



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
- 48 Parish Conferences

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GOOD SAMARITAN

MARCH 2010

Thrift Stores Help Support SVDP Programs

Brimming with everything from sofas and small appliances to clothing and cookware, St. Vincent de Paul's four area Thrift Stores fulfill many important purposes.

First, by keeping our store shelves stocked with quality donated merchandise, we can offer great buys for bargain hunters as well as an affordable shopping alternative for low-income customers who need basic household furnishings and other goods.

Second, the income generated from our thrift store operations helps fund the varied programs we offer our clients. These services range from providing two free meals a day in our Open Hand Kitchen to shelter and housing for people with nowhere else to go, and case management designed to help clients who have fallen on hard times get back on their feet.



"A steady stream of all types of donated merchandise is critical for the stores to remain successful,"

says Randy Nord, director of stores (pictured at right). He oversees a staff of 17 full-time and nine part-time employees, plus about 15 volunteers.

Gently used clothing is usually in generous supply, while less plentiful – especially at this time of the year – are donations of the other kinds of items needed to fill our store space. For example, clean, used furniture in good condition is always needed, along with things like working appliances, dishes, towels, linens, toys, games, pictures, wall décor, sports equipment, jewelry and collectibles.

Furniture and large items are inspected for quality prior to being accepted. Items are tested to assure they work. Others are cleaned to bring out their full value, Nord explains. Donations that we can sell are priced and placed in the stores for sale.



St. Vincent de Paul supporters can help us cut expenses by keeping a few considerations in mind. Because we do not advertise (allowing more income to go toward our programs), we depend on word-of-mouth to build support for our retail operations.

Donors can also help in our efforts to keep other operating costs down. For instance, because non-clothing donations often fall short of our needs, employees in trucks are scheduled to pick up these items from donors unable to bring them to one of our stores. To do this, we incur such costs as personnel, insurance, fuel and maintenance.

Other thrift store chains in the Louisville area may have many more locations and slightly more convenient drop-off sites, but Nord encourages St. Vincent de Paul donors to think of us first. "We need many more people to keep SVDP in mind when they have merchandise to donate, and many more people to be willing to drive a little farther, occasionally, to drop off merchandise at one of our store locations," he says.

People who donate belongings to St. Vincent de Paul can rest assured that we will be good stewards with these resources, Nord adds.

With diligent efficiency, we strive to maximize every single donation – and to stretch every Thrift Store sales dollar – as far as possible, thereby ensuring we're helping as many people as we can.

More info: www.svdplou.org; 502.589.7837.



On the Ground

Ed Wnorowski

Regardless of Causes, Homeless Deserve Our Compassion

Last month I focused on one simple question: Why are people homeless?

This month I would like to pose a follow-up question: *Who* are the homeless?

At the risk of perhaps oversimplifying the response to this question, there appear to be two broad groups of individuals and families within our homeless community today.

First, there are the families that have faced the challenges of homelessness over multiple generations. These families and individuals are the people who we have traditionally served on our campus.

Additionally, these are families that often have suffered the consequences of frequent unemployment. As you may recall, lack of affordable housing is one of the primary factors contributing to homelessness.

However, the ultimate cure to this growing problem is not just an affordable home, but also education and job skills. Many homeless people exhibit all the outward signs of lost hope and lost aspirations. They resign themselves to the belief that this is the best that they can hope for.

If we expect to break the generational cycle of poverty, we have to provide these individuals and families with the basic tools to earn a sustainable living to move themselves out of poverty. Certainly, this is where St. Vincent de Paul can truly make a difference.



The second group of individuals and more often families are those that find themselves homeless due to their current circumstances. These are people who have the skills needed to be self-sufficient. However, due to difficult economic conditions we are now facing, they are unemployed and have tapped out their own resources, such as any savings they may have had.

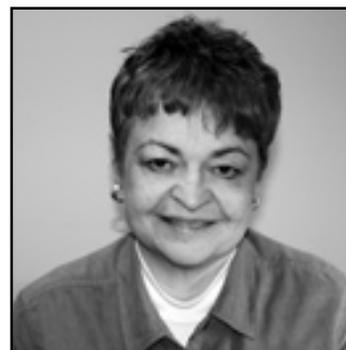
They are the victims of both the recession and, sometimes, their own poor financial decisions. They are new to the homeless condition,

embarrassed, frustrated, angry, but above all, frightened. These families are frightened by the unknown future and the impact that their circumstances are having on their children and relationships. The upside for these people is that a positive change in the economy can provide the employment resource to return to self-sufficiency. However, until there is a recovery, here too, St. Vincent de Paul can truly make a difference.

These two groups are distinctly different, yet they find themselves in similar circumstances. Their basic needs are the same. The first group, admittedly, has a longer journey than the second group, but both need our assistance.

With your continued support St. Vincent de Paul can truly make a difference.

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



Judy McCoy is Named Director of Special Projects at SVDP

Judy McCoy has been promoted to the new position of Director of Special Projects for St. Vincent de Paul, Louisville.

