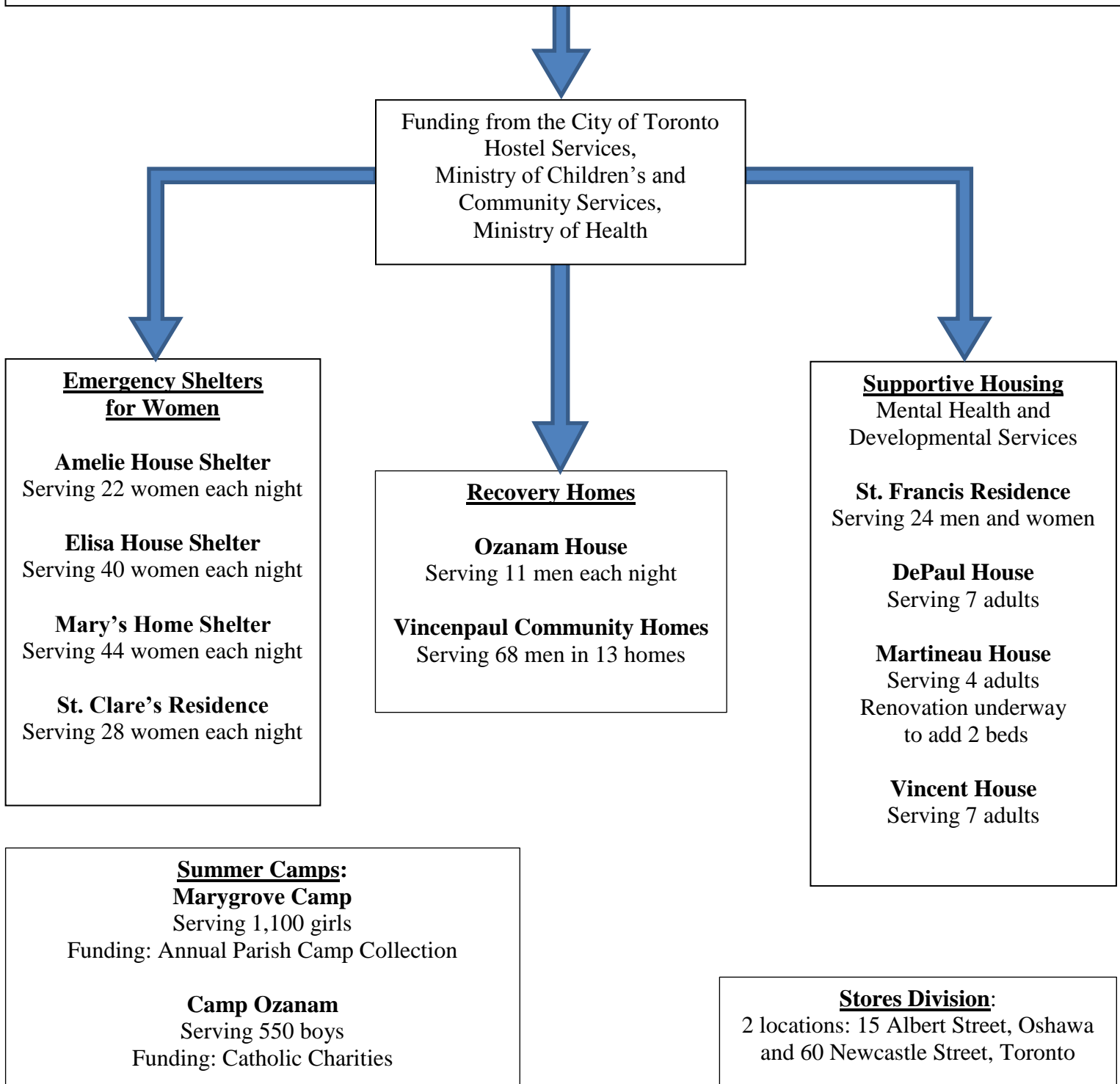


Executive Director's Report to the Membership of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Toronto Central Council 2018/19

The **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Toronto Central Council** continues its commitment to serving the most vulnerable through our Special Works programs. Largely focused on housing, the Special Works operate in contractual partnership with various levels of government receiving annual funding for the provision of emergency and longer term housing to individuals who may otherwise find themselves without safe housing.



The Special Works are managed by an experienced, competent team who embody the philosophy and traditions of the Society through their continued commitment to providing the highest quality care to our most vulnerable. This past year, the team was challenged by the funders introducing increased quality assurance measures, new standards and increased legislation in areas of program service and health and safety. Our Central Council staff supports the Special Works staff, coordinates the registration of campers, manages payroll services to the 300 plus employees, provides financial reports to funders, manages accounts receivables, tracks donations, maintains the 1,400 Vincentian member database and makes referrals for the home visitation program through the conferences.

Several committees assist the Board in their efforts, lending expertise, experience and support in areas of Finance, Governance, Spirituality and the Camps. After a three year period, the Society is about to embark on its first fully dedicated Corporate Board, focusing largely on the funded programs of the Society, thereby allowing the soon to be implemented Vincentian Council to focus on our neighbours in need, our membership and conference development.

The Spirituality Committee has worked alongside our Spiritual Advisor Monsignor Bianco and with the membership to develop a Spiritual Facilitator program, encouraging Vincentians or like-minded individuals to accept this important role in their own Conference or Council.

We continue to be blessed by a host of benefactors, committed Vincentians, supportive pastors, energetic volunteers and dedicated staff to help us carry out our mission of person to person service to those who find themselves most in need. While we find ourselves challenged at time by a lack of human resources, lack of time or lack of progress, let us remember the words of St. Vincent de Paul:

*“Nature makes trees
put down deep roots
before having them
bear fruit, and even
this is done
gradually.”*

~ St. Vincent de Paul



Prayer, patience and perseverance will help us to continue to serve our neighbours in need as we embrace the Society's mission of “serving in hope”.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Coutu
Executive Director