

The Good Samaritan

Against All Odds: A mother's drive to give her kids a better life

It takes a special kind of resilience to raise five children on your own.

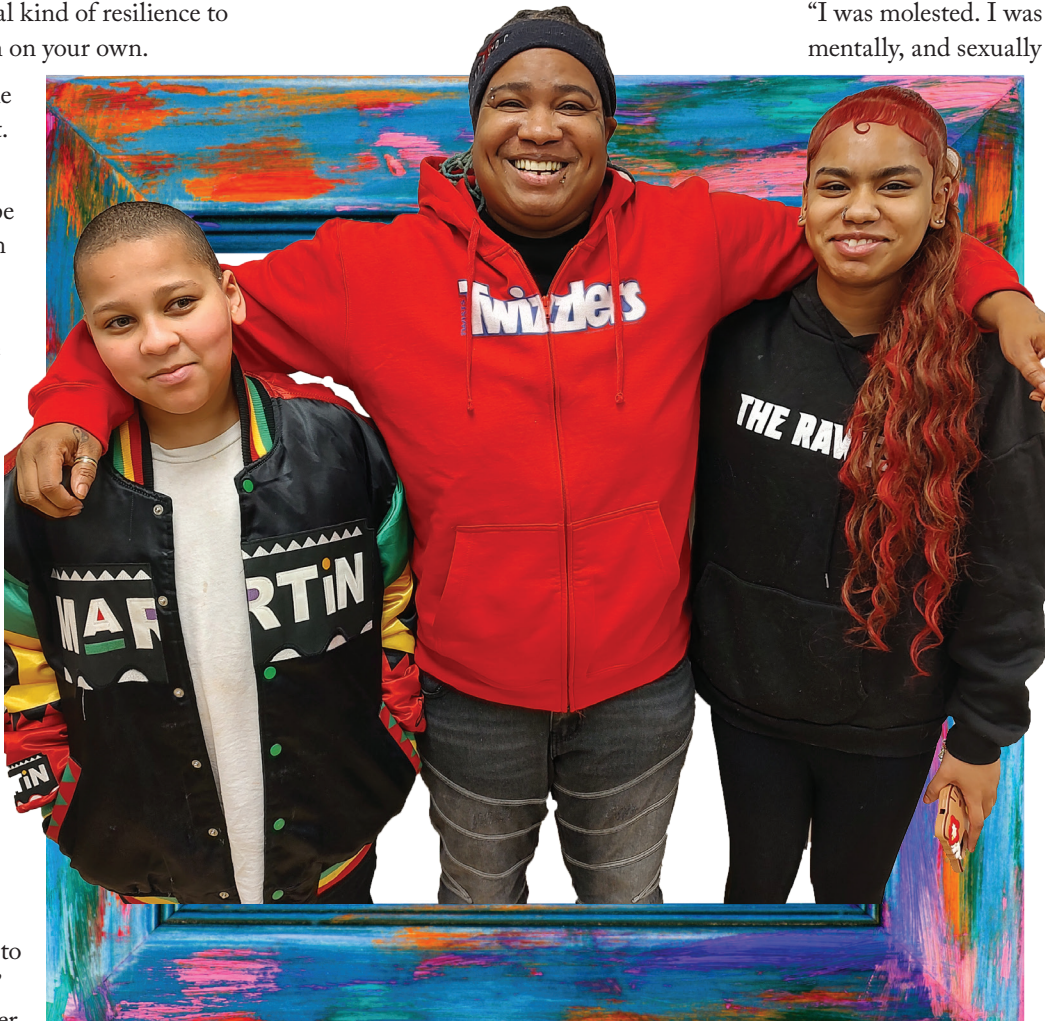
However, Kellie has done just that.

A client in our Homes with Hope (HWH) program for the past seven years, Kellie and her children were finally able to move into an apartment in December. She has three boys and two girls ranging from 7- to 21-years-old. She also took in her middle-school aged brother (pictured left).

"It was difficult being a single parent. I didn't know how to make ends meet," Kellie said. "Either you sink or you swim. My grandma only helped me so far until I was able to help myself. I had to provide. I had to go to food banks and apply for food stamps because if I didn't, my children wouldn't have eaten."

Despite many barriers and legal troubles, Kellie continued working with our case management team to secure ongoing Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and a Section 8 Housing Voucher. Section 8 is a federally funded program designed to help eligible low-income families secure decent, safe, and sanitary housing.

"Every last case manager made me feel comfortable," Kellie added. "I told them everything about me."



"I was molested. I was physically, mentally, and sexually assaulted by family

members and my mom's boyfriends. I was in and out of juvie. In and out of six-to-nine-month placements, and boot camp. All I did was fight because I was angry. I didn't have a dad. My mom was in and out and I had to take care of siblings. I didn't do drugs."

Kellie and her three children moved back to Louisville with \$100 and her car while she was pregnant with her fourth child.

In fall 2017, the Salvation Army told Kellie about SVDP, and she got

connected to our HWH program.

"I was grateful to have a roof over our heads. We never had to experience homelessness, sleeping in my car or outside," Kellie said. "As soon as I got housing, I felt grown up. It was nicely furnished. SVDP gave us pots, pans, dishes, brooms.

That's not easy to do, especially when it's a childhood full of pain.

Kellie was born in Louisville, but her family relocated to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, until she was in her late 20s. While growing up, she dropped out of middle school (she did get her GED in 2003).

"My childhood was hell. I didn't know if my mom would have a different boyfriend," she said.

"I'M TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING THAT MY MOM DIDN'T DO WITH US. MY KIDS AND I DO THINGS TOGETHER. WE PLAY BOARD GAMES AND HAVE MOVIE NIGHTS. I'M TRYING TO CHANGE THE WAY I WAS LIVING FOR MY KIDS."



St. Vincent
de Paul

LOUISVILLE

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The Good Samaritan

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Our Mission

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

Support SVDP

To find out more about our work or
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St. Vincent de Paul Louisville



Everything to put in the house they pretty
much did it to get us started.”

HWH is one of our off-campus
permanent housing programs providing
services to nine homeless families with
children where at least one member of the
household has a disability.

“My experience at St. Vincent de Paul
was nice. It was very family orientated.
The kids had the after-school program.
They cared. The kids loved it,” Kellie
added.

Kellie’s youngest daughter Gabreallah
(pictured top right on page one), a middle
schooler, looks fondly on her experience at
the Family Success Center.

“I remember the karate class in the
gym. I was scared though. I liked playing
on the chess club,” Gabreallah said.

Years later, her oldest daughter, Kellah,
recalls finally receiving the Christmas gift
she always wanted because of help from
our annual Santa Shop.

“I always wanted an Easy Bake Oven. I
finally got it,” Kellah said.

Kellah was recently accepted to
Bellarmine University.

Her son, Omari, was a freshman
majoring in psychology at Bellarmine
University (pictured above). He is the
first of his family to attend college (he is
currently taking a month off).

“It’s a big deal. I was scared at first
... When I got the acceptance letter, I
was freaking out. That was my first time
getting one of those,” Omari said.

Beyond having a roof over their heads,
Kellie has worked hard to make it home.

“I’m trying to do everything that my
mom didn’t do with us,” Kellie said. “My
kids and I do things together. We play
board games and have movie nights. I’m
trying to change the way I was living for
my kids.”

They enjoy playing board games like
What Do You Meme? and Operation, or
watching movies such as Love & Basket-
ball and The Indian in the Cupboard.

Through our HWH program, we
helped 41 people, including 26 children
(Feb. 1, 2024 to Jan. 31, 2025).

THRIFT STORES



LOUISVILLE, KY

SPRING CLEAN



In Full Bloom: 7th Annual Roses & Rosé Ready to Celebrate Women



We are excited to host our seventh annual Roses & Rosé fundraiser on Sunday, April 27, from 1 to 3 p.m. at The Olmsted.

This wonderful experience celebrates the incredible women in our lives with Kentucky Derby themed attire, rosé wine, mimosas, a silent auction, Vendor Village, wine pull, guest speakers, and so much more. Last year, we had nearly 300 guests.

Rebecca Najewicz, a member of St. Bernadette Conference, has attended this event for the last several years (pictured above with her daughter, Ellie).

"We support this event because it is so impactful, and it is the one thing that we see is for women. It's important for women to come out and support other women," Najewicz said. "What is also impressive is that every year it grows."

Najewicz and St. Bernadette Conference members purchase a table together.

"The reason why we keep coming back is it's so much fun," Najewicz added. "When you get to go with your friends,

it's a beautiful event. Everyone is laughing and happy. You're doing a little shopping, having a glass of rosé, enjoying each other's company, and then you get to help. I think everyone walks away with a very good memory. They'll talk about this for the rest of the year."

All proceeds from this event directly support our Domestic Violence Transitional Housing & Rapid Rehousing Program, providing vital shelter and services for those fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking.

We helped 101 households and 212 people, with three of four exiting to stable housing in our Domestic Violence Program (Oct. 1, 2023 to Sept. 30, 2024). Your support helps us provide hope and healing for those we serve.

To purchase tickets, you may scan the QR code or use the link: <https://svdplou.maestroweb.com/>.

If you can't attend in person, but would still like to help, consider purchasing a nice meal for someone we serve using the same link. For any questions, reach out to Makenzie Greenwell, Senior Development & Events Coordinator, at (502) 272-2134 or mgreenwell@svdplou.org.



**UPCOMING EVENTS at
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
LOUISVILLE**



You're Invited!

Roses & Rosé

Sunday, April 27

National Conference

August 25 - 30

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/



SHOP OUR STORE. SUPPORT SVDP. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

SVDP Louisville's New Online Store: Stand out for a great cause

Are you looking for a way to show your support for St. Vincent de Paul Louisville? We recently launched a brand new SVDP Online Merchandise Store.

It's the perfect way to make a difference while getting something great for yourself. Whether you're a financial supporter, volunteer, or part of a parish-based SVDP conference, we encourage you to look through our collection. Every purchase helps fund our mission to house, feed, and support those in need with compassion and dignity.

Shop for a Cause – It's a Win-Win!

When you shop, you're not just getting high-quality, SVDP-branded gear,

you're also providing crucial services to those who need it most. All net profits from your purchase go directly to our programming and services.

Here's a peek at some of our items:

- **Volunteer T-Shirts** – Show your servant's heart
- **Mission T-Shirts** – Wear our t-shirts to share our mission with others
- **Embroidered Fleece Pullover** – Stay warm while making a difference
- **Embroidered Hat** – Perfect for everyday wear
- **Pet Bandana** – Support SVDP in style for your furry friends

- **Coffee Mug and Tumbler** – Sip your favorite drink while supporting the cause
- **Hoodies** – Cozy up in a hoodie this winter
- **Polo** – A stylish way to represent our mission in the workplace

How to Shop

Simply visit our online store at www.svdplou.org and click "Merch" on the top right or scan the QR code above to search our full selection.

Thank you for helping us continue our work of providing help and hope to those in need!

Recognizing Our Latest Grant Sponsors - Thank You!

- Kentucky Housing Corporation
- Lift a Life Foundation
- Mildred V. Horn Foundation
- Publix Super Market Charities
- Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund

