come in the next few weeks and months.



**An aerial view of flooding in
Union, Mo.**

Photo: Kate Munsch/ Reuters

I urge you to consider supporting the Domestic Disaster Fund. Checks should be sent to the National Office. Please be sure they are marked "Disaster Fund" so they will not be confused with solidarity payments or other funds.

National Council of the United States
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
58 Progress Parkway
Maryland Heights, MO 63043-3706
(Be sure to write "Disaster Fund" in the memo field.)

To support SVdP relief efforts, visit the National Council's secure donation page and [Donate Now](#).

Thank you for supporting this effort to help so many Americans affected by the winter storms and other disasters.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Barringer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dave Barringer
National CEO
U.S. Society of St. Vincent de Paul