

GOOD SAMARITAN

St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

www.svdplou.org

August | 2012



Compassion in Action

Teens from all over the country fanned out across U.S. cities in early July for Catholic Heart Work Camp Week, a summer tradition.

The young volunteers who were assigned to St. Vincent de Paul here in Louisville dove right in, embracing service projects such as painting the railing outside Simon Hall, our single-occupancy residence for men.

But it was perhaps their involvement with our summer children's program that most engaged these compassionate young people. The evidence was in their faces.

Whether reading stories to the children, joining them in arts and crafts projects, or challenging

them on the basketball court, personal connections were established, and lasting memories created for teens and kids alike.

Thank you to adult chaperones Berney Gehring and Lissa Yogan, and to the Catholic Heart Work Camp participants Zach Smith, Joseph Pate, Phil Morou, Sam Vosters, Anna Bonomo, Turner Ozmer, and Caroline Thompson.

To see more photos of these and other volunteers who have been helping with our summer children's enrichment program, please 'Like' us online: www.facebook.com/svdplou.

GOOD SAMARITAN

On the Ground

By Nancy Naughton

This month Vincentians from St. Vincent de Paul's Mid East Region will gather in Louisville to exchange ideas regarding how to best help our neighbors in need.



More than 100 people from Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan and Indiana are expected to attend to discuss the challenges of ending poverty, the growing ranks of individuals and families at-risk due to the current economy, and their own experiences in working with the poor in their hometowns.

In Louisville and Southern Indiana, the work of St. Vincent de Paul's committed Vincentians is wide spread and high impact, with 2,453 Louisville Council Vincentians work tirelessly every day to help people in need.

During our past fiscal year, St. Vincent de Paul Conferences responded to thousands of requests for help, providing almost \$1 million in aid and more than \$400,000 in "in kind" goods and services. More than 53,000 hours of service were generously given by these dedicated men and women.

Person-to-person visits are at the heart of this wide-reaching mission. Visits to homes, prisons, hospitals and nursing homes are made every day to bring not only assistance but compassion to people in great need of care and support.

In this issue of the *Good Samaritan*, you will read a letter from a recipient of this compassion, demonstrating the profound and lasting impact of the important mission of St. Vincent de Paul. (See opposite page.)

It is often said that St. Vincent de Paul is one of Louisville's and Southern Indiana's best kept secrets. It is true that many do not know the scope of the impact generated by St. Vincent de Paul's 48 parish-based Conferences and our downtown campus.

For example, because of our wide-reaching organization, St. Vincent de Paul is the leading responder for Metro United Way's 2-1-1 program which provides a single number to call when people are in need of urgent assistance



and have no place to turn.

On behalf of all the people served by St. Vincent de Paul, thank you to all our donors, volunteers and supporters who make it all possible.

Naughton is SVDP's associate executive director.

We Asked, And You Responded!

Thanks to all of our *Good Sam* readers for giving us much-needed items to our programs, after a "wish list" was featured in last month's newsletter.

Individuals called with offers of a gently used patio set and three stacks of flower pots for Roberts Hall, one of SVDP's supportive housing programs for women.

St. Michael Conference launched an effort to collect towels, linens, mattresses and cots for our Ozanam Inn men's homeless shelter

Thank you! We appreciate your support!

Reminder: Past issues of the *Good Sam* are on our website: www.svdplou.org.

Letter from a Grateful Client

In February of 2008, my divorce was final and I found myself single, with three little girls, and somehow managed to get approved for a loan to buy a house. I was living paycheck to paycheck and quickly fell behind. Scared to death, I decided that the only way to get out of this cycle was to finish my degree. I re-enrolled at UofL in August of 2008, and it seemed as though no matter what I did, everything was falling apart.

On September 13th 2008, I spent an entire paycheck on groceries. On September 14th, we were hit with the windstorm, which left me without power for nine days and without daycare for six days, which also meant six days of missed work and school.

With no way to recover the lost money from missed days at work or lost food at home, I fell further behind. In November I found myself cashing books in early to have our LG&E turned back on, and by December, I was 2 1/2 months behind on my mortgage. I was referred by a friend to call Catholic Charities, who then referred me to St. Vincent de Paul and Fern Creek Ministries. They not only called the Louisville Water Co. and paid for my water to be turned back on, but they gave me groceries and birthday party supplies for my daughter's 4th birthday when they read my application and noticed it was almost her birthday. I cried and felt so ashamed and so grateful at the same time.

