

# GOOD SAMARITAN

## St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville, KY

www.svdplou.org

January | 2012

## Volunteers and Donors Keep Thrift Stores Stocked

If you've ever browsed one of St. Vincent de Paul's four Thrift Stores, you may have wondered where we get all the toys and books, dishes and household décor, and men's, women's and children's clothing and shoes that are for sale.

The short answer is: We get our merchandise from people like you! Net sales from our retail stores help fund St. Vincent de Paul's critically needed programs and services for thousands of poor and homeless families and individuals right here in our community.

Jim Queenan, a 73-year-old retiree, is on the front lines of this important outreach. For several years he has volunteered his time going door to door, hanging doorknob fliers that ask people to look through their homes for gently used items to donate to St. Vincent de Paul's stores. He returns a few days later to pick up the items people have set aside for us.

Jim has been quite successful, having collected more than 800 boxes and bags—literally tons—of donations that help supply our Thrift Stores with affordably priced goods. While he doesn't want kudos, Jim agreed to be featured in this issue of the Good Samaritan in the hope it might encourage others to get involved in this charitable work that he finds so fulfilling.

Now retired from a sales career, Jim says he enjoys staying active while helping out a charity he believes in. "It's really a low-key kind of job," he says. "It's good to get out." With a smile, he adds: "And it's an opportunity to be a go-giver instead of a go-getter!"

He started the volunteer work in June 2010.

Jim makes his rounds in his four-door Geo Prizm, driving up and down residential streets in mostly familiar neighborhoods in the eastern suburbs of Louisville.

"People may not realize it, but it's something you can do at your own pace," he says.

He puts our Thrift Store fliers inside residents' newspaper boxes. When he chooses to walk instead of drive, he hangs the fliers on front doors.

Normally, Jim distributes the fliers on Thursdays and Fridays, returning to the same neighborhoods the following Tuesday to pick up the donations that people have set aside for St. Vincent de Paul.

Judy McCoy, director of special projects for St. Vincent de Paul, works with Thrift Store volunteers such as Queenan. "He is the most active volunteer!" she says. "In the past, we have had younger kids who did this kind of project for service hours at school." Youths are accompanied by a parent, and they usually canvas in their own neighborhoods only, she explains.

Jim has expanded the outreach, taking the "Tag-a-Door" program, as it has been known, to new levels of productivity and efficiency, she explains.

"Jim has done this year-round for us,"



McCoy says. "Last year he did it in January, February and March, when our donations are usually very scarce."

It has made a huge difference in helping us keep our store shelves stocked, she says. "It also makes donating to us more accessible to the people who might have given but didn't have a way to get their donations to us. With Jim helping us, all they've got to do is put their donated items on their porch or in their driveway."

Jim knows the competition, and he acknowledges their edge: "Goodwill has stores everywhere, and they have a lot of locations where it's easy to drop things off," he says. On a side note, SVDP's relocated Clarksville, Ind., store has greatly improved access for donation drop-offs. (See related article, back page.)

For items too large to collect in his car trunk, he directs donors to our free pick-up service, in which one of St. Vincent de Paul's Thrift Store box trucks can be

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# GOOD SAMARITAN

## ON THE GROUND

By Nancy Naughton

The difficult economy has led many more people to the doors of St. Vincent de Paul. Since 2008, calls to St. Vincent de Paul have doubled, with the need particularly acute among families struggling to cope.



To meet this increasing need, we are dependent on our generous donors including individuals and businesses across Louisville and Southern Indiana.

Another important source of financial support is our network of Thrift Stores.

St. Vincent de Paul's four area Thrift Stores help fund our numerous programs to serve the growing number of poor and homeless in our community. All net revenue supports program operations including the Open Hand Kitchen, Ozanam Inn and St. Jude Women's Recovery Center.

In addition to providing needed funds for our programs, the stores play an important role in providing a wide array of low-cost goods to not only bargain hunters but also to low-income individuals and families throughout our community.

Last year, customers made more than 110,000 purchases in our stores. Additionally, St. Vincent de Paul Conferences and the St. Vincent de Paul case management team distribute merchandise through a voucher program, allowing people in need to "purchase" goods, including the most basic of items such as pots to cook with, clothing for a job interview or school and basic furniture.

