



THE 13 HOUSES CAMPAIGN HANDBOOK

Global Collaboration – Local Solutions

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INTRODUCTION

Your project is part of the 13 Houses Campaign of the Famvin Homeless Alliance (FHA), what does that mean? We hope this handbook answers your questions. If you need any further information, please write to fha.campaign@famvin.org.

1 - WHAT IS THE 13 HOUSES CAMPAIGN?

An FHA initiative to promote collaboration among the Vincentian Family branches on projects focusing on one objective: ending homelessness. The Campaign has the vision to reach all countries where there is a Vincentian presence. Its objective is to touch 10.000 lives in 3-5 years. It started 3 years ago, in November 2018



One of the houses in Little Rock, Arkansas, where the campaign began

2 - WHAT IS THE FAMVIN HOMELESS ALLIANCE?

An initiative born out of the will of Vincentian Family leadership to celebrate the 400 years of the Vincentian charism in 2017, and to carry it forward: take care spiritually and corporally of the poorest of the poor, the most marginalized in societies worldwide.

The 2017 celebrations invited all Vincentians “to welcome the stranger”. In order to carry forward that message in a concrete way, the Vincentian Family Executive Committee entrusted Depaul International – a Vincentian Family branch with 30 years of experience on addressing homelessness – with the mobilization of Vincentians worldwide on this issue.

The 13 Houses Campaign is part of the FHA strategy to end homelessness which comprises: supporting established and emerging homelessness initiatives across the globe, doing advocacy at the United Nations, and mobilizing Vincentians in particular but also key stakeholders in the Catholic Church. The FHA understands homelessness as those living on the street, refugees and those displaced from their home, and slum dwellers in inadequate housing. We are guided by the definition promoted by the Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH), approved in February 2020 at the United Nations, precisely thanks to the Vincentian Family advocacy in which the IGH and the FHA take part

To learn more about the strategy, please click the following links: [About the Alliance](#) or [Famvin Homeless Alliance Strategic Plan 2022 - 2024](#).

3 - WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PART OF THE "13 HOUSES" CAMPAIGN?

We hope that whenever possible, you will talk about your project, as part of the global effort of the Vincentian Family and the Vincentian movement. Below, what it means to be part of this global Vincentian Campaign and some arguments that can help you to promote your project but also the Campaign:

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Fr Tomaz Mavric CM, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission

- You are running a **project to address the needs of homeless populations in your community**, and that you put an emphasis on systemic change: your objective is **to transform the lives of those people by providing care, safety, community, warmth, hope, a future**; in the spirit of what **St Vincent provided to the foundlings 400 years ago**, through his 13 houses.
- Your project can be mainly about providing a sheltering structure (house, apartment, shelter), but **your systemic change approach** drives you to also act other needs that will address the difficulties faced by people living some form of homelessness, like training, livelihood opportunities, or health issues.
- You are part of a Vincentian organization, and you most probably have a community of fellow Vincentians around you on whom to count. But **you might be looking for more specialized information on homelessness**; for answers to some questions you may have on what must be done differently so that the marginalized population

you work with gets back on its feet; for the experiences of other Vincentians who have tried before you to solve similar issues.

- You are **in contact with other Vincentian branches** and are seeking to work together on homelessness. You may think what you do is very local, and specific. But through the FHA 13 Houses Campaign, **your project is part of a worldwide effort to end homelessness, the Vincentian way.** The center of the 13 Houses projects are the homeless populations and their spiritual and material needs. And your **13 Houses project must seek the collaboration amongst Vincentian Family branches** present locally or nationally, as a way to strengthen the effects of your project. Furthermore, collaboration beyond the VF, with local strategic partners and stakeholders, is also an important feature of 13 Houses projects.
- **Your project is part of the milestones** mentioned below. You can claim to be part of that worldwide effort to end homelessness through the Vincentian Family network, composed of 4 million people worldwide. We hope this may strengthen your arguments when seeking support, and funding, within your local or national community.

We encourage you to actively brand your project a part of the 13 Houses Campaign, marking it with the plaque and using the logo on material and information you produce and when you present or speak about it publicly, especially if you are talking with the media. We only ask you to please check with us first before publications are made using it.

FHA hopes to support you in various ways so that you are successful in preventing and ending homelessness in your community. FHA will seek to connect you with other Vincentian experiences, to support your initiatives and provide different ways of addressing the different issues at stake. **But FHA needs to be in touch with you.** You and your team register in FHA's mailing list, and you inform us on relevant developments of your project.

FHA team will seek to make your project succeed in addressing those needs in a sustained and sustainable manner. Fundraising, communication opportunities, connection with partners are part of the services FHA seeks to provide you with.

