

GOOD SAMARITAN

St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville, KY

Volume 1 | Issue 8

www.svdplou.org

August | 2011



"Miss Ella" with Grandchildren Danaee' and D.J.

Grandmother Dreams of Her Own Sweet Home

As she puts the finishing touches on a vanilla pound cake she's just baked from scratch, Ella Mae has the rapt attention of her two young grandchildren. Both are wide-eyed with anticipation as their grandmother spoons homemade caramel icing on top of the warm yellow cake that's just come out of the oven.

The children beam with pride as they watch her. "She makes all kinds of cakes," says Danaee', age 9.

"My favorite is pecan pie," chimes in her younger brother, 8-year-old D.J.

Ella, 53, a former hospital cook, has endured more than her share of problems in life, including some serious dysfunction within her large, extended family. As a result, she has had to learn to be firm with those who try to take advantage of her generosity and kind heart. "These kids are my main concern now," Ella says. "I love them, and I will do whatever it takes to raise them right."

A series of traumatic events led to her gaining custody. Ella is their sole caregiver, having previously made the difficult choice to end her troubled 22-year marriage.

(Continued on page 2)

GOOD SAMARITAN

On the Ground

By Nancy Naughton
Associate Executive Director
St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville



As our campus expands, we are seeing exciting signs of personal growth, particularly with our youngest clients.

Currently 19 children live here on our St. Vincent de Paul campus. Soon that number will grow to approximately 70, when our new apartments for homeless families open later this year.

This summer it has been a pleasure to watch the children engage in fun and educational activities through our Project Possibilities program. The conference room in our administration building serves as their summer classroom, which has made St. Vincent de Paul's administration building a lively place!



Our goal is to challenge our young clients to take their actions seriously, to help them search for and to recognize future opportunities and to teach them to view their life decisions within the context of a larger mission.

It is critical that we surround these children with a support network that will help them on their way through a sometimes hard but, hopefully, gratifying life journey.

In this issue of the *Good Samaritan*, we share with you a look at a few of the many people helping our young clients to seek out opportunities and understand their own great value: a grandmother striving to give her grandchildren the best possible future, volunteers working to make our summer events happy and memorable experiences, and the Dominican Brothers giving of their considerable talent and compassion to help our families in need.



Terrell (center) wanted to make a lemon meringue pie from scratch, so Brother Cassian (left) and Brother John Baptist (right) helped him do just that. Above: Jasmine enjoys arts and crafts with a couple of the Catholic Heart Work Camp volunteers.

On behalf of all the men, women and children served by St. Vincent de Paul, we thank you for your ongoing support.

Without your sacrifice, these rewarding outcomes would simply not be possible.

(Continued from page 1)

For several months she and her children lived in a local homeless shelter, before being referred to St. Vincent de Paul. In April of this year, they moved into DePaul Apartments, which offers affordable rent and utilities, along with case management.

"This has been such a blessing," Ella Mae says. "It's given me back my independence." Facing surgery to correct a health problem that has prevented her from working for the past few years, Ella is eager to get back to earning her own paycheck. "I was good at my job, and I miss it," she says.



Ella hopes to return to Norton Hospital, where she'd been employed as a cafeteria cook and server.

In the meantime, she makes a little extra money by taking cake orders from friends and acquaintances, such as the cashier at Sav-A-Lot who ordered the caramel cake. All hours of the day and night, she bakes in her apartment's small but cheerful kitchen that she's decorated with a red apple motif.

A model client, according to her SVDP case manager, Ella is laying the financial groundwork to own her own home. She has been diligent about building up her savings account, and she lives within her means.

Ella's strong work ethic has been a good influence on her grandkids. Danaee' dreams of growing up to become a hairdresser, while D.J., like many 8-year-old boys, wants to play basketball in the NBA. His eyes sparkle when he talks about moving his grandmother and sister to Miami one day, so he can play with LeBron James' team—until Danaee' reminds him there are snakes in Florida.

"I'll play for Louisville, then," he says with a shrug. Problem solved.

• To make a donation to St. Vincent de Paul, please contact Nancy Naughton at (502) 301-8682.



Cindi and Danny Patterson brought their children, Daniel, Sarah and Skylar, to help serve St. Vincent de Paul guests in our Open Hand Kitchen.



Families' Labor of Love is Providing Special Meal at SVDP

For the 4th consecutive year, good friends Clyde Hayes and Danny Patterson have teamed together to provide a special cook-out meal for guests in our Open Hand Kitchen. Danny is owner of Stokers, a distributor for Broasted Chicken.

Together, Clyde, Danny (pictured at left with his family) and their extended family members purchased all the ingredients for the special meal, and then brought and served the feast to the grateful men, women and children who ate their noon meal here on our campus.

Angus beef burgers and all the trimmings were on the menu, along with ice cream for dessert. Clyde and his crew also baked, iced and put sprinkles on 150 tasty cupcakes the night before the event, demonstrating what a labor of love this outreach is for them.

Summer Events Allow Youth to Engage with St. Vincent de Paul Clients

Teens and young adults from throughout Louisville and the United States made St. Vincent de Paul a focus of their summer outreach efforts to the poor and homeless. In late June, more than 500 of our guests were treated to an old-fashioned cook-out with games, singing and fellowship when the CrossRoads Ministry at a local parish, St. William Catholic Church, hosted an event as part of their annual CrossWalk urban ministry camp. In addition, seven high school students from around the U.S. spent a week on our campus as part of Catholic Heart Work Camp. They spent much of their time working with kids in our summer day camp, Project Possibilities.



Above: A CrossWalk participant chats with SVDP clients and guests. Right: Catholic Heart Work Camp volunteer Chahm helps Project Possibilities camper Lilee make a papier mache volcano. More photos: www.svdplou.org.

Plan Ahead:

August 31–Sept. 3
SVDP National Meeting
Dallas, Texas
Info and registration at: www.svdpusa.org

Sept. 11-12
7th Annual SVDP Charity
Golf Scramble & Auction Event
Big Spring Country Club/Porcini
Info and registration: kjohnson@svdplou.org

Oct. 15
SVDP Louisville
3rd Annual Retreat
Nazareth Retreat Center,
Info: Donna Young (502) 301-8688;
dyoung@svdplou.org

Meijer's 'Simply Give' Program Helps SVDP

A jar of peanut butter, a box of oats, and canned fruits and vegetables are staples that many of us take for granted. To a family who doesn't know where their next meal will come from, these basic foods can be a blessing. Our corporate partners at Meijer understand that, and they are making a difference.

Meijer's Simply Give Spring program was its most successful ever, raising a total of \$270,445 in gift cards for food pantries nationwide, including St. Vincent de Paul. The total includes a \$150,000 donation to food pantries by the Meijer family.



Thank you to everyone who purchased these Simply Give gift cards at Meijer's Westport Road location in Louisville.

Your support of this charitable outreach comes at a crucial time, as demand for St. Vincent de Paul's services is growing. For example, requests for assistance from families in need have increased 29 percent versus a year ago.

With your help and funds received from Simply Give, we provide food baskets and other emergency assistance to parents struggling to make ends meet and to keep their children fed.

As the U.S. continues to face an uncertain economy, food pantries



are an increasingly critical resource in preventing hunger. We greatly appreciate Meijer's community partnership in helping meet this pressing need.

Why Does a \$25 Raffle Ticket Matter?

Each night, about 200 people who would otherwise be living on the streets find a safe and secure place to sleep in our emergency overnight men's homeless shelter and in our supportive housing programs for families and individuals.

Additionally, more than 250 people are fed hot, nourishing meals in our Open Hand Kitchen.

In our offices and in home visits, our caring and professional case managers work with clients who are struggling to overcome a range of challenges, including financial instability, legal issues, mental and physical health concerns, and other barriers to self-sufficiency.

Our mission is to help people who have fallen on hard times by offering them a safety net and an opportunity to improve their lives and become independent.

We could not provide these critical services without the support of our donors and income generated by our only fundraiser of the year: St. Vincent de Paul's Golf Scramble and Charity Auction Event will be Sept. 11 and 12 at Big Spring Country Club and at Porcini restaurant.

Whether you play golf or not, you can help make this important fundraiser a success simply by purchasing a raffle ticket for only \$25. Help us sell all 750 tickets this year by encouraging your friends, family members and colleagues to support this worthwhile cause.

The lucky winner of the raffle will win \$5,000! You need not attend the Golf Scramble to be eligible.

To order your tickets, please contact Kathi Johnson at (502) 301- 8695; kjohnson@svdplou.org. Thank you for your continued support of our mission to help people in need.

Stay in touch...



Follow us on Twitter!
[@svdplou](https://twitter.com/svdplou)



Follow us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/svdplou



Visit us online!
www.svdplou.org