Originally from Peoria, Ill., Judy has 30 years of retail management experience, including for-profit and non-profit stores.

She joined the St. Vincent de Paul staff in October 2004 as Director of Thrift Stores. Since 2007, she has served as director of business development for the stores.



"As you know, St. Vincent de Paul is embarking on a major expansion of both the campus and programs we provide," said Ed Wnorowski, SVDP's executive director. He made the announcement in January.

"In anticipation of this expanded scope of what we do, I am pleased to announce the first organizational change to address the future needs of SVDP," Wnorowski said. "This new position will allow SVDP to capitalize on Judy's experience and core competencies."

McCoy will continue to focus on stores' issues and will supervise future Food and Nutrition Programs.

She will oversee the Food Bank and Pantry that is being planned for our campus in the Smoketown/Shelby Park neighborhood of downtown Louisville.

In addition, she has assumed management responsibilities for our Open Hand Kitchen, which serves about 75,000 free meals each year to anyone who shows up at our doors.

"I hope to make a very positive contribution to SVDP in this new position," McCoy says.

11-Year-Old Finds Creative Way to Give Comfort to the Poor



A cup of hot coffee, especially on a cold winter day, can mean a lot to the men and women who rely on free meals served at our Open Hand Kitchen.

Tori Shackleton, 11, saw an opportunity to help with that simple pleasure that many of us take for granted.

The fifth grader and her classmates at St. Stephen Martyr held a bake sale at their school and chose St. Vincent de Paul to receive the \$60 proceeds.



She asked what we needed and then purchased 4,000 Styrofoam® cups for our use in the Open Hand Kitchen.

Tori is no stranger to our campus. She regularly volunteers at the OHK along with Frank Perrone (*pictured at right*), her next-door neighbor.



Volunteers Receive Ozanam Training



More than 100 volunteers participated in the Louisville Council's first ever Ozanam Orientation, held Jan. 23 at Aloysius Hall, St. Agnes Catholic Church.

The day-long event included presentations focusing on the history of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Catholic lay organization's main founder, Frederic Ozanam.

Afternoon sessions centered on the spiritual significance of making home visits with the poor. Mass followed in the St. Agnes sanctuary.

Thanks to the St. Agnes Council for hosting the training, and to guest speakers Patrick White, Jerry Nieb and Anthony Bickers.

The training session will be repeated later in the year. Watch upcoming issues of the *Good Sam* for details, or check our Facebook Fan page: <http://www.svdplou.org/facebook.html>.



Cash Donations in March and April Can Help Fight Hunger

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 13th 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. For more details on other SVDP donation opportunities, contact Nancy Naughton at 502.301.8682.



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de PAUL
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Louisville, KY 40203
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THRIFT STORE LOCATIONS

1029 S. Preston Street
Louisville, KY

248 E. Market Street
Louisville, KY

2217 Hikes Lane
Louisville, KY

651 Eastern Blvd.
Clarksville, IN

MARCH EVENTS

A Thrift Stores truck will
pick up donations:

March 20-21, 2010

St. Patrick Catholic Church
1000 Beckley Station Road
Louisville, KY

GOOD SAMARITAN

'Through Any Door'

Screening Program a Tool for Conferences, Case Managers

St. Vincent de Paul is among several local agencies participating in a new program designed to help our clients receive social services that may be available to them through the city and state.

A \$250,000 federal grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is supporting the new program in Louisville, called "Through Any Door."

The program will ease the enrollment process for people seeking government assistance. Now, when families apply for assistance programs such as food stamps or low-income home energy assistance, applications will automatically be screened for eligibility in such benefits as children's health insurance, Medicaid and food stamps.

St. Vincent de Paul case managers and selected volunteers have received training in how to help participate in the screening program. They will interview clients and other people seeking assistance from St. Vincent de Paul, compile the necessary paperwork and documentation, and help set client appointments with local agencies that determine aid eligibility.

Organizers expect that the new program will be very helpful in identifying people who might be unaware that they qualify for financial assistance, and that it will streamline the often-lengthy food-stamp application process.

Volunteers in our conferences, who field a steady stream of calls for assistance from individuals and families in need, will now have another resource available to them to efficiently get people help for which they might qualify.

From a practical standpoint, it will also help the Conferences stretch their limited resources further, says Ed Wnorowski, SVDP executive director.

For example, if a family qualifies for food stamps, the conferences' financial assistance can be spent to help that family with other needs or bills instead of groceries, he explains.

Above: Ed Wnorowski and SVDP staff members and volunteers receive training from Metro employee Erika Branch of Metro Louisville.



GE Donation of Space Heaters Helps Clients

Offering financial assistance for people who need winter coats and help paying their utility bills are not the only ways St. Vincent de Paul is helping clients keep warm this winter.

With GE's recent donation of 75 ceramic space heaters, our conference volunteers and case managers have another resource for offering assistance to people in need.

St. William Conference has distributed many of the heaters, while others are being given away through referrals.