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4 - 13 HOUSES CAMPAIGN MILESTONES (AS OF OCTOBER 2020)

- 1 Conference in Rome (October 2018) gathered over 100 Vincentians from around the globe and launched the Campaign.
- 5281 homeless people helped so far. Target groups reached: street dwellers including street children, slum dwellers, refugees, internally displaced, victims of natural catastrophes.
- Presence in 40 countries.
- 54 projects at some stage of development.
- Approximately 2004 houses built or repaired or housing opportunities provided.
- A timely response to the 2020 Covid19 pandemic with [18 initiatives](#) in 16 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

Please check the latest numbers before using them; they are regularly updated on [our website](#).



5 FHA KEY MESSAGES

KEY FIGURES

There are no hard numbers on global homelessness. Currently, countries and cities all define homelessness differently. Getting global definition and measurement are the goals of our United Nations advocacy. However, we do have some estimates:

- The last time a count was attempted by the United Nations in 2005, said that 100 million are "without a place to live" and more than 1 billion are "inadequately housed"; the UN also estimates that this will grow as a result of conflict, natural disaster and urbanization. And more recently, of the pandemic.
- By the end of 2016, **65.6 million** people were considered to be **forcibly displaced by conflict or violence**.
- **24.2 million** people have been forced to flee their homes in 2016 **as a result of natural disasters**.

You may find the sources for these figures in the papers published [on our website](#).

FHA MOTTO

"That everyone may have a place to call home and a stake in their community". This represents the vision of the FHA.

13 HOUSES MOTTO

"Help us end homelessness – One house at a time". This phrase points to the fact that it is possible to act locally and have a global impact. It demonstrates how your local efforts are linked to the efforts of the larger worldwide community of people who want to end homelessness.

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MEANING OF THE FHA LOGO

The various layers of the roof refer to the different types of homeless populations: refugees, slum dwellers, people living on the streets, and people left homeless after natural catastrophes. The word “famvin” refers to the Vincentian Family. The word alliance in three different languages shows the global nature of our initiative, which seeks to involve the wider Vincentian Family.



MEANING OF THE 13 HOUSES LOGO

The logo echoes the FHA logo. The number 13 refers to St Vincent's experience 400 years ago, when he established 13 houses to take care of abandoned children.



13 HOUSES PLAQUE

It is an image of St Vincent's face. It symbolizes our common tradition and values as Vincentians, and also the charism we want to carry forward.

It was designed to make it easy to print locally, in whatever form is most convenient for you. It was also designed to be discreet and respectful of the different cultures you may be working in, in order to avoid any security threats to the beneficiaries of the project.

If appropriate in your context, you may want to combine it with the FHA logo to relate it to the worldwide Vincentian Family initiative. In the articles published by the FHA, you can see how the plaque adapts to different contexts. If you have questions about how to do it, please contact us.



DIGITAL RESOURCES

2020 Videos published with 13 Houses messages

[The 13 Houses Campaign \(6'24"\)](#) - Produced by FHA, subtitled in 8 languages.

[The Vincentian Family \(27'50"\)](#) - Produced by EWTN in English. Description of the 13 Houses Campaign within the larger context of today's Vincentian Family.

[Vincentian Family's fight against poverty continues despite COVID-19 \(3'09"\)](#) - Produced by Rome Reports, in English.

[Striving to be "social poets": the FHA response to Covid 19 \(3'07\)](#) – Produced by FHA, subtitled in 8 languages.

[Three years working together to end homelessness \(2'20\)](#) - Produced by FHA, subtitled in 8 languages.

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[Embracing the homeless in a network of charity \(2'58\)](#) - Produced by FHA.

You may find more literature on homelessness on our website: <https://vfhomelessalliance.org/documents/>

6 WE WELCOME YOUR COLLABORATION

Besides what you already do for the homeless, you can be of great help to the FHA.

Your reports, photos, testimonies are part of the hands-on experience of Vincentians in the world. We need to know about it, so that we can draw similarities in the challenges and in the responses given, and in this way, create an enabling and supportive environment for projects like yours to grow in other parts of the world.

You are doing precious work by addressing homelessness in your community. Do not be afraid to talk about it. Be an ambassador of the FHA within your Vincentian branch: report to superiors on your project, request their support, write a short article on your experience. Your testimony is precious to show we as Vincentians can work together on this common cause.

You can also talk about it to the local media: call the attention of the public on the causes of homelessness and the possible solutions, and request the help of authorities, religious groups, the community at large. Our communications office can help you to draft or retweet your message, article, video.

Mentioning you are part of a worldwide effort to end homelessness in the Vincentian way, can strengthen your message. You may use any of the numbers and data mentioned in this handbook or on our website.

If you are interviewed, or if you write an article, let us know; the FHA will be happy to retweet it. This is an important part of campaigning for our common cause of ending homelessness.



Perhaps in heaven you will discover that the good you are doing here is one of the most pleasing things you have ever done for God-

Vincent de Paul

