



SOCIETY of
ST. VINCENT
de PAUL
LOUISVILLE

GOOD SAMARITAN

MAY 2010

OUR PROGRAMS

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

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Follow Up Provides a Safety Net for Clients

At 31, Crystal Burt is finally feeling optimistic about her future.

As a client in St. Vincent de Paul's Follow Up Program, she is getting her life back on track.

"I just bought a car," she says. "I got lucky. A friend of mine sold me their car for \$500."

The '96 Chevy Cavalier is one of those simple luxuries in her new life as a self-sufficient, working single mother.

"It's been a long, hard pull on that TARC bus," she says, with a laugh.

The public transit commute was especially tough on her son, age 12.

"We live in J'town, and they bus him to Shively, so he takes two different busses to school and back."

Although the purchase of a used car has eased transportation headaches, Crystal still faces the ups and downs of daily life. Her son Dominique has ADHD and narcolepsy, medical conditions which pose challenges for the two of them. Talking out these issues with her St. Vincent de Paul case manager, Renee Yates, helps Crystal vent frustrations.

"Renee is wonderful. If I didn't have her to go to, I'd be pulling my hair out," Crystal says.

The Follow Up Program helps previously homeless individuals and families find and maintain permanent housing in the community, says Christopher Raley, SVDP assistant director of programs, who manages Follow Up.

"It also provides ongoing case management to prevent a return to homelessness," Raley says.

Crystal is one of 44 clients in the grant-funded program, launched in 1993. SVDP has three case managers on staff who counsel the clients.

Crystal's experience is typical of many women who need help repairing their lives.

She got into legal problems as a result of her drug use, but it was a confrontation with her young son that proved to be her breaking point. She had been abusing drugs for 17 months when, "He came home from school one day and he told me until his mommy got clean, he was leaving."



Crystal (left) with her Follow Up case manager Renee Yates.

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On the Ground

By Nancy Naughton

Each night St. Vincent de Paul's campus in Smoketown/Shelby Park serves as a welcoming home for more than 200 people, including 20 children and their mothers.

In addition, our 47 conferences work tirelessly each day to help individuals and families throughout Louisville, Southern Indiana and Central Kentucky make ends meet so they can stay in their homes.

This assistance is delivered with great compassion and respect for those so very much in need.



Recently, I had the opportunity to speak to a man who was the beneficiary of this compassion many years ago.

When I mentioned I worked for St. Vincent de Paul, he immediately and enthusiastically related the important role St. Vincent de Paul had played in his life, recalling St. Vincent de Paul's frequent food deliveries to his home when he was a young boy.

His father had died, leaving his mother to raise their large family on her own. At the core of this vivid memory were the people of St. Vincent de Paul, who came to their home with help – while never making them feel poor or disadvantaged – and always treating them with kindness and affection.

Thanks to the selfless giving of time, talent and treasure by our many donors and volunteers, numerous individuals and families will have these same memories of St. Vincent de Paul. Over the past 12 months more than 86,000 hours of service were given by our volunteers and Vincentians to help those in need.

More than 78,000 meals were served in our Open Hand Kitchen, and 67,587 nights of lodging were provided. Donations from more than 3,200 individuals, families and businesses helped fund our programs.

As unemployment remains high and the need continues to grow, we are grateful to all the generous benefactors of St. Vincent de Paul.

Through your steadfast support, despite difficult economic times, you have continued to provide for our neighbors in need.

On behalf of our current and future clients, we extend our heartfelt thanks.

Naughton, formerly director of development, was recently promoted to associate executive director of St. Vincent de Paul, Louisville.

(Crystal, Continued from Page 1)

He did just that, going to live with his grandmother in March 2008. Crystal entered SVDP's St. Jude Women's Recovery Center in August and graduated 11 months later.

For her, as with many clients, the next step was our Follow Up Program, which has assisted in helping her find an apartment and set up housekeeping. In addition, the one-on-one support and counseling she receives is like a safety net to make sure she stays focused and on the right path.

In addition to her job working concessions at Freedom Hall, she will start community college classes in August. She wants to study forensics and criminal justice.

Another important area of her life is her devotion to 12-step support groups. She talks about the need to "stay in the middle of it." Without it, there is a danger of relapse, she explains.

"I love it," she says of her meetings. "It makes me feel comfortable. You just know you're not the only one out there trying, and it can be done. It's really helpful."

Being an active participant in her recovery helps Crystal keep her busy life productive and balanced, she adds.

