



"Ask Mike"
SVdP Chicago's very own Vice President Mike Syslo answers common questions Vincentians are asking to help them serve their neighbors in need!

Have a question? Email us:
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Q: Our conference had a couple of conversations during our meetings regarding providing friends in need with gas cards. We currently provide a \$50.00 gas card to our friends with a limit of every three months. During our meeting, it was brought up that there may be a liability to St. Vincent DePaul if we provide this type of benefit. This provision helps our friends with getting to work or any appointments needed. It can only be used for gas. Is providing a gas card something we should be able to provide and are there any guidelines we should be following?

A: *The only special qualifications that we are concerned with are ensuring the driver is licensed and insured before giving them the gas cards.*

Q: We received a request for help with rent from an undocumented mom with two children. Are we allowed to help them if they are undocumented? I'm being told there are legal ramifications in helping people here illegally. What is the stance on this with SVDP?

A: *Our approach is: Don't ask if they are documented or not. Period. Then help as you see fit. Keep in mind that in our ministry, our purpose is to help people in need, not send them away. That is why we have a non-discrimination policy that says we help everyone.*