A critical ingredient to the success of our stores is the receipt of gently used donations, including clothing, furniture, household goods, decorative items and appliances.

Donation drop-offs at our four stores and large-item pick-ups by our small fleet of trucks totaled more than 15,000 this past year. In addition, 27 parishes lent a hand by conducting "Truck Weekends" to collect donations in their parish parking lots to help us keep our stores fully stocked.

Without all these donations our store operations would simply not be possible.

We ask you to think of our stores when you have items to donate. Our stores operate without the benefit of costly advertising campaigns, and we are dependent on our gracious supporters to help spread the word!

On behalf of all the people we are able to serve, we extend a most heartfelt thank you for your past and future help!

*Nancy Naughton is associate executive director of St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville. Contact her at (502) 301-8682 or by e-mail at: [nnaughton@svdplou.org](mailto:nnaughton@svdplou.org)*

## Small Businesses and Corporate Partners Sought for Thrift Stores

St. Vincent de Paul relies on revenues from our four local Thrift Stores to fund desperately needed services for the poor and homeless here in our community.

By donating your gently used merchandise or excess inventory, including furniture, small appliances, housewares, clothing, and other items in good condition, we can sell them at a small profit.

All net revenues go directly back into SVDP's services, thereby helping our neighbors in need as well as benefiting our local economy.

For your convenience we offer free pick-up of your donations. **Call (502) 589-7837.**

To get involved in our Merchant Donation Program, please contact Judy McCoy at (502) 301-8676; [jmccoy@svdplou.org](mailto:jmccoy@svdplou.org).

## SVDP THRIFT STORES

**1029 S. Preston Street**

(502) 583-8158

9am-4:30pm, Mon-Sat

**248 E. Market Street**

(502) 583-1370

9am-4:30pm, Mon-Sat

**2217 Hikes Lane**

(502) 473-8856

10am-7pm, Mon-Sat

Noon to 5pm, Sun

**428 E. Lewis & Clark Parkway**

(812) 288-1165

Clarksville, IN

10am to 8pm, Mon-Sat

Noon to 5pm, Sun

## Outreach Efforts Feed Hundreds at Holiday Meals

Sarah Duvall, 14, an 8th-grader at St. Albert the Great Catholic School, chose to help others over the holidays. She raised \$160 in donations for the sole purpose of purchasing frozen turkeys to donate to St. Vincent de Paul prior to Thanksgiving.

Sarah was accompanied by her proud grandparents, Pat and Jo Osbourn, when they delivered the turkeys to SVDP's Open Hand Kitchen.

But the shopping cart full of frozen poultry was just the tip of the iceberg for St. Albert the Great, whose parishoners rallied to supply our Open Hand Kitchen with all



they might need to serve a traditional Thanksgiving feast.

The church donated hundreds of dollars worth of additional turkeys, as well as hams, sweet potatoes and other items handwritten on the Osbourns' shopping list.

While St. Albert the Great has embraced this Thanksgiving outreach to SVDP for the past several years, they were by no means the only parish offering much-needed assistance.

St. Bernadette also contributed dozens of turkeys, and schools and parishes, including Bellarmine University, Holy Spirit and St. Raphael held food drives to gather canned goods and nonperishable items.

On Thanksgiving Day, the Open Hand Kitchen was at capacity, as 50 volunteers served as wait staff to our guests, who enjoyed turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potatoes, rolls, and pumpkin pie. A similar feast was offered on Christmas.



Thank you's go to Pat's Steak House, Kroger, Humana, Stockyards Bank & Trust, the Homemade Ice Cream & Pie Kitchen, Dare to Care, Kentucky Harvest, and all who gave, for your inspiring generosity.

## December Events Reach Families and Individuals In Need

This past month was an especially busy one here on the expanding St. Vincent de Paul campus.

Several families and women were moved into our new apartments for homeless clients, with others to follow in the months ahead as new individuals are interviewed and assessed for eligibility and need.

On Dec. 6, SVDP once again organized a distribution event for some 3,000 coats collected through Makenzie's Coat Closet. For the first time, the event was held at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, just north of our campus in the

Smoketown/ Shelby Park neighborhood.

