

GOOD SAMARITAN

St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville, KY

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Friends of the Poor® Walk Proceeds Help Neighbors

Vincetians, lay Catholic volunteers who make home visits to people seeking assistance from St. Vincent de Paul, are, in many ways, on the front lines of our charity's mission to help the poor and homeless.

While shunning the spotlight for their spiritually motivated work, these volunteers make a big difference in the lives of families and individuals in crisis.

Linda Gottbrath and Martha Thomas felt grateful for the chance to assist two families recently.

"For one woman, we paid her LG&E bill," Gottbrath says. "We sat for over an hour with the lady. She's fallen on hard times, and she has disabilities. Her house payment is more than her income."

For another client, she and Thomas were able to offer \$350 toward rent, as well as food vouchers for the Southeast Helping Hand Food Pantry at St. Ignatius Catholic Church.

"She didn't have a penny toward her rent, so we told her we could help her with half of it," Gottbrath says, "And we gave her resources to call other ministries that might be able to help."

The care, concern, encouragement and limited financial assistance offered by volunteers help bridge gaps for people who are weathering trying circumstances and hardships.

"It makes you feel so good to go out and help these people," Galbreath says. "If we can get them over a hump, we feel like we've accomplished something. On the whole, these are very sweet people, caught in bad times."

All proceeds from the 4th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk Oct. 16 at Churchill Downs go toward this ministry. Pledges may be designated for any SVDP Conference walkers choose.

Walk registration is at 1pm, with the walk set to begin at 2pm. For more information, contact Donna Young at (502) 301-8688.



College and High School Groups Visit Campus

With the new academic school year underway, St. Vincent de Paul is once again a field trip destination for hundreds of high school and college students from throughout the Louisville area.

Students from Bellarmine University (below) and Mercy Academy (above) were among the first schools that sent teams to our campus in September.

These students typically help out in various ways, from cleaning and organizing items in our food pantry to serving meals and assisting with food preparation in our Open Hand Kitchen.

One class of freshmen from Mercy Academy relished the opportunity to shuck 400 ears of fresh-picked corn on the cob that OHK Manager Norm Brown had just received as a donation from Gallrein Farms. The good-natured girls seemed to enjoy the detassling task, which they completed in less than 30 minutes!



How Do We Solve the Problem?

By Ed Wnorowski

The single most significant factor contributing to "Homelessness" is the lack of affordable housing. As a small step in addressing this issue, St. Vincent de Paul undertook a very ambitious expansion of our campus that included 54 housing units for homeless families and individuals.

Financing projects of this type is difficult even in the best of times and, unfortunately, we undertook this project just as the nation was entering the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. Thus, funding this much-needed housing for the homeless became very challenging.

We are privileged to have collaborated with hundreds of individuals and notably two local organizations, Stock Yards Bank & Trust Co. and the Brown Forman Corp., which have made this new housing a reality.

Through the efforts of this partnership we will be moving the first clients into these new housing units later this month. The occupancy will be done in two phases, starting with the South Campus. This phase includes a building with 10 one-bedroom apartments that will provide housing for both homeless men and women, including those with disabilities.

St. Vincent de Paul staff members on our campus will provide these clients with case management and life skills training as well as access to quality of life opportunities.



Also on the South Campus is a truly unique structure that will serve as home to 24 disabled homeless women. This building was constructed around a hundred-year-old camelback-style shotgun house. While much of the building is new, we were able to respect the architectural history of the area while providing much-needed supportive housing for a needy and fragile population.

This single-room occupancy (SRO) building is similar to a dormitory; each of these women will have a private bedroom and share a bath with one other person. The kitchen, living, dining and laundry areas are shared by all the residents. This arrangement allows for the higher level of case management and support that these individuals require to successfully transition from homelessness.



Meanwhile, the North Campus will be completed and ready to residents in mid-November. This portion of

the project includes eight three-bedroom and 12 two-bedroom apartments (see rendering). These new apartments will result in a dramatic increase in the number of homeless families that St. Vincent de Paul will be directly housing.

Not surprisingly, we anticipate that we will have a total of between 80 and 100 children living on the campus once these units are occupied. We will provide more details on this major initiative in the near future.

All of these efforts are dependent on you for their success, and we thank you for your ongoing support.

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

Back-to-School Drive Gives Kids a Boost

In its first year, Mall St. Matthews' new back-to-school donation drive benefiting St. Vincent de Paul was a great success.

Inside one of the mall's courtyards, a large donation box, designed to look like a chalkboard, featured colorful signage encouraging shoppers to purchase new backpacks, clothing and other school supplies to SVDP, to be distributed to children from families that couldn't afford these necessities.

By Labor Day weekend, when the month-long donation drive ended, SVDP had received a variety of useful items, including boys' and girls' clothing and school uniforms, backpacks, aluminum water bottles and school supplies including notebooks and pocket folders.

Donors, including this teen (pictured), brought bags full of items requested for this program.