"I've seen other people fail. It's really sad," she says, "but it's a hard thing to get over. All you can do for them is pray."

With God's help, her own determination and the care and support she receives in SVDP's Follow Up Program, Crystal believes she will succeed.

We wish her, and all of our clients, the very best.

How You Can Help

Basics can make all the difference to a person trying to regain their financial footing and long-term security.

Follow Up clients could always use help with items such as Kroger cards, which they may use for groceries and gas, according to Chris Raley, Follow Up manager.

Also useful are household items, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies and paper goods, including diapers and baby products.

To make a financial contribution to help support SVDP programs, please call Nancy Naughton at 502.301.8682, or e-mail her at: nnaughton@svdplou.org.



Pictured with Tennia is Stephanie Jones, president-elect of the association.

Louisville Paralegals Collect Clothing, Shoes

Tennia Hill (left), a paralegal who works at Stoll Keenon Ogden in downtown Louisville, spearheaded a recent drive to collect gently used clothing, shoes and cleaning supplies for St. Vincent de Paul.

As a member of the 181-member Louisville Association of Paralegals, she enlisted the support of her colleagues, who in turn put out the word to attorneys and staff representing most of the law firms in the city and Southern Indiana.

The result? In just a few weeks' time, they had gathered enough quality donations to fill more than 23 copy-paper boxes and 13 large bags, which they stacked floor-to-ceiling in a spare office on the 18th floor of SKO's Louisville headquarters. Our Thrift Store truck drivers picked up the generous bounty and wheeled the goods to the elevators on dollies.

The merchandise will replenish our four area Thrift Stores, and, of course, all sales will help fund our programs for the poor. Thank you!

Bellarmino Nursing Students Teach Health Classes Here

Senior nursing students in Bellarmine University's accelerated bachelor's degree program were frequent visitors on the St. Vincent de Paul campus during the first quarter of the year.

Led by instructor Brandy Henderson, the students taught a diabetes management class on one of the visits, and offered free blood-pressure screenings during another trip to our Open Hand Kitchen.

They returned in April to provide more comprehensive health screenings, teaching our men and women clients the importance of healthy eating habits, exercise and family history of diseases such as diabetes.



They also got to interact with many of our clients, including Curtis (shown at left). A resident at our Ozanam Inn men's shelter, he told the students how two heart attacks left him unable to work. As a result, he lost his job, and ultimately became homeless.

Curtis challenged their stereotypes about homeless people. Seeing him enter the shelter in his pressed jeans and clean white shirt, they assumed he was a staff member, not a client.

Students including Roger "Andrew" Holt (above, center), and Megan Reid (above, left), say they gained valuable insights as a result of their time and experience here on our campus. We are grateful for their partnership and compassion.



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TRUCK WEEKENDS

Our Thrift Stores trucks will
be at the following churches
this month:

May 8-9

Holy Spirit

3345 Lexington Road

May 15-16

Holy Trinity

501 Cherrywood Road

St. Edward

9608 Sue Helen Drive

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WITH SVDP!**

Follow us on **Twitter**
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See photos on **Flickr**

Links to all three of the
above sites may be found at:

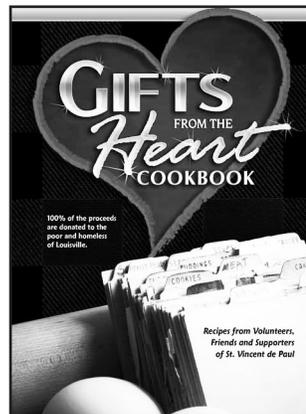
www.svdplou.org

GOOD SAMARITAN



Roberts Hall Ladies Team Up to Lose Weight

St. Vincent de Paul strives to promote a healthy lifestyle among clients and residents in our shelters and supportive programs. So it was a pleasant surprise to learn that a group of six ladies at Roberts Hall found a successful way to lose a few pounds. Inspired by the reality television show "The Biggest Loser," the women started a healthy competition to see who could lose the most weight. They encouraged each other to eat healthy foods and exercise, and within six weeks, the women had shed a collective 30 pounds. Way to go!



Cookbooks Almost Ready

Our long-awaited St. Vincent de Paul cookbook, entitled *Gifts from the Heart*, is almost complete! It's not too late to pre-order your copies. Packed full of cherished recipes, the books are a bargain at \$15 each. All proceeds help support our programs for the poor. To order, call Kathi Johnson: 502.301.8695.

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.