



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
- Homes with Hope
- 47 Parish Conferences

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# GOOD SAMARITAN

JULY 2010

## Back On Track

### *Husband and Father of Three Credits SVDP with Reuniting Family*

*Rob isn't shy about sharing his story. And he wants you to know: Not everyone who is homeless got that way as a result of drugs, alcohol or mental illness. Sometimes, life just happens.*



An Army cook, Rob married his high school sweetheart and had a family. They were living the American dream, until the couple began to have marital problems, in part due to his lengthy overseas deployments. He served a total of 14 years—off and on—in various countries, including Iraq.

Rob returned from a mission in Serbia/Bosnia last year to discover his wife had left him. Caught off guard, and without the financial means to support himself in the short term, Rob had no place to call home.

"I never thought I'd be homeless," he says. "I hate to admit it, but I am one of those people who used to look down on the homeless."

He spent a few nights at area shelters before landing at St. Vincent de Paul, where he says he was grateful to get a clean, warm bed at our Ozanam Inn men's overnight emergency shelter. Humbled, he was nonetheless impressed with the shelter's high standards, he says, and that it lived up to its reputation among the homeless as a safe, preferred place where people living on the streets can find a measure of comfort.

"St. Vincent de Paul helped me stay positive," he says. "It made such a difference for me."

Most of all, Rob credits Ozanam's caring staff with helping him get his life back on track. Working with a case manager over many months, he reconciled with his family. As a result, Rob no longer lives at St. Vincent de Paul. He and his wife and their kids, ages 15, 13 and 6, have their own home and a new set of priorities in life. Devoted Christians, they are active in a small, non-denominational church in Southern Indiana. And for the first time in years, they have hope for the future. Rob has a local job, and he will begin engineering studies this fall at the University of Louisville.

## On the Ground



No surprises here.

It is not a surprise that the impact of our country's ongoing recession is lingering--and that it is affecting a growing number of families and individuals.

It is not a surprise that high unemployment is usually one of the last factors to rebound, even in a strong recovery.

Jobs remain scarce; and it is questionable whether or not we are even on the brink of any kind of economic recovery. And, unfortunately, it is not a surprise that we continue to see an increase in requests for assistance here at St. Vincent de Paul.

I am sure that this recession has touched each of you in some fashion. You may have a relative who has been laid off, or someone close to you may be facing the pain and indignity of foreclosure or eviction.

St Vincent de Paul continues to provide some immediate relief for these desperate people, in the form of utility, rent or mortgage assistance.

But as most of you are keenly aware, our resources are being stretched, and some needs must go unanswered.

The end result is that it becomes even more difficult for many families and individuals to regain their financial footing and independence.

The bottom line will certainly come as no surprise to you, our loyal donors and Good Sam subscribers: We need your continued support now, more than ever.

That's why the success of our upcoming fundraiser--St. Vincent de Paul's 7th Annual Charity Golf Scramble and Auction Event, Sept. 12 and 13--is so crucial.

The good news is that we have three easy and painless ways in which you can choose to participate in this worthy event.

And you don't even have to know how to swing a golf club!

Here are my suggestions:

1. Buy a raffle ticket. Once again this year, we are selling 750 raffle tickets, with a cash prize of \$5,000.
2. Donate items to be included in our Live and Silent Auction Event at Porcini.
3. Join us at Big Spring Country Club on Monday, Sept. 13, for the 1pm shotgun start of our Golf Scramble. Put together a team and compete, or ask your company or small business to sponsor a hole on the course

Get involved. You might just be surprised at how rewarding it can be.

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

## Contributions Sought for Live and Silent Auctions

Weekend getaways, gourmet gift baskets, sports collectibles, jewelry and leather handbags were among the popular items auctioned off at last year's Golf Scramble/Auction event.

We're now soliciting for items for this year's Live and Silent Auction, to be held the evening of Sunday, Sept. 12 at Porcini, 2730 Frankfort Ave.

We need your ideas (and donations) for creative auction items that will help make the 2010 event fun and exciting for our guests, as well as profitable for St. Vincent de Paul.

Remember, all net proceeds will help to further the good work of our agency in lifting up people in our community who have fallen on hard times.

To discuss an auction item donation, please contact Nancy Naughton at 502.301.8682; [nnaughton@svdplou.org](mailto:nnaughton@svdplou.org).

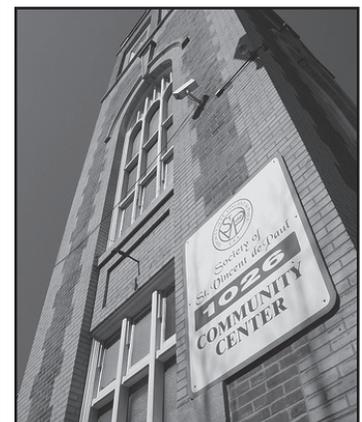
To purchase raffle tickets or register a golf team to play in the scramble, contact Kathi Johnson at 502.301.8695; [kjohnson@svdplou.org](mailto:kjohnson@svdplou.org).

