

Dear Pastor Kelleher,

My name is Bill Schureck and I am President of Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Mary Help of Christians Conference, Parkland, Florida. Our conference serves Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the site of the Ash Wednesday shooting that killed 17 people.

I would like to formally recognize to you and your parish what an amazing St. Vincent de Paul conference your parish has. We were absolutely stunned to receive a call after the shooting and then a donation from them. Such a wonderful example of putting faith in action.

The money that your conference donated went directly towards the expenses of a family of a traumatized student that was facing eviction. I have more fully described the circumstances in a letter that I have attached.

Your conference is an inspiration to me and our members and will long be remembered here in Parkland. Please accept our utmost gratitude.

Bill Schureck



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
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April 30, 2018

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Blessed Sacrament Conference- Saint Margaret Conference
C/O Saugus Catholics Collaborative
14 Summer Street
Saugus, MA 01906
Attn: Presidents Dorothea A. Hensley & Simone Sarnie

Re: YOUR \$833 DONATION

Dear Dorothea & Simone;

I am writing to express our profound gratitude for your amazing act of kindness and generosity in thinking of our conference and our community. That we were in your prayers was quite enough, but your donation of \$833 went above and beyond.

I wanted to let you know what happened with your donation. The site of the shooting was Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the public high school that serves our parish and city. It happened in a building on campus that is mostly occupied by freshmen. 17 students and faculty were killed, others were wounded. The physical harm to life and limb was awful, but it also had a terrible emotional impact on those who were physically untouched, but present.

A few weeks ago we received an urgent call from Maria, who was about to be evicted. Her son was in the hallway at Douglas fleeing from the shooter. His teacher could have locked down his classroom and left the son in the hallway to fend for himself, but instead he held the classroom door open for him to escape. The teacher was shot and killed holding the door open.

The son attempted later to return to school, but passed out and had to be taken to a hospital. He cannot emotionally return to school and thus is at home. Maria cannot work because she is home with her son and is taking him for counseling and therapy; naturally, divorced father is not paying his share of child

support or alimony. There are state and private funds for victims but they are not paying out yet.

When we got to the family they were a week away from eviction, not to mention having their car repossessed and insurance canceled. Imagine what this family has been through with the shooting, then add financial ruin to that. We stepped up, and in a significant part because of your donation were able to keep the family in their home and take care of other bills.

Thank you again for your kindness and generosity. We are so touched by it and please let your members know how much we appreciate it. The family we served has such a long road ahead, but we were able to give them some badly needed peace of mind that will hopefully help them carry through.

Sincerely,

Bill Schureck
President
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Mary Help of Christians Conference