The following week, on Dec. 14, St. Jude Women's Recovery Center celebrated another graduation ceremony for 12 clients who have successfully completed St. Jude's rigorous residential treatment program. Congratulations to all.

Hundreds of parents in need enjoyed shopping for "free" Christmas gifts for their children at our 15th Annual Santa Shop last month.

A big thank-you to all of the donors and supporters who made it possible for

these needy moms and dads to choose gifts of new clothing and toys for their children. Thanks to the teams who helped sort donated items, and to all the volunteers who assisted in a thousand other ways.

Extra special thanks to Paul Carmony and Dick Scherrer for spearheading this year's Santa Shop.

In addition, the week before Christmas, SVDP staff and volunteers assembled food baskets for more than 275 families.

We extend our gratitude to everyone and wish you a happy new year.

# Plan Ahead:

## JANUARY 21, 2012 — Ozanam Orientation

9 am to Noon, SVDP Administration Building  
1015-C S. Preston St., Louisville, KY 40203  
Cost: \$10 includes materials and Continental breakfast  
\* Registration required by January 14, 2012

## FEBRUARY 5, 2012 — Induction Ceremony & Awards Presentation

10:30 am (Reception following), Church of St. Raphael The Archangel  
2141 Lancashire Ave., Louisville, KY 40205

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scheduled to come and get furniture and other large donations.

"People really do their best to try to give us good stuff," Jim says. "Sometimes we'll get really good bags of ladies' clothing, shoes, and sometimes even leather jackets."

From time to time he finds electronic toys and televisions in the piles of donations left for him to pick up. "You have to be careful with these," he says, explaining that we can only take such items if they're in good working order.

After he has collected a carload of donations, Jim delivers them to St. Vincent de Paul's Hikes Lane Thrift Store, where employees sort through items, price them, and place them in one of our stores.

Jim knows that many potential Thrift Store donors simply don't think about giving. "There are a lot of people out there who do everything they can to fend off solicitation of any kind," he says.

The door-hangers are a simple, low-cost and unobtrusive way to reach out to a population that might be more willing to give if the process is made simple and convenient for them.

That's where Jim comes in. "I think this is a wonderful way to expand St. Vincent de Paul's reach," he says.

A member of Saint Bernadette Catholic Church, he issued a special challenge to his former classmates at Flaget High School, where he was on the football team in the 1950s—and even got to play a few practice games with NFL great Paul Hornung. Jim says he would like to see some of the school's alumni, fellow Flaget Braves, get involved with St. Vincent de Paul, just as he has.

"It only takes an hour or so to put out 100 pieces [door-hangers]," Jim says. "If anyone wants to go with me and work with me, I'd be glad to break them in."

## Gently Used Items Needed

## Clarksville Store Expands in New Location

By the time you read this issue of our monthly newsletter, St. Vincent de Paul's improved and expanded Southern Indiana Thrift Store will be open for business in its new location.



Late last year the store moved from Eastern

Parkway to a large shopping center on Lewis & Clark Parkway. The 7,000-square-foot space is nearest to the intersection of Lewis & Clark and Triangle Drive, at the far west end of the shopping center that also includes big-name retailers such as Office Depot, BigLots, and Tuesday Morning.

Clothing for infants through adults, shoes, handbags, dishes, pots and pans, home décor, toys, sports equipment, furniture and lamps are among the varied items you'll find for sale at affordable prices.

The new store has a spacious drop-off area, where people can drive up and donate their gently used donations. Your donations are vitally important to the continued operation of our four area Thrift Stores. All net profits from our store sales go back into programs and services St. Vincent de Paul provides to families and individuals who are struggling with poverty, hunger and homelessness.

For more information about our Thrift Stores, please visit our website: [www.svdplou.org](http://www.svdplou.org).

## Do You?



**Need Help? Call (502) 584-2480**

**Want to Volunteer? Call (502) 301-8688**

**Wish to Give Money? Call (502) 301-8682**

**Have Gently Used Donations for Our Thrift Stores?  
Call (502) 589-7837**

**Want to Stay Connected with SVDP? [svdplou.org](http://svdplou.org)**