

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

From Feeling Unseen to Fully Supported: Nora's Tears of Joy



Nora has grown as a person and experienced stability for the past eight years.

"It's been great at St. Vincent de Paul," said Nora, who just turned 53 years old. "I've been opening up. I'm not stressed out as much as I was, trying to wonder what I'm going to feed my kids, where we're going to lay our heads. It took a whole lot of stress off me. St. Vincent has been so good to me. They talk to me. They understand me."

As a client in one of our off-campus permanent supportive housing programs, Nora is in a two-bedroom house with a backyard near Shawnee Park. She lives with her youngest daughter, Ke'Asia, and has her 3-year-old granddaughter, Sage, most of the time. Her dozen grandchildren frequently visit.

"There are so many good words that I can say about what St. Vincent has done for me. I could sit and talk about it all day long," Nora added.

When Nora and Ke'Asia moved into their house, it quickly went from empty to fully furnished. It's a place she has called home for nearly six years.

"In two days, St. Vincent fully furnished my whole apartment from dishes

to blankets to toiletries. Everything I needed. I still didn't have income. They are a blessing," she said.

Nora will tell you she still has a long way to go, but she's made significant strides in life.

"St. Vincent treats me like family, even though I get jittery, they're very understanding," Nora said. "You've been broken. They build you up. You still have your problems. They fix you. They don't fix you all the way, but they see you're smiling. You're not sad. You're not crying. Stuff like that makes me feel good."

Nora is in counseling and has a supportive church family. She meets with her case manager regularly, and has received help with food, clothing, and presents through our annual Santa Shop for her children or grandchildren.

"I really don't know where I would be because I was on the suicidal list," Nora added. "If it wasn't for St. Vincent, I don't know what part of a total wreck I would be in. I'm not crying sad tears, but tears of joy, because of the support of St. Vincent."

Nora was one of 17 children and raised in a small town in North Carolina.

"Growing up, they called me the outcast. I felt unseen," she said.

In her 20's and 30's, Nora worked and had her own place. However, after some

family and financial challenges, she and her six children experienced homelessness for about seven years. They even stayed at a St. Vincent de Paul shelter near her hometown. They also lived on the streets, scraped together money for motels, or couch surfed.

"It changed me because I felt not wanted," Nora said. "I was emotionally broken down."

When Nora moved to Louisville for a fresh start, most of her children were grown up and had places of their own. She found herself staying at a couple of local shelters.

"I'm new. I'm freaking out. I'm crying. I'm already having anxiety attacks. I'm trying to talk, but I'm nervous and crying at the same time because I don't know anybody," Nora said.

Thankfully, Nora and Ke'Asia were connected with us shortly thereafter, and we were able to offer permanent supportive housing. Sometimes that's all it takes to get a family back on track.

"St. Vincent has helped us a lot," said Ke'Asia, who just graduated from high school. "The best thing has been being given a place to stay and rely on."





St. Vincent
de Paul

LOUISVILLE

svdplou.org

The Good Samaritan

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Our Mission

We house, feed, and support those in
need with compassion and dignity.

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St. Vincent de Paul Louisville

New SVDP DROP-IN CENTER for those in the community



We are launching a new pilot program, in partnership with Louisville Metro Government's Office of Social Services, to expand our services by opening a safe, daytime SVDP Drop-In Center on our Special Works Campus in December.

Mayor Craig Greenberg recently announced plans to expand social services along the Broadway corridor to assist individuals in need due to the temporary closure of the Main Library, which serves as the nucleus of the Louisville Free Public Library system.

"We understand this will have an impact on people that use the Main Library, which is why my team and I immediately began discussions with Library staff and our community partners to find the best ways to serve those needs while we are closed to the public," said Mayor Craig Greenberg.

While nothing will replace the Main Library, the SVDP Drop-In Center is intended to close the digital access gap and increase points of community connection during this time. This will be a safe space to help adults (male and female) navigate barriers to obtaining housing and employment. We are not offering supportive services at this time at the Drop-In Center.

