

GOOD SAMARITAN

St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville, KY

www.svdplou.org

June | 2012

Food for Body and Soul Is Offered at Community Kitchen

It's 10am on a weekday morning, and the Open Hand Kitchen is busy with activity: Michelle monitors two deep-fryer baskets of hand-cut potatoes that are sizzling in hot oil, while Carol, a longtime volunteer, peels hard-boiled eggs in a large, stainless steel bowl by the sink. Meanwhile, Norm Brown, the Open Hand Kitchen's manager and chef, chops fresh tomatoes.



It's a typical day of meal prep in St. Vincent de Paul's iconic "soup kitchen," a common term used to describe a place where charities serve free meals to the poor. However, for the thousands of hungry men, women, and children who have received a warm welcome and tasty food here, it is much more than that.



provides our guests with a variety of

tasty, nutritious food, because we view the poor, working poor, and homeless individuals who eat in our kitchen as part of St. Vincent de Paul's family. In short, we want these people who have been living on the fringes of society to feel loved and welcomed, and we want them to enjoy the food, too.



"Chef Norm," as he has become known around the SVDP campus in the past year and a half since joining our staff, has developed

a reputation as an enthusiastic cook who goes the extra mile to prepare meals from scratch, using the freshest ingredients available to him, and to provide enough variety to please a broad range of appetites. Care is also taken to provide alternatives for those with dietary restrictions, such as those who may be diabetic or in need of low-sodium dishes, and for those who cannot tolerate overly spicy foods.

The Open Hand Kitchen serves two meals a day, 365 days a year. That equals more than 10,000 meals each month and more than 100,000 meals each year. In terms of its mission, the Open Hand Kitchen is one of St. Vincent de Paul's most important. It is also the

most expensive to operate. Utility bills are high to cover electricity for the lights, heating and air conditioning, as well as eight deep-freezers, and the natural gas needed to cook on the kitchen's commercial-grade stoves.

Then there's the cost of food and meal supplies. The staff keeps a tight rein on these expenses, while keeping our guests' satisfaction a top priority. For example, the Open Hand Kitchen's hand-cut French fries (and sweet-potato fries) have become a trademark favorite of our guests. Norm's egg salad sandwiches have also become a mealtime staple for guests of all ages.

Although we receive donations from local businesses and charitable organizations such as Dare to Care and Kentucky Harvest, we must purchase many essential items, including paper products such as napkins and Styrofoam cups. And despite receiving generous donations of turkeys and hams just in time for the holidays, in the spring and summer the Open Hand Kitchen's supply of meats and proteins usually runs low.

The Open Hand Kitchen is a crucial outreach not only for the homeless, but also for the residents living in our surrounding neighborhoods. Our campus sits on the border between the Smoketown and Shelby Park communities. In Smoketown, 54 percent of residents live below the poverty level. In Shelby Park, 45 percent live below that threshold.

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By Nancy Naughton

On the Ground

“Do not forget to welcome strangers, for by so doing some have welcomed angels.” – Hebrews 13:2

The doors of St. Vincent de Paul’s Open Hand Kitchen are open 365 days a year, serving lunch and dinner to hundreds of individuals and families in need. This year we will serve more than 100,000 meals, carefully prepared to serve our many guests.

St. Vincent de Paul is blessed to have many loyal volunteers who arrive at noon or at 5pm to serve the men, women and children who have arrived at our doors for a meal. Their gift goes beyond the time they give. Their welcoming greetings to our guests and the care they show in offering a meal to each person makes the Open Hand Kitchen much more than a soup kitchen. It is a place where people are wanted; they are safe and they are special.

In America today, 48.8 million people live in food insecure households...32.6 million adults and 16.2 million children. Among elderly Americans, 3.5 million live below the poverty line. These at-risk households try to make ends meet, often going without food to pay other expenses.

The Open Hand Kitchen is a critical resource for many in Louisville. We have seen the number of meals served in the Open Hand Kitchen increase as the homeless and the working poor come to St. Vincent de Paul for help in this challenging economy. Thanks to our many partners including Dare to Care, Yum! Brands, Panera Bread, Kentucky Harvest, and Kroger, we are able to prepare nutritious meals for our guests.

And we are most grateful to our many donors for their steadfast and generous support. Because of your gifts of time, talent and treasure, the doors of the Open Hand Kitchen are always wide open to welcome all friends and any strangers in need of love, help and support.

Nancy Naughton is the associate executive director of St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville. You may contact her at nnaughton@svdplou.org.

St. Jude Celebrates New Graduates

Congratulations are in order for 11 courageous ladies who graduated from St. Jude Women’s Recovery Center last month. In an emotional and inspiring awards ceremony on the evening of May 15 in St. Jude’s dining hall, friends and family members, as well as recovery sponsors and St. Jude alumni, gathered to recognize the accomplishments of several determined women.

After successfully completing St. Jude’s rigorous residential treatment program for homeless women struggling with alcoholism or drug abuse, the graduates can look forward to promising futures. Please join us in extending warm wishes to the following: *Back row, from left:* Jessica, Cassandra, Kristin, Bridget and Mary. *Front row, from left:* Kim, Samantha, Kristi and Nicole. *In front:* Tislarod “Tish.”



