



SOCIETY of  
ST. VINCENT  
de PAUL  
LOUISVILLE

## OUR PROGRAMS

- Open Hand Kitchen
- Ozanam Inn
- DePaul Apartments
- Simon Hall
- Roberts Hall
- Tranquil House
- St. Jude Women's Recovery Center
- Follow Up Program
- 47 Parish Conferences

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# GOOD SAMARITAN

APRIL 2010

## Vincentians Honored for Service to the Poor

*Ceremony also includes induction of one hundred new Vincentians*

Anne Walter, Jim Leonard and Chuck Millay were honored as St. Vincent de Paul's top volunteers at a Feb. 7 Mass and awards ceremony at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church.

Walter, of St. William parish conference, received the Top Hat Award, the highest honor given by the Conference Affairs Committee. She was cited for challenging her parish community to reactivate the St. William St. Vincent de Paul Conference, which had been founded a century earlier but was inactive for decades.

Leonard, of St. Paul parish conference, received the Ozanam Medallion, named for SVDP founder Frederic Ozanam. The award is given to a person who serves as a role model for Vincentians and who inspires others in the broader faith community.

Millay, a member of St. Peter the Apostle, received the St. Vincent Award for dedicating his life to nonjudgmental and supportive service to those in need.

Walter echoed the sentiments of the others, explaining her calling



as "...an attempt to respond to the Gospel challenge to recognize Jesus in the faces of...people on the fringes, people who are forgotten," she said.

"I feel compelled to respond to the need I encounter. And it makes me feel like I've done what it takes to be, most completely, who God called me to be."

In addition to presentation of the awards, the event doubled as an induction ceremony for 100 new Vincentians. These men and women have made a prayerful commitment to serving the poor through home visits and by giving

other assistance to people in need.

Father Gerald Timmel (pictured below, at left), spiritual advisor of SVDP Louisville, spoke at the ceremony, along with board chairman Dave Higgins; executive director Ed Wnorowski; and conference affairs director Eleise Passafiume.

In 2009, Vincentian volunteers in Louisville, Central Kentucky and Southern Indiana gave 49,495 hours of service to people in need. Included in this total are 10,105 person-to-person visits — in homes, hospitals and other settings.

We thank our Vincentian volunteers for their caring and compassion, and for their selfless devotion to helping carry out the mission of St. Vincent de Paul.



Above, from left: Ed Wnorowski, St. Vincent de Paul's executive director, congratulates volunteers Anne Walter, Jim Leonard and Chuck Millay.

## On the Ground

Ed Wnorowski



Any organization, whether it is a “business” or a “not-for-profit,” advances its mission by leveraging the assets available.

A business may use the product it produces, or its intellectual property, in concert with human resources to address an identified need – a need that, hopefully, results in a revenue stream that nets a profit.

St. Vincent de Paul, as a not-for-profit organization responding to human need, essentially does the same thing. Our end goal is not in making a profit but in affecting change in people’s lives.

Specifically, we use the donations we receive (our revenue stream) to provide food, shelter, clothing and counseling to advance our mission of addressing the impacts of poverty and homelessness.

As a non-profit, our human resources are paid staff – and, importantly, our volunteers.



To put this into perspective, consider our Open Hand Kitchen (left), where we serve more than 78,000 meals a year with just three paid staff members.

It’s a monumental task that is bolstered by the efforts of hundreds of volunteers.

The comprehensive services we provide to the poor and homeless in Louisville and surrounding communities would not be possible without our legion of more than 1,500 volunteers.

Comprising this army of volunteers are individuals, family groups, church groups, service organizations, school groups, and corporate teams, among others.

These volunteers may commit to just one day of service each year, or they may commit to several times a week. All make a vital contribution to fulfilling our mission of service to the poor.

The activities these volunteer partners perform range from the basic, such as serving a meal or sorting personal care products, to significantly more complex tasks, such as rewiring a kitchen or laying a ceramic tile floor.

Some of the needed services are physically challenging; others are not. If you are a people person and are comfortable with direct client contact and interaction, we can certainly accommodate you. And if you prefer a support role, there are always projects in need of willing workers.

The bottom line is this: We can only achieve our goals and objectives with *your* help. Help certainly can be financial or a commitment of time.

To all of you who currently volunteer your time, THANK YOU.

To those who would like to explore volunteer opportunities, please CALL US!

*Wnorowski is executive director of St. Vincent de Paul, Louisville.*

### 2 EASY WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Check to see if your employer offers matching donations to charitable organizations such as St. Vincent de Paul. Some, such as GE, may even double the amount you donate if you specify that the contribution is going to be used for “food and shelter.”
- Remember to use your St. Vincent de Paul Kroger cards. Each time you swipe this debit card when making purchases of groceries, prescriptions, or even gas at the pump, St. Vincent de Paul receives 4 cents on the dollar. Don’t have a Kroger card? Call Kathi Johnson to order yours today: 502.301.8695; or e-mail her at [kjohnson@svdplou.org](mailto:kjohnson@svdplou.org).

### 4 WAYS TO CONNECT WITH SVDP:

- Follow us on **Twitter** – @svdplou
- Find us on **Facebook** 
- Browse our photos on **Flickr**
- Link to all of the above on our website:

[www.svdplou.org](http://www.svdplou.org)

## SAVE THE DATE:

St. Vincent de Paul’s

Golf Scramble & Silent  
Auction Fundraiser

Sept. 12-13, 2010

Silent Auction at Porcini 9/12

—New Golf Venue!—

Big Spring Country Club 9/13

More details to come.