"While we are not looking to replace or duplicate community partners who already operate successful day shelters, we aim to multiply their effort and partner with the city during the Main Library's renovations," said Jennifer Clark, SVDP's CEO & Executive Director. "We appreciate the city's compassion to care

for individuals who need a safe space or digital access during the day, and are grateful to help in this coordinated effort."

We are providing a welcoming space where individuals can come as they are, without appointments or barriers. Guests will have access to computers and free internet, cell phone charging stations, reading materials, light snacks and refreshments, lunch at our Open Hand Kitchen, and social interaction.

This opportunity allows us to repurpose the Family Success Center facility, which was previously an after-school and summer program. The SVDP Drop-In Center is a one-year pilot program that has the potential for extension or expansion.



New Volunteer Opportunities

We are also seeking volunteers to assist and interact with guests throughout the day. Volunteer shifts are available Monday through Friday, with both morning and afternoon time slots. You may serve on a regular schedule or for one-time shifts as your availability allows.

For more information or to sign-up to volunteer, click the dropdown "SVDP Drop-In Center" on www.svdplou.org/volunteer.

Serving in a Social Media Age: Sydney's Story



"It's been incredibly rewarding to have this place," Jones said. "You can volunteer as much or as little as you'd like and stay involved."

Jones, who was born and raised in Nashville, TN, enjoys serving.

"I've always been involved in community service,"

Jones added.

After graduating from the University of Arizona four years ago, she moved to Louisville and quickly integrated herself in the community. She wants to give back.

"It gives me a sense of joy and purpose," she said. "I really wanted to be involved in my local community. I want to do something to feel like I'm really a part of here besides just voting."

Jones loves food, whether cooking or eating, and the Open Hand Kitchen provides her with the perfect place.

"I love the people I volunteer with and the staff," Jones said. "That old quote, 'Food is the pathway to the heart or soul' is so true. Feeding people is such an act of love that I've always resonated with ... And at the end of the day, we're showing love through serving them dinner."

If you would like to volunteer, visit www.svdplou.org/volunteer.

It's been said, "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today."

At 25 years old, Sydney Jones knows she can't save the world, but she can start somewhere.

"If you are feeling like many do in my generation, I think it's immensely important to go out and do something for your local community that is real," Jones said. "The greatest thing you can do is donate your time. You are a healthy body that can serve dinner or sort clothes ... that makes a difference in your community."

Jones, who is a part of Generation Z, wants to put a smile on people's faces.

"To be in the social media age is very tough because we're constantly exposed to the tragedies of the world all at once," Jones added. "It's the most globalized our world has ever been. It's very easy for young people to be really desensitized and feel a sense of anger or hopelessness towards that. That there's nothing we can do ... but serving is something tangible you can do."

Through a Young Professionals Association of Louisville newsletter, Jones learned about our volunteer opportunities.

"I wanted something that had a flexible time commitment," she said. "I saw what an established organization this was ... I loved the diversity of opportunities."

Last fall, Jones began helping during dinner at the Open Hand Kitchen and sorted clothes at Santa Shop.



UPCOMING EVENTS at ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LOUISVILLE



You're Invited!

Santa Shop

December 13

Our thanks to
Louisville Metro
Government for
their support

OFFICE OF
SOCIAL
SERVICES



SVDP Monthly Podcast

This podcast shares stories of people, partners, and programs in the Louisville community and across the country who care about our mission.

You can watch or listen today at
www.svdplou.org/svdp-podcast.

Stock the Shelves

As part of our monthly initiative, we are asking for **Christmas-themed foods and desserts**—such as Boxed Stuffing Mix, Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes, Boxed Macaroni and Cheese, Canned Green Beans, Hot Cocoa Mix & Marshmallows, Candy Canes, etc.—in December. For more information, visit www.svdplou.org/stock-the-shelves.



A Mother's Touch: One Donor's Story

When Bill's mother, Mary Elizabeth, passed away in May 2003, he was rummaging through her keepsakes.

He came across something he hadn't seen before.

