

The Good Samaritan

Ozanam Inn Renovations: Building a Better Future for the Most Vulnerable



Ozanam Inn Men's Emergency Shelter, much like the men and Veterans whom it serves, has needed love and support for quite some time.

"It's beautiful having my own space. I can get away from everything. My stress level drops. I get more sleep now ... It's almost been like home because I'm not on the streets sleeping under a bridge or sleeping under a tree," said Nakia (pictured right), an Ozanam Inn client since last February. "Compared to the old bathrooms, it's beautiful in there."

Last July, we began large-scale renovations at Ozanam Inn in partnership with Miranda Construction. This is a huge step to create a much more efficient and welcoming space for those we serve.

With the help of a grant from Louisville's American Rescue Plan Funds (ARP), city officials allocated \$2.1 million to us for major repairs at Ozanam Inn.

The 24/7 facility is getting much more than a fresh coat of paint. It will boast

an all-new design, necessary electrical upgrades, additional dorms and private rooms, new bathrooms, showers, and windows, including an improved entry way with an accessible ramp and safer security check-in.

In April 1984, Ozanam Inn opened in the former St. Paul School building, when it was gifted to us. It has undergone three major renovations, with the latest in 2019. The number of men who stay at Ozanam Inn on a nightly basis has changed over the years, but it currently shelters 40 men in addition to 20 Veterans in our Veteran's Transitional Housing Program.

Men's Shelter Opening Doors

Our clients have been very accommodating throughout the renovation process.

"This is the best shelter that I've been in. All shelters make you leave early in the morning and they don't work with you like they do here," said Tim, an Ozanam Inn client who has struggled with heroine use. "I like to see the progress of the

renovations. They did really good on the bathrooms."

A couple of men have written notes for the construction crew, sharing "Please make this place beautiful" and "Thanks for this hard work."

Despite our Ozanam Inn staff working in a makeshift area, along with construction workers in and out throughout the day, they have still made a difference.





St. Vincent
de Paul

LOUISVILLE

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The Good Samaritan

The monthly newsletter of
St. Vincent de Paul Louisville

Send correspondence to PO Box 17126,
Louisville, KY 40217-0126

Visit us at 1015-C South Preston Street,
Louisville, KY 40203-2733

Jennifer Clark
CEO/Executive Director

Pam Evans
Sr. Director of Advancement
and Community Relations
pevans@svdplou.org

Bex Willenbrink
Development & Volunteer Coordinator

Tony Nochim
Communications & Public Relations
Coordinator

Send comments and change
of address notifications to
tnochim@svdplou.org

Our Mission

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

Support SVDP

To find out more about our work or
make a donation, visit our website.

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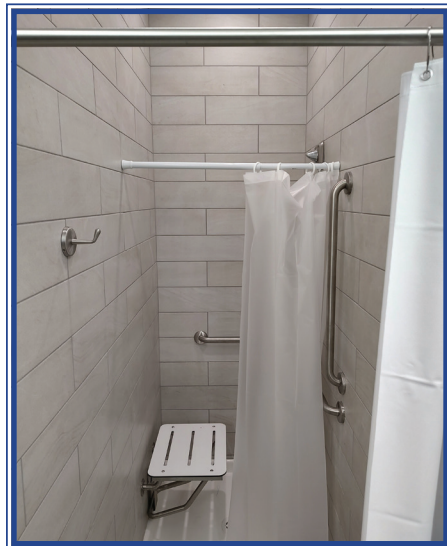
“ This place has
been a blessing. I
love it here. The staff
is trying their best to see
what they can do for you.

—Will (pictured left),
Ozanam Inn client ”

The 24/7 facility has
three floors dedicated to
housing men, whether in
a congregate setting or
private rooms. There are
shared restrooms and free
laundry facilities.

This past fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2023 to
Sept. 30, 2024), 48 men exited into per-
manent supportive housing. We provided
a bed for 238 men, and nearly 100 of
them received counseling or substance
use services. In our Veterans Transitional
Housing Program, we served 50 Veterans
and two-thirds exited positively.

During their stay, Ozanam Inn clients
receive access to two meals per day at our
Open Hand Kitchen and groceries from
the Food Pantry. They also have a place
where they can store their belongings in a
secure locker and a mailing address.