## St. Jude Grads Share Stories of Hopelessness and Recovery

"St. Jude saved my life."

Those words were repeated time and again Feb. 24, as the seven graduates from St. Jude Women's Recovery Center stepped up to the podium.

Addressing the standing-room-only crowd of friends and family members who had gathered for this joyful ceremony, the women expressed appreciation for the strict treatment program that teaches women struggling with alcoholism and substance abuse how to rebuild their lives as sober, self-sufficient adults.

Graduating were Rebekah, Ashley, Danielle, Jordan, Carmen, Allison and Peggy.

Debbie Slagle-Pike, director of St. Jude, and case manager Rosemary Sweeney shared insights into each woman's journey.

Praising the graduates for their resolve and determination to stick with the program, they presented each woman with a coin-like token as a symbol of their recovery.

Some of the clients will now enter SVDP's Follow Up program, which offers ongoing guidance and support.

St. Jude is a 30-bed residential treatment facility for homeless women. Clients bunk together, four to a room, upon arrival and can work their way up to having a small private room. There is a waiting list for St. Jude, the only state-licensed facility of its kind in Kentucky.

Clients must also work, go to school or volunteer while living at St. Jude. Life skills classes, household chores and 12-step meetings are mandatory.

Such requirements are designed to make women accountable as they transition toward productive, independent lives after leaving treatment.

Another important facet of their recovery is the willingness to "give back," Slagle-Pike said. By talking openly and honestly with each other and with select groups that tour our campus (such as the school students, pictured at right), women often find healing, while offering valuable advice to others.

For more information on how you can help SVDP programs such as St. Jude Women's Recovery Center, please contact Nancy Naughton at 502.301.8682, or by e-mail at [nnaughton@svdplou.org](mailto:nnaughton@svdplou.org).



*These women were all smiles after the graduation ceremony that marked their successful completion of the intensive residential treatment program at St. Jude Women's Recovery Center. Standing, from left: Rebekah, Ashley, Danielle, Jordan, Carmen and Allison. Front: Peggy.*



*Above: Assumption High School students in Angela Lincoln's social justice classes visited SVDP two days after the graduation. They toured our Ozanam Inn men's homeless shelter and our Open Hand Kitchen before gathering inside St. Jude Women's Recovery Center. There, they heard St. Jude residents describe how their addictions led to homelessness. Question-and-answer sessions followed, with the students, clients and staff engaging in a frank discussion about the various causes of homelessness — and ways that non-profits such as St. Vincent de Paul are providing hope to people in desperate situations.*



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## TRUCK WEEKENDS

Our Thrift Stores' trucks will be at the following churches this month to pick up your gently used donations of furniture, household items, and clothing.

### April 10-11

#### **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

1752 Scheller Lane

New Albany, IN 47150

### April 17-18

#### **Epiphany**

914 Old Harrods Creek Road

Louisville, KY 40223

### April 24-25

#### **St. Bernadette**

6500 St. Bernadette Avenue

Prospect, KY 40059

**\* Donations may also be dropped off at any of our Thrift Stores:**

1029 S. Preston St., Louisville

248 E. Market St., Louisville

2217 Hikes Lane, Louisville

651 Eastern Blvd., Clarksville, IN

## GOOD SAMARITAN

### SVDP Volunteers Fill Need with Food Pantry Outreach

Hundreds of cars and trucks line up in the parking lot of a Fairdale church twice a month as part of a growing outreach to help provide the poor with food basics.

Vincenians and parishioners at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church, along with other local volunteers and Dare to Care, operate a bi-monthly drive-through food pantry.



Sister Elizabeth Blandford (left), Conference president Mary A. Smith-Johnson and seminary student David Carr lead the effort, which began last summer. For two hours the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, food such as canned goods, cereal, pasta, and produce including potatoes and apples are boxed, bagged, and then loaded into clients' vehicles as they circle the parking lot and pass in front of the small parish hall.

Regular volunteers Jamison Gann and George Daniels (top right) say people are appreciative of the free food staples.

About 150 to 180 cars come through on each of the distribution days. People from all walks of life and in various stages of need come to receive help. Many clients say they simply can't afford to make ends meet, and the food baskets are one way to make budgets stretch farther.

The food pantry is one of several operated by Catholic parishes throughout the city. Organizers say they would gladly provide help and guidance to other SVDP conferences that would like to launch a similar outreach.



### **Reminder: Designate April Cash Donations for Hunger Relief**

Make your money go farther when you donate to St. Vincent de Paul this Lenten season. Again this year, we will be participating in the Feinstein Foundation challenge.

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the Feinstein Foundation of Cranston, RI, will divide \$1 million among anti-hunger agencies nationwide, using it as a spur to raise funds during March and April 2010. All donations made to St. Vincent de Paul through this challenge will be eligible for a portion of the \$1 million grant. Last year, the Feinstein challenge raised a record \$1 billion for more than 2,000 agencies in the United States. Awards ranged from \$250 to \$40,000 per agency.

Please join in this challenge by earmarking your check to St. Vincent de Paul for the National Campaign to Fight Hunger. For more information, visit: [www.feinsteinfoundation.org](http://www.feinsteinfoundation.org). For more details on other SVDP donation opportunities, contact Nancy Naughton at 502.301.8682.

Thank you for helping us combat hunger.