## Florist's Helping Hands Program Includes St. Vincent de Paul

Nanz & Kraft Florists, a popular chain of area floral shops, has included St. Vincent de Paul in its new Helping Hands online giving program. Helping Hands was created earlier this year to help local nonprofit organizations achieve their fundraising goals, according to David L. Kraft, Nanz & Kraft vice president.



Here's how it works: St. Vincent de Paul will receive a \$2 donation from every Internet order placed at [Nanzkraft.com](http://Nanzkraft.com), when you select us as the recipient. Remember us the next time you send someone flowers! Bookmark this web address: [www.nanzkraft.com](http://www.nanzkraft.com).



## Got Skills?

### Classes Help Prepare Clients for Independent Life After Leaving SVDP

In addition to meeting basic human needs of food, shelter and clothing, St. Vincent de Paul offers clients other forms of help, including one-on-one case management, counseling, encouragement and learning opportunities.

LifeSkills classes, which are ongoing and open to clients across all of our varied programs, take place several times a month on our campus.

From healthy meal planning and anger management to computer training and parenting, classes focus on teaching people practical skills that will help them in life.

Cory Bledsoe, a program aide at Ozanam Inn who coordinates these classes, says they are critical to our clients' long-term prospects for independence.



A seminary student who worked as a volunteer with the homeless for several years before joining the staff at St. Vincent de Paul in 2008, he cites this adage: 'Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.'

"There is a very fine line between enabling someone and helping someone," Bledsoe says. "The goal is to help, not enable."

LifeSkills classes allow SVDP clients the chance to learn things they may never have been taught – how to budget their money, make healthy food choices, control their frustrations—as they transition out of homelessness, he adds.

"All of our LifeSkills classes are designed to offer our clients helpful insight into how to manage their homes, lives, money, etc... with the hope that a year from now or two years from now they will no longer need our assistance but will be completely self-sufficient in every way."



*Top: Cory Bledsoe, program aide at Ozanam Inn, chats with one of the shelter's clients. Above: Robin Wickham, a case manager for our Follow Up program and DePaul Apartments, leads a recent parenting class. The two sessions were both well attended by men and women alike.*

## CONNECT WITH SVDP!

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



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ST. VINCENT  
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1015-C S. Preston St.  
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## TRUCK WEEKENDS

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

### June 17-18

St. Athanasius  
5915 Outer Loop  
Louisville, KY 40219

### June 24-25

St. Bernadette  
6500 St. Bernadette Ave. (Norton Commons)  
Prospect, KY 40059

## PLAN AHEAD:

### September 25

3rd Annual  
Friends of the Poor Walk  
@ Churchill Downs  
Registration: 8am  
Walk Begins: 9am

### September 26

St. Vincent de Paul Sunday  
observed in parishes

## GOOD SAMARITAN

### Measured Progress Employees Give Summer Camp Supplies

When the kind-hearted employees at Measured Progress heard that St. Vincent de Paul was in need of items for its summer children's program, they not only responded—they went above and beyond.

"Project Possibilities," the name of our summer enrichment day camp for homeless children, kicked off last month and wraps up at the end of July. Geared toward preventing "brain drain" in the school-aged children who live on our campus by providing stimulating learning opportunities, the innovative program is being made possible by a LEAP grant from The Community Foundation of Louisville.

Measured Progress' Naomi Terrill and Chris Hood (pictured at right) spearheaded the drive to collect supplies such as markers, clipboards, t-shirts, watering cans, garden tools and paper products. Instead of contributing a few items on our "wish list," they fulfilled it in its entirety.

One day each week, the children will plan and prepare their own breakfast and lunch together as a group activity. To help, Measured Progress also gave us more than \$200 in Kroger gift cards.

Their generous contributions were enough to fill four large storage bins, providing our children and staff with everything they need to engage in fun summer projects such as gardening, reading and participating in weekly field trips to places of educational interest.



Measured Progress is an industry leader in the development of customized, K-12 student assessments for schools, districts, and states. The company's Louisville office employees, as well as the corporate headquarters in Dover, N.H., has contributed food pantry items and cash to our Open Hand Kitchen over the past few years.

We are most grateful to have such engaged and committed partners in our mission to help improve the lives of poor and at-risk families and individuals.

*Left: Christopher Raley, SVDP's associate director of programs, helps Nancy Naughton, SVDP associate executive director, and Naomi Terrill, load the supplies into the SVDP van.*

### Upcoming Vincentian Events Include Orientation and Annual Meeting

- An Ozanam Orientation workshop for Vincentians will be held on July 31 in the administration building at St. Vincent de Paul, 1015-C S. Preston St. The program will begin at 9am and is tentatively scheduled to last until about 3pm. To register, please contact Donna Young at 502.301.8688; dyoung@svdplou.org
- The annual St. Vincent de Paul Council of Louisville meeting will be held at 5pm, Aug. 11 at St. Ignatius Catholic Church, 1816 Rangeland Road, Louisville, KY, 40219. A Mass will follow.