This was on December 11, 2008. Before I left their office they asked if I was okay on Christmas presents, and I said 'yes,' but the woman could tell that I was lying. I was so caught off guard because Christmas hadn't entered my mind yet. I was so focused on trying to keep the house, the lights and water on, and the girls fed that I'd failed to even put a tree up yet.

The following week or so I got a visit from a couple from St. Vincent de Paul, who asked if they could come to my home to visit and, essentially, interview me. Long story short, that same couple returned to my home asking for my latest mortgage statement so that they could pay the past due amount. I will never forget his response to me when I asked how I could ever repay him. He said, "Take a deep breath and enjoy Christmas with your children. Keep doing what you're doing, and keep God in their lives, and that will be thanks enough."

I knew at that very moment that I could not fail; it was not an option. It has been a struggle ever since, but I assure you without the help that I was given by that parish, I would have lost everything. I am so happy to say that on Saturday May 12th at 2pm, I will be graduating from the University of Louisville, Kent School of Social Work. It has been the hardest thing I have ever done, and I cannot begin to explain what a life-changing journey this has been, but without your help it would never have been possible. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for changing my future and that of my three daughters.

Sincerely,

Nichole Moody



Sheila Geiger of St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church was one of three Vincentians who visited Nichole's home. Upon reading her recent letter, which was e-mailed to SVDP this past spring, Sheila recalled: "My husband told her to keep the faith and always keep God in her life and her children's life, and everything else would take care of itself. That's something we've always believed," she said.

Knowing what a difference she made in Nichole's life was gratifying. "It made me feel like the work I do with St. Vincent de Paul is truly worthwhile and does mean something. You get complacency in life sometimes, and this refreshed me. I'm renewed for going back out there."

Calendar:

Aug. 3-4

Mid-East Regional Meeting
Galt House
Louisville, KY

Aug. 15

Council of Louisville Meeting
St. Athanasius Church
5915 Outer Loop
Louisville, KY 40219
5pm Mass, 6pm Meal, 7pm Meeting

Contact: Donna Young: dyoung@svdplou.org

Aug. 29-Sept. 1

SVDP National Meeting
Sheraton Hotel Seattle
Seattle, WA

Sept. 9-10

9th Annual SVDP Charity Golf Event
Porcini and Big Spring Country Club
Louisville, KY

Oct. 14

5th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk
Churchill Downs
Louisville, KY
1pm Registration, 2pm Walk Start
Pledges benefit the conference of your choice!

Truck Weekend

Aug. 25-26

St. Agnes
1920 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40205
Saturday: 4:30 PM-6:30 PM
Sunday: 8:30 AM-1:00 PM

Corny? You Bet!

A field trip for youths from Northern Ireland and Madison, Indiana was a 'field' trip in every sense of the word, when the volunteers were put to work shucking corn in our Open Hand Kitchen.



Gallrein Farms had just donated about 26 bushels of fresh sweet corn to us, and the ears needed to

husked before our kitchen manager and chef could make use of them.

The 29 volunteers were with The Ulster Project, a mission launched in 1975 to help young Christian-based potential leaders from Northern Ireland and the United States to "become peacemakers by providing a safe environment to learn by practicing the skills needed to unite people when differences divide them," according to their website.

Thanks to Jacob Turner of Madison for arranging the visit to help the teens learn about our mission to serve the poor



Summer Feast

Friends and family members of Clyde Hayes (below, right) and Danny Patterson joined the two friends recently in serving a summer barbecue meal they donated, cooked, and served to clients who eat in our Open Hand Kitchen.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, salad and cupcakes were on the menu.

St. Vincent de Paul is grateful for the continued generosity of these kind people, who have offered the gift of these special meals at SVDP for several years.



Time is Running Out To Help with Event

August 15 is the deadline to get involved in SVDP's sole fundraiser of the year, our 9th Annual Charity Golf Event Sept. 9 and 10 at Porcini and Big Spring Country Club.

This is also the deadline to to advertise your company or business by becoming a hole sponsors (\$125), or, for \$2,500 a Signature Sponsor, or \$1,700 for a Society Sponsor.



Registration for golfers is \$350 per person, or \$1,400 per foursome. Cost includes lunch, two beer tickets, free soft drinks, green fees, golf cart, and a tee gift.

Don't forget to purchase your raffle tickets, which cost \$25 each. Only 750 tickets will be sold. A winner will be drawn after the Sept. 10 golf event, but you do not have to be present to win the \$5,000 prize!

To get involved, call
(502) 301-8695 today!