



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Home Visit Tips and Best Practices

MANAGE EXPECTATIONS

- Reassure client that everything you discuss is confidential, but ask them if it is okay for you to talk to other agencies and vendors (i.e.: apartment manager, water company, etc.) on their behalf. If yes, have them sign a Client Release form.
- Explain that you are volunteers. It is important the client to understand that you are employed by the Society.
- Explain that you are not a trained Social Worker.
- Explain that you are not authorized to promise any financial assistance at that time. You will discuss their situation at the next group meeting and will find out at that time if any financial assistance can be made.
- Explain the financial assistance guidelines set by your Conference. (i.e.: "If we are able to help you this time, we won't be able to provide financial assistance again for 12 months.")
- Tell them when they can expect to hear back from you and contact them when you say you will.

INTERVIEW TIPS

- Ask what caused them to get behind and be a willing listener
- Be friendly and respectful – don't interrogate!
- Do not ask if they are a US citizen but you can ask if they have access governmental assistance such as food stamps.
- Ask how they intend to cover their expenses next month – make sure their game plan is feasible.
- If the situation deems it, help the client face reality. Try to offer options – do they have family they can move in with until their finances can be stabilized? Be compassionate and understanding of their crisis.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul Home Visit Prayers

SAMPLE PRAYERS BEFORE THE HOME VISIT:

- Father, we ask you to provide all that we need as we do the work you have given us. Fill our hearts with your love, help us to listen with compassion and to speak with kindness and confidence. Clear the way before us, so that those we visit will be able to receive not only the material goods, but also our love and blessing.
- Jesus, we are going out in obedience to your command to love. We pray for the grace to love with purity and strength, not mindful of our own comfort or honor, but seeking to comfort and honor those who have called out to us. We ask your peace on their household and your help in being peacemakers.
- Holy Spirit, inspire us with joy and patience. Be at work in us to bring good news to the downcast, to heal the brokenhearted, to be witnesses of the love of Christ. Stir in us the fire of your love, and guide us with discernment, and wisdom, generosity and kindness.

SAMPLE PRAYERS AT THE END OF THE HOME VISIT:

- Lord Jesus, we thank you for the opportunity to assist [Their Name(s)] in this time of need. Strengthen and guide us all each day. Give us an awareness of your presence in our lives. Help [Their Name(s)] to walk the path with you that will lead to the resolution of these present needs and concerns. Amen.
- Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this call, thank you for the opportunity to meet with [Their Names], our brother and sister in Christ, Lord you know each of us. You knew us from the day we were born, you know our hearts, our needs, and everything about us. You told us that you will never leave us or forsake us. You ask us to seek and ye shall find, knock and the door will be opened, ask and it shall be given. We are all asking today for each of our needs, some spoken, some on our hearts. Please Lord, help us find our needs, show us the way, and help us all walk closer to you. Thank you again for this call. In your name and for your sake. Amen.

SAMPLE PRAYER FOLLOWING THE HOME VISIT:

- Thank you Lord for all the blessings you have given today. We ask you to continue to bless the ones we have visited, to inspire them to trust in you and come to you for their needs. We pray for [Names of each person and specific needs]. We pray that our work may be continued by your other servants and completed by your Grace. Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen