

The Good Samaritan

A Vietnam Veteran finds what he needs at Waypoint

Veteran Tim H. has all the space he needs. A resident at Waypoint House on our Shelby Park campus, the 73-year-old moved here in March.

"I try to keep everything neat. That's the military in me. This is my home," Tim said.

Waypoint, which was renovated and made available to homeless male or female Veterans last October, has 24 single-room occupancy units (SRO). The SRO model has individual rooms with shared kitchens and bathrooms. These are for Veterans who are homeless, at immediate risk of homelessness, or currently living in a transitional housing setting.

"Well, I would say I was homeless if I was living in a hotel ... I had nowhere to go but my van, so in other words, I had no place to go and live," Tim added.

Tim moved to Louisville because his son, Greg, suffered an aneurysm. He was looking for affordable housing and found this opportunity on our website.

Waypoint's private rooms are 140 square feet and come fully furnished. The updated facility includes two self-service kitchens, free laundry room facilities, and common areas for connection and recreation.

Tim cooks inside his room. He utilizes his air fryer, toaster, crockpot, and micro-

wave, while storing his frozen foods in the community freezer. You can also find him sitting outside on the porch.

"I didn't want to be in an apartment. One room is basically all I can take care of and keep looking decent," he said. "For the safety and the place, I can't beat it. I don't pay for any utilities. If I was out in an apartment, it would cost me a lot more, so I'm really at the best place."

Home prices in the Louisville Metro area and southern Indiana counties rose 12% from 2020 to 2023. The average rent in the city is currently \$1,300 a month for a two-bedroom unit.

The monthly rent at Waypoint is \$582 for a one-year lease, with utilities included. All units are restricted for applicants who are "very low income," meaning their income is at or below 50% Area Median Income (AMI).

"Do you realize that you can't get into an apartment and utilities for \$1,100 a month? And that's for a one-bedroom," Tim said. "If it wasn't for you all, I don't know what I would have done."

Tim lives off his Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and unfortunately, doesn't receive any military benefits.

Tim served in the military from Aug. 1970 to April 1978. He knew he was going to be drafted and decided to enroll in the Army. He started in the Army Security Agency and served in the Vietnam War from 1971 to 1972. He spent time in Fort Jackson, SC; Detroit, MI; Baumholder, Germany; and Fort Hood, TX.



He was promoted from a loader to a tank commander. When he left the Army, he was an E5 sergeant and received an honorable discharge.

"I enjoyed being in the Army because I got away from home, got out on my own, was independent, and enjoyed the travel at first," Tim added.

After his military service ended, Tim had several jobs and lived in Texas and New Mexico before moving to Western Kentucky in 1994. He has enjoyed his stay at Waypoint thus far.

"It's my home. I like everything. I like the cleanliness of it. I like the security and the employees. They've been nothing but great to me," he said. "For the most part, it's peaceful and quiet. You couldn't want anything better. The hotel I was in lacked a whole lot to be desired, and it was still costing me \$60 a day."

Tim met with Commissioner Whitney Allen of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs. He toured our campus and visited Waypoint. To learn more, visit www.svdplou.org/support-homeless-vet-erans/.





St. Vincent
de Paul

LOUISVILLE

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The Good Samaritan

The monthly newsletter of
St. Vincent de Paul Louisville

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Our Mission

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

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



FEED the 40203

The Food Pantry Celebrates 10 years

"Feed the 40203."

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's Food Pantry has lived out that mantra since July 2014. Inside this footprint are many folks—single parents, teenagers, children, Veterans, and seniors—who depend on us to help put food on the table every month.

"This helps out a lot. It's wonderful. Without this, my daughter and I wouldn't make it through the month," said James, who rides his bike to the Food Pantry from his nearby government housing residence. "I'm grateful for everything you all do for us. We count on you all towards the end of the month. The price of food has gone up ... The food stamps we get doesn't cover everything."

This month, the 100% volunteer-run Food Pantry celebrates 10 years. The relationship between our long-time volunteers and clients is second to none.

"I just lost all my food stamps. Literally, this is the only food I have right now," said Susan, who comes to the Food Pantry with her mom. "It's always amazing. Just the way people are. Everybody is always so happy. I've been to other places where the volunteers almost look angry to even be there to help you ... Not just that, this is the only place I know that has the table where you leave behind what items you're not going to use ... people will get in their bags and start trading."

Newer volunteer Ruby Sekhon echoes that sentiment. He wanted to serve the community after retirement in 2021, and has found a home here at SVDP because of the volunteer and client camaraderie.

"You won't be able to tear me away from this place. The power that this place gives me, I get goosebumps just thinking about it. I see the same spirit in all the volunteers," Sekhon said. "There's so much positive energy here. I'm humbled by their devotion and dedication of service for so many years. I'm getting more help out of here than I'm helping others. If you have a purpose bigger than yourself, it's very rewarding."

Over the last decade, the Food Pantry has given groceries to more than 51,000 households (see infographic to right).

"I'm impressed with the fresh fruit and vegetables offered," said Susan Kinny, who started volunteering around the pandemic. "I want to see our community get healthy. Food affects a lot of the other areas of our lives."

Every Tuesday and Thursday clients receive fresh produce, frozen meats, poultry, fish, and pantry staples. They must live in the 40203 zip code or currently live on campus.

Ernest, a 72-year-old Veteran living at Waypoint, uses the Food Pantry. He is one of nearly 500 Veterans who received





groceries from the Food Pantry from Jan. to May 2024.

Old Louisville neighbors Ginger and Kevin have been coming to the Food Pantry for about a year.

"It helps a lot, especially at the end of the month. Meat is so high. It costs \$25 to feed a family of four," Ginger said. "The personal hygiene items like dish and laundry detergent are also helpful."

"The food is good. The volunteers are wonderful," Kevin added.

"It's such a friendly place and the people are so appreciative of what is here," said Paulette Roberson, who serves at the Food Pantry check-in window.

Volunteer Jim Thomas, a member of SVDP's St. Albert the Great Conference, has served since the Food Pantry started.

"I enjoy it very much. It's very fulfilling and I've met friends that I assume will be friends for life, as far as the other volunteers go," Thomas said. "It's got to be a great help to come down here ... Sometimes when clients leave here, they can't carry it all because they have so much."

Clients receive roughly \$50 worth of groceries, often carrying four or more bags filled with food as they leave. Still, it's not always enough.

"The people who are getting hurt are the middle- to low-income households. We as volunteers give financially and of our time to this place, and it is sad to see the need increasing," said Joe Marini, a longtime volunteer who has regularly picked up bread from grocery stores or restaurants to keep the Food Pantry stocked.

Though food is a basic need, not everyone has regular access to it:

- In the Louisville Metro area, nearly one in eight households suffer from food insecurity.
- According to the USDA, the rate of food insecurity rose from 10% in 2021 to nearly 13% in 2022. That's the highest rate increase since the Great Recession. Grocery prices are now 25% higher than in Jan. 2020.
- Feeding America's "Map the Meal Gap" study shows nearly 102,000 people are food insecure in Jefferson County, including one out of every five children.

For nearly a decade, LaTiya has lived with her three children in the East Family Apartments on our Shelby Park campus.

"It takes a lot of the burden off for my family and a lot of the people in the community because of the food and laundry detergent you get," LaTiya said. "It helps make ends meet so that it's not a big struggle."

This program is financially supported by in-kind donations of food and donations from individuals, SVDP conferences, and corporations.

If you would like more information about donating to or volunteering at the Food Pantry, visit www.svdplou.org/donate-now/.



Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS AT
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LOUISVILLE



Come Join Us!

Clubs & Cocktails

Dinner: Sunday, September 22

Scramble: Tuesday, September 24

Clubs & Cocktails

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

Our thanks to
Louisville Metro
Government for
their support



Food Pantry-Feeding All Walks of Life

**Total
Households
Served:
51,370**


**43,094
TOTAL**

**21,200
TOTAL**

**5,034
TOTAL**

 Veterans (started tracking Feb. 2017)

 Senior Adults

 Kids & Teenagers (0 to 17-years-old)

Variety of People Served from July 2014 to May 2024

Clubs & Cocktails

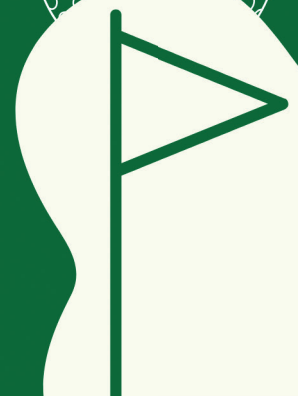
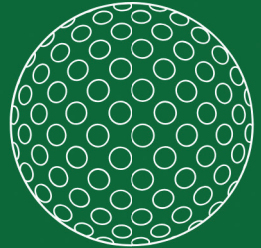
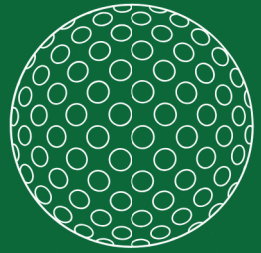


DINNER & HOPE AWARD AT THE OLMSTED

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

GOLF SCRAMBLE AT HARMONY LANDING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24



UOFL CENTER FOR MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS SERVING AT THE OPEN HAND KITCHEN