In September, SVDP case managers invited mothers with school-aged children to come and choose items from among



the donated merchandise. Thanks to everyone who helped boost the self-esteem of poor children by giving them new supplies to take into the classroom this fall.

St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville



Bring Your Donated Furniture, Clothing and Household Goods to Our Thrift Store Trucks

Writing a check and volunteering time are among the ways St. Vincent de Paul's supporters help sustain our service to the people in need. Another easy way to help is by bringing your gently used clothing as well as household goods and furniture in good condition to our four area Thrift Stores.

All net profits from store sales are fed directly back into our many programs serving poor and homeless families and individuals in our area.

Our "Truck Weekends" are a convenient way for you to bring us your donations. On weekends, our Thrift Store box trucks are scheduled at certain local parishes.

Anyone may drop off clothing, household items, toys, collectibles and the like. (Note: No furniture can be accepted through these sites; call us for free pick-up service at (502) 589-7837.)

Oct. 1-2
St. Athanasius
5915 Outer Loop, Louisville

Oct. 8-9
Holy Spirit
3345 Lexington Road, Louisville
Sat. 10am to 6pm
Sun 8am to 2pm
and

St. Mary's
720 E. Elm St., New Albany, IN

Oct. 15-16
Epiphany
914 Old Harrods Creek Road, Louisville
and

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
5505 New Cut Road, Louisville

Oct. 22-23
St. Bernadette
6500 St. Bernadette Ave., Prospect, KY

Oct. 29-30
St. Aloysius
212 Mt. Mercy Dr., Pewee Valley, KY
Sat. 3 to 7pm
Sun 9am to 1pm

Harvest Season Reflections

The late-summer tomatoes have all been harvested, and clients and residents of St. Vincent de Paul's inner-city campus can take pride in the success of the 2011 garden project.

With the assistance of Steve Meredith, who works to assist in a statewide community garden initiative in Kentucky First Lady Jane Beshear's office in Frankfort, KY, the new garden plot was tilled early in the spring. Robin Wickham, SVDP case manager (below, at left, with SVDP client Sandra), oversaw the project here on campus.

Case managers and clients who stay at Ozanam Inn men's shelter, St. Jude Women's Recovery Center, Simon Hall and Tranquil House all had a hand in planting and tending the garden, which is located in the southeast corner of the St. Vincent de Paul campus in the Smoketown/Shelby Park neighborhood.

Kale, cabbage, broccoli and tomatoes were grown, with crops being shared among clients who worked in the garden as well as being used in meals served in our Open Hand Kitchen, 1026 S. Jackson St.

Perhaps no other group of clients enjoyed the garden as much as the children at our De Paul Apartments for formerly homeless women and their children. Residents including 2-year-old Carlee and her mother, Nicole (above) enjoyed picking the fresh produce together. For many of these families, the garden was a welcome opportunity for them to discover some of the simple joys of nature.



Plan Ahead:

Oct. 15
SVDP Louisville
3rd Annual Retreat
Nazareth Retreat Center,
Nazareth, KY

Louis Arceneaux, C.M., Retreat Leader
9:30am to 3:30pm "Fundamentals of Spirituality"
Continental Breakfast and Lunch Provided
4pm Mass, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Nazareth

Reservations required: \$25 per person

Oct. 16
4th Annual
Friends of the Poor Walk
Churchill Downs
1pm Registration
2pm Walk

Sunday, Dec. 11
SVDP Annual Santa Shop

*For more info on all events, contact
Donna Young at (502) 301-8688;
dyoung@svdplou.org.*



Molly Malone's Crew Serves in OHK

In recent months, St. Vincent de Paul has been blessed with an increasing number of requests from groups and individuals interested in volunteering here on our campus. Often times, a main point of entry for these newcomers is our Open Hand Kitchen, which relies on volunteer help to serve meals to our clients at lunch and dinner, seven days a week.

One of our newest serving teams comes from the staff at Molly Malone's Irish Pub and Restaurant (the Highlands), including Chris Fenton, Brittany Downing, Mary Minogue, Will Zalka, Derek Paulus and Luke Ahearn.



Like most of the caring individuals on our 64 OHK serving teams, volunteers often engage with clients on a person-to-person level. Volunteers soon discover how important these meals are to the men, women and children we feed each day of the year. We appreciate all of the dedicated people who make this lifesaving ministry possible, year in and year out.

***Pictured above:** Chris (left) chats with Russell, a client who stays in our men's homeless shelter.*



Visits Offer Opportunity to Share SVDP's Mission

Community outreach is a vital part of St. Vincent de Paul's effort to make more people aware of our programs, services and volunteer opportunities.

One recent speaking engagement was at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School in Clarksville, Ind. Donna Young (pictured, left), SVDP's Director of Conference Affairs, spoke to a group of second-graders about our efforts to help the hungry. The schoolchildren are collecting food for their church's Bag of Blessings ministry.

To schedule an SVDP speaker, please contact us at (502) 301-8688.