"We found a St. Vincent de Paul voucher for groceries," said Bill Baughman, a longtime supporter. "I guess it had never been used. Maybe she just kept it as a reminder of how bad things could be. When I look back, my experience is trivial compared to other's experience."

As a child, Bill barely had his basic needs met.

"I grew up in straightened circumstances, as the old saying goes ... We were among the working poor. I didn't like that I was a poor kid. It was the worst feeling in the world," Bill added. "I know there were a lot of tearful Christmases."

Regardless of the little his family had to live off of, Bill learned that often the secret to generosity isn't about how much you give, but about giving something. He watched his mother, who was raised in Smoketown, care about the community even as her own family had their financial struggles.

"My mother, who went by Babe, was only making \$300 a month, yet she was still giving \$1 to \$5 to charities (like St. Vincent de Paul) every month," he said. "If the church needed help making

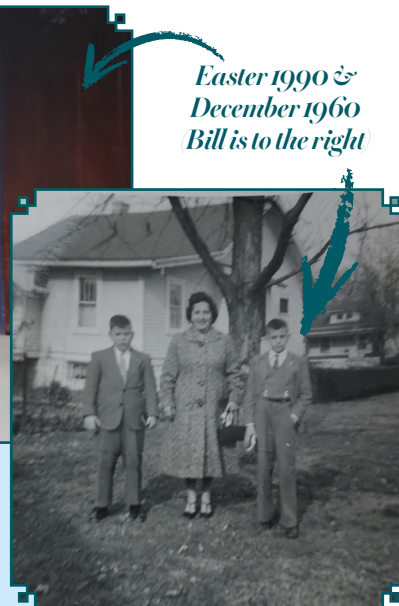
dinner for people, she volunteered. She didn't have any money, but she always gave her time."

Bill's mother left such an impression on him that has lasted all these years later.

"She was filled with faith. She was Creole Catholic. It was just what German Catholics did. You gave to things. It was your duty," Bill said. "In part, I give because of her, but also, it was something I saw all my life with my mother. I can't recall a particular event. That's just the way it was."

After working nearly four decades at UofL, Bill retired at 57 years old. His wife, Cindi, worked in Catholic education for 45 years. They started increasing their financial donations upon retirement, but initially became SVDP supporters in 1991 when they got married.

"I wish I could give more every time I do because it's not that much, especially because you all do so much for so many," Bill said. "I've always been impressed with the quality of the work that St. Vincent de Paul does."



Easter 1990 &
December 1960
Bill is to the right

They are currently Good Samaritan monthly donors.

"We live somewhat modestly so we can give somewhat generously," he said.

If you would like to become a monthly supporter, visit www.svdplou.org/monthly-giving.

End of Year Gifts & 2026 Tax Changes

Beginning in 2026, new federal rules will change how charitable deductions work. Itemizing taxpayers will only be able to deduct the portion of their charitable giving that exceeds 0.5% of their adjusted gross income, and those in the highest tax bracket will see their deduction benefit capped at 35%. Because current rules are more favorable, **2025 is an especially beneficial year to make your charitable gifts.** We encourage you to consider giving before December 31 to maximize your tax benefits and support our mission.

GE Appliances 2025 Blue Wave makes a splash at Food Pantry

On Friday, Oct. 17, GE Appliances 2025 Blue Wave, the company's signature, corporate-wide day of service, took place across the community.

A couple dozen volunteers served at the Food Pantry on our Special Works Campus. They helped create a more accessible space for our clients and volunteers.

"We're grateful for the chance to serve alongside the St. Vincent de Paul staff—helping create a more welcoming, efficient place for the community," said Rich Calvaruso, GE Appliances project

leader. "Our team rolled up their sleeves to help transform spaces. From building sturdy new work benches to removing old walls and organizing donated supplies, every hammer swing and shared laugh made a difference."

Donate Funds or Food

You can make a difference too, whether big or small. It all matters.

If you would like to help financially, visit our Donate Now page and select "Food Pantry" or "Open Hand Kitchen

Program" under Fund. This allows us to purchase food in bulk. You can also support our monthly Stock the Shelves initiative. We have an urgent needs list of non-perishable food items.