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With its beautiful stained-glass windows and golden, sunlit atmosphere on most days of the year, the OHK is an inviting and spiritually uplifting refuge



for people living in difficult situations. This includes men, women and children who have been living on the streets or in homeless shelters, as well as low-income families just struggling to survive another day.

FAST FACTS

Wholesale food prices are up 7.8 percent this year over last. Wholesale food prices have risen 29 percent over the past five years.

In addition, recent costs for these items have increased dramatically:

Flour	+ 28 percent
Butter	+ 24 percent
Cheese	+ 15 percent
Beef	+ 15 percent
Pork	+ 13 percent

St. Francis Students Fill Food Baskets

Among the many visitors and volunteers to the St. Vincent de Paul campus in recent months were students from St. Francis of Assisi, who helped organize our basement food pantry in the Open Hand Kitchen and assembled food baskets for needy families.

Unfortunately, the task presented a challenge, as much of our pantry shelves were sparsely stocked – even bare in places. St. Vincent de Paul relies on donated canned goods and other pantry staples. Using boxes or plastic laundry baskets, these items are placed in food baskets for families and individuals who need temporary emergency assistance with groceries.



From left: Analisa Conway, Sophia Frommeyer, Gretchen Frommeyer, Caroline Bosler, and (Sacred Heart Academy student) Lauren Bosler.



Thrift Store Pickup Locations

June 2-3
St. Rita
8709 Preston Highway
Louisville, KY 40219
Saturday: 10am-6pm
Sunday: 9am-1pm

June 9 (Saturday only)
St. Michael
3705 Stone Lake Drive
Louisville, KY 40299
(Times not confirmed)

June 23-24
St. Edward
9608 Sue Helen Drive
Louisville, KY 40299
Saturday: 10am-6pm
Sunday: 8am-2pm

July 21-22
St. Bernadette
6500 St. Bernadette Avenue
Prospect, KY 40059
Saturday: Noon-5pm
Sunday: 8:15am-12:15pm

SAVE THE DATE

It's that time of year again! Be sure to Save the Date for St. Vincent de Paul's 9th Annual Charity Golf Scramble and Auction, our biggest – and only – fundraiser of the year!

Here are the preliminary details:

9TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

Date: September 10, 2012

Place: Big Spring Country Club

Time: 1pm shotgun start

Price: \$350 per golfer or \$1,400 per team

Includes lunch, beer tickets, soft drinks, green fees and cart, and tee gift.

Gather your team and come out and spend a great day to benefit SVDP.

All golfers are invited to attend our auction with a guest on Sunday, Sept. 9, at Porcini, beginning at 6pm. This fun-filled event includes dinner with a silent and live auction!

GOLF SCRAMBLE SPONSORSHIPS

Hole Sponsor: \$125 per hole

Society Sponsor: \$1,700

Includes foursome, hole sponsor and company signage

Signature Sponsor: \$2,500

Includes foursome, two hole sponsors, company signage (venue and on golf carts)

Opportunities for Auction Sponsorship:

If you would like to contribute items, tickets to events, or vacation homes for our Auction, please email nnaughton@svdplou.org.

CALENDAR EVENTS

- Ozanam Orientation for new Vincentians and older members who have not had the opportunity to take the training will be held from 9am-noon, July 28, in the Administration Building at St. Vincent de Paul, 1015-C S. Preston St., Louisville.
- St. Vincent de Paul's Mid-East Regional Meeting will be held Aug. 3-4 at the Galt House in Louisville. For registration information, contact Donna Young at (502) 301-8688; dyoung@svdplou.org.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Council of Louisville Meeting will be held at 5pm, Aug. 15 at St. Athanasius Church, 5915 Outer Loop, Louisville.
- St. Vincent de Paul USA will have its national meeting Aug. 29-Sept. 2 in Seattle, WA. More details to come.
- St. Vincent de Paul's 5th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk has been scheduled for October 14 at Churchill Downs in Louisville. Registration begins at 1pm, followed by the Walk at 2pm.

TRUCK WEEKENDS

St. Vincent de Paul's Thrift Store trucks will be at the above locations in the coming weeks. Everyone is invited to bring gently used donations of clothing, accessories, household items, collectibles, toys and home décor to these locations during the hours listed.

Please remember that your donations to our four local Thrift Stores are essential to SVDP's mission. All profits from our retail sales in these stores are funneled directly back into programs and services for the poor provided by St. Vincent de Paul to our neighbors in need here in Louisville and Southern Indiana.

For more information on Thrift Store locations and on donation guidelines, visit our website: www.svdplou.org.

PLAN AHEAD

- Catholic Heart work camp volunteers will be on campus the week of June 25-29.
- The Youth Group at St. Gabriel Church will host an event to benefit Project Possibilities, the summer program for campus children.

On **Wednesday, June 6** at the Mark's Feed Store on Bardstown Road in Fern Creek from open until close, 15% of your purchases will go to the St. Gabriel Youth Group to benefit the SVDP children's summer program. Ask the hostess or waitress for a voucher. The youth group will be there in the afternoon and evening handing out vouchers as well. Proceeds will make it possible for the children on our campus to experience the fun of summer camp.



For more information on how you can help support Project Possibilities for at-risk children living on our campus and in our supportive housing programs, please contact Nancy Naughton at (502) 301-8682; nnaughton@svdplou.org.