



SOCIETY of
ST. VINCENT
de PAUL
LOUISVILLE

GOOD SAMARITAN

JUNE 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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- and Calendar of Upcoming Events



Volunteers Refurbish SVDP

More than 150 GE employees donated their time and efforts the last week of April to help refurbish St. Vincent de Paul's inner-city campus.

The hard-working volunteers—all with GE's IT department—completed a variety of projects including painting, refinishing the wood floors in our Open Hand Kitchen, and preparing the kitchen basement for our new food pantry.

GE donated materials for the work days at St. Vincent de Paul. In addition, the company gave washers and dryers to DePaul Apartments for homeless women and children.

"The assistance from the GE volunteers has been invaluable," said Ed Wnorowski, executive director of SVDP. "We would not have been able to accomplish these significant campus improvements without them."

Long before this work project took place, GE was already a loyal corporate partner. Through a program for current and retired employees, GE generously matches contributions its employees and retirees make to St. Vincent de Paul. When financial gifts are designated for food and shelter, GE even doubles the match.

A focal point of GE's massive work project here was the rebuilding of the ramp outside the front doors of Ozanam Inn men's homeless shelter and our Open Hand Kitchen.

The ramp is significant in that it is often a first point of entry for people in need who come to our campus in search of food, shelter and other assistance.

Preparations for the intensive work day began in the weeks prior to the event. Crews were here to assess, measure and lay groundwork for the designated day when the entire GE IT team arrived *en masse*. That day, the GE crew began at sunrise and worked all day on the sturdy new structure.



At lunchtime, the GE team paused to dedicate the new ramp to the memory of Jonathan Cunningham, a member of the GE IT team and president of the GE Volunteers Council. A husband and father, he died in March at the age of 31.

Cunningham's widow was on hand as a small plaque honoring her late husband was installed on the new ramp. The sign will serve as a reminder to all those who enter St. Vincent de Paul that there are many kind people in this world who care about others in need.

For information on workplace giving programs or to donate to St. Vincent de Paul, please contact Nancy Naughton at 502.301.8682; nnaughton@svdplou.org.

On the Ground



Note to *Good Sam* Readers,

Recently, I received this letter from a grateful parent of one of our clients. I shared it with my staff as a reminder of why we are all here at St. Vincent de Paul. With her permission, I would also like to share her letter with you, our faithful donors. It's because of your loyalty and support that we are able to offer help, hope and encouragement for people trying to restore their lives.

— Ed Wnorowski, Executive Director, St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

Dear Mr. Wnorowski,

Last month my daughter graduated from St. Jude [Women's] Recovery Center after 14 months of treatment. It is technically a six-month program but, as she said when she got up to speak, it took her six months just to get honest.

When she walked into the room, it was like I was seeing her recovery for the first time. She looked so beautiful and whole, smiling and hugging everyone. I realized that the image I still had of her in my head was of a sometimes violent, always belligerent, physically and emotionally emaciated shell of a human being.

It was a long road that began with me hauling her out of jail for the first time when she was 13, then four or five more times until she turned 18. She estimates she has been arrested 12 to 15 times since, but is not really sure. She still has legal issues to resolve, and still has "time on the shelf" (which means if she does anything at all she will have to serve her remaining time), but she is dutifully going to court and making restitution.

In the past, she only kept a job long enough to get a check and some drug money. She has held her current position for just over a year. She is healing her relationship with her son and providing a safe and loving home environment for him.

Today, as my daughter and I were out shopping, she talked about her time at St. Jude's as she frequently does. I said, "St. Jude's saved your life." We both already knew this. It just felt good to be able to say it out loud.

Thank you for everything you have done for my daughter, my family and for all the other women and families you have helped.

May God bless you and keep you,

Julia



Caring Donors Make Easter Brighter for Our Clients, Including Young Children

The redemptive message of Easter was abundant on the St. Vincent de Paul campus this past spring, as caring people from a variety of schools and parishes reached out to our clients.

High school students with St. Gabriel Catholic Church's youth group treated the moms and children living at our DePaul Apartments to an Easter Egg Hunt.

Face-painting, candy-filled eggs, stuffed animals and playground fun brought lots of smiles to the faces of children and adults alike.

Thanks to Patrick Lynch and the entire St. Gabriel crew for their fellowship with these families.

Another spirited effort came from kindergarteners at Sacred Heart Model Academy.

They lovingly assembled Easter baskets for some of our young clients. Included were candy, small stuffed animals and pictures and cards colored by the children.

Even at an early age, they are learning compassion for the poor and homeless.

In addition, St. Vincent de Paul received an abundance of paper products including much-needed basics like diapers, cleaning supplies, paper towels and other goods. Six carloads of supplies were gathered this year in what has become an annual, parish-wide social outreach at St. Patrick Church. For many years, the congregation has collected wish-listed items for our campus during Lent.

We greatly appreciate our donors' generosity.



WANT TO WIN \$5,000?

Raffle tickets are now available for our September 12th-13th Golf Scramble and Auction Event.

The cost is \$25 each for a chance at \$5,000! (You need not be present at the Golf Scramble to win.)

ALL PROCEEDS HELP FUND SVDP PROGRAMS

St. Vincent de Paul's
Golf Scramble &
Auction Fundraiser

Sept. 12-13, 2010

Silent Auction at Porcini 9/12

—*New Golf Venue!*—

Big Spring Country Club 9/13

To purchase raffle tickets, register a golf team or to donate auction items, contact Kathi Johnson at 502.301.8695; or by e-mail at kjohnson@svdplou.org.



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TRUCK WEEKENDS

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

June 5-6

St. Rita

8709 Preston Highway

June 12-13

St. Michael

3705 Stone Lakes Drive

Upcoming Events

June 26

Annual Vincentian Retreat

9am to 3pm at Lighthouse Epiphany Church

(Mass to Follow)

September 25

3rd Annual Friends of the Poor Walk at Churchill Downs

Registration 8am

Walk Begins 9am

September 26

St. Vincent de Paul Sunday observed in parishes

GOOD SAMARITAN

Results of GE's Work Are Plain to See

Photos (from top): Jay Richardson and Shawn Eads were the enthusiastic co-leaders of GE's huge work project here.

After refinishing and waxing the badly scuffed floors in our Open Hand Kitchen, the wooden surface now shines.

GE employees worked to beautify the grounds of our campus, too. Becky Woodrow and Lauren Whitsell planted flowers under this shade tree.

The kind folks at GE left no one—and no creature—behind. Tucker, St. Jude Women's Recovery Center's beloved pet dog (a former stray) received a few bags of kibble, treats, and even a few chew toys.



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