“I’ve seen the bathrooms done. They’re
nice. It beats going outside. It’s looking
better. I’m happy to be here,” Will added.

Missions on Wheels

While the showers were being renovat-
ed, Mission on Wheels donated a shower
trailer. This saved us roughly \$100,000 in
costs over five months.

“This was a huge support, and without
it, the budgeting for the project would
have been difficult to make possible,”
said Sam Schreier, Ozanam Inn Senior
Program Manager.

Schreier met Mike Costello, executive
director of Mission on Wheels through
disaster relief and recovery operations.
The Texas based nonprofit provides
mobile showers to organizations at little
or no cost.

“When the opportunity came up to
support St. Vincent de Paul ... there was
no hesitation,” Costello said.

The shower trailer was located right
outside the facility to make it as conve-
nient as possible for shelter residents. It
had seven shower stalls.



Save the



“Ultimately, that’s our impact on the ministries we help,” Costello added. “If I can save them thousands of dollars, that’s money not coming out of their budget for something as simple as a shower.”

Plumbing Problems

The renovation process of a century-old building hasn’t come without its challenges. We came across an expensive barrier that caused us to push pause on putting in an elevator for easier accessibility.

“We had a plumbing problem that turned into a \$100,000 setback. It was an unanticipated, crushed sewer pipe and contaminated soil issue,” said Jennifer Clark, SVDP’s CEO & Executive Director.



After paying to replace the large pipe, we are on track.

“We’re not terribly off schedule,” Clark added. “We’re going to get it done along with additional landscaping and some other things that we’re doing for the space. It’s very exciting. I know it’s going to be here before we know it.”

Ozanam Inn renovations are expected to be complete by the end of this summer.

The ARP funds won’t cover all renovations. If you feel moved to donate to the work being done at Ozanam Inn, you can scan the QR code to the left or please visit www.svdplou.org/donate-now.



UPCOMING EVENTS at ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LOUISVILLE



You’re Invited!

Roses & Rosé

Sunday, April 27

For event information, please contact Makenzie Greenwell at (502) 272-2134 or mgreenwell@svdplou.org.

Our thanks to
Louisville Metro
Government for
their support



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/podcast/



IMPACT REPORT AVAILABLE



Fiscal Year Statistics (Oct. 2023 – Sept. 2024)



We are excited to share that our interactive digital Impact Report is available (fiscal year October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024). It is accessible on mobile, tablet, or desktop. The Impact Report offers a deeper dive into how your donations have made a difference one person, one family, one home at a time.

This fiscal year, you showed up for those in need. We understand that receiving frequent donation requests can feel overwhelming, and parting with your hard-earned money is never easy.

However, you've come to realize that these words on generosity still ring true today: *"It is more blessed to give than to*

receive." When you give to those in need, there is always a return on investment.

We are pleased to say that an average of 83 cents of every dollar we spent this fiscal year was invested in our program services to help those in need.

Whether you are a first-time donor this fiscal year, or part of a rich history of family giving, thank you for entrusting us with your hard-earned money and for your commitment to our mission!

What's Inside the Report

- A letter from our CEO & Executive Director, Jennifer Clark, and Board Chair, Jim Smith

- Celebrating 170 years of our mission and milestones
- Real stories from real clients
- The impact of our volunteers
- A look back at our annual events
- The significance of our Thrift Stores
- The statistics behind each story
- Our financial statement

View the Report Now

You can view our Impact Report by scanning the QR code above or by going to www.svdplou.org/our-impact.

Mercy Academy senior donates nearly 300 winter kits

Youth in action. It's surprising, but inspiring.

For the second year in a row, and with the help of Catholic schools and students, Lily Sumner donated to us roughly 280 winter kits over two trips. Each kit includes a blanket, warm clothes, water, a snack, and a handwritten prayer.

Sumner and her mother, Erin, delivered winter kits to the Open Hand Kitchen just before the winter storm hit Louisville.

"I hope they know they're loved," Sumner said. "That's the biggest thing. I feel like some of those people feel they're forgotten ... I want them to know we're here for you."

To watch the media story, visit www.svdplou.org/media-mentions.



Photo Courtesy of Olivia Castlen, The Record