

GOOD SAMARITAN

St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville, KY

www.svdplou.org

October | 2012

A Call to Action:

Help St. Vincent de Paul By Speaking Out Against the Proliferation of For-Profit Donation Collection Bins that Hurt Our Thrift Stores

Maybe you've seen them: green, red, and white donation collection boxes.

They're on street corners, alongside curbs and in front of convenience stores, gas stations and strip shopping centers all over Jefferson County.

Driving past these ubiquitous bins, you might be able to read their signage, in large, bold letters: DONATIONS! CLOTHING! SHOES!

These boxes pose a huge threat to small nonprofit charities like St. Vincent de Paul, because they take away valuable donations of gently used clothing and other household items that help us keep our four local Thrift Stores stocked.



Many of the bins you see are owned by for-profit, out-of-state companies that claim to collect their donations on behalf of charity.

However, in most cases, only a fraction of the revenues raised from the resale of these donated items actually ends up benefiting these selected charities. Most of the profits go to the companies that own and operate the bins.

Over the past year, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of unattended donation bins popping up all over town and in Southern Indiana.

Four years ago, when for-profit collection boxes began appearing in Louisville, St. Vincent de Paul joined forces with a few other local nonprofits and successfully lobbied the Kentucky General Assembly to require these

boxes to adhere to truth in advertising standards.

The boxes had to be labeled as being operated by "for-profit companies" and a disclaimer had to explain that donations were not tax-deductible.

This transparency drove the bin operators out of our community for several years, but now many of them are back.

Many people who drop gently used items into these for-profit donation boxes have no idea how their goods will be used or who will benefit. What often happens is that the for-profit company sells your donations to a third-party textile recycler, reaping big dollars for these baled and recycled materials.

Some of these companies then designate a fraction of the revenues generated by the donations to a specific charity. Some estimates show that such partnerships often garner less than 4 percent of donation revenues for the partner charity.

By contrast, St. Vincent de Paul uses donations to stock our four local Thrift Stores. What cannot be sold in our stores is recycled. All profits – 100 percent – are used to help fund our critically needed programs and services for the poor here in our community: These include our Open Hand Kitchen, Ozanam Inn men's homeless shelter, and St. Jude Women's Recovery Center.



Clockwise from left: A green collection box that is operated by an out-of-state company; autumn decor and other bargains for sale in one of our Thrift Stores. More store info: www.svdplou.org.

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GOOD SAMARITAN

On the Ground By Nancy Naughton



Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7

On September 9th and 10th we held our 9th Annual Charity Golf Event and Auction to benefit our programs for poor and homeless men, women and children in our community. The annual event is critical to meeting our annual operating needs, and this year we raised more than \$72,000 thanks to many cheerful givers!

Individuals and businesses, from across Louisville and Southern Indiana, came together to help St. Vincent de Paul. Six-hundred twenty-three (623) raffle tickets were sold, 100 golfers participated in our golf event, 123 local businesses donated products and services for the auction, and 130 people bid generously on our live and silent auction offerings. We are most grateful for their support.

Special thanks go out to our event Signature Sponsors, including Fifth Third Bank, Brandeis Machinery & Supply Company, and Porcini restaurant. We also thank our Society Level sponsors, including Caldwell Tanks, LG&E, Stock Yards Bank & Trust Company, Yang Kee Noodle, and the Neil Huffman Automotive Group.

This outpouring of generosity will provide food and care for hundreds of people in the months to come. We hope many more cheerful givers will join the St. Vincent de Paul family as we enter into our 2012-2013 fiscal year. The need continues to be great and our operating budget challenged.

The number of meals served at the Open Hand Kitchen each month now exceeds 10,000, as more individuals and

families look for help in these challenging economic times. The Open Hand Kitchen is our single largest operating line item, and we need the continued help of our many donors to help us serve more meals, to heat and cool our beautiful kitchen, and to maintain our kitchen equipment.

With the opening of our 54 new apartments for homeless men, women and children, our expanded campus now provides a home for more than 300 people, including 58 children. Your help allows St. Vincent de Paul to provide them with a safe, supportive environment and the tools necessary to move on to a brighter and happier future.

We thank all the many supporters of St. Vincent de Paul's mission, who give so generously from their heart, for making it possible!

Naughton is Associate Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul / Louisville. To make a cash contribution to St. Vincent de Paul, please contact her at (502) 301-8682; nnaughton@svdplou.org.

Wish List

St. Jude Women's Recovery Center could use the following items:

- Shampoo, conditioner, and hair-care products
- Soap and deodorant
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Personal hygiene items

Our **Open Hand Kitchen** is in need of:

- Meat, especially turkeys and hams
- Canned vegetables (economy sized)
- Paper products, including 8-oz. cups

If you can help by donating these items or by making a cash contribution toward their purchase, please contact our development department at **(502) 301-8695**.



Congratulations to Tim Coury (second from left), whose team won first place in St. Vincent de Paul's 9th Annual Charity Golf Event Sept. 11 at Big Spring Country Club. Above (from left): Greg Huber, Coury, Gary Libs and George Sullivan. Coury, owner of Porcini restaurant, was a sponsor of this year's event, which kicked off Sept. 10 with a dinner and charity auction at his restaurant.

{ *get involved* }

Join Walk at Churchill Downs to Raise Money for the Poor

Lace up your sneakers and join us on Sunday afternoon, **Oct. 14**, at Churchill Downs for St. Vincent de Paul's 5th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk at Churchill Downs.

Bugler Steve Buttleman will once again kick off the event, playing the world-famous "Call to the Post," as walkers begin their walk around the infield.

Refreshments and door prizes will be offered, and free T-shirts will be given to participants while supplies last.

This is the fifth consecutive year for the Walk, which is a national event organized by St. Vincent de Paul. In cities and small towns across the country, people will have Friends of the Poor Walk events to raise money for needy people in their communities.

Here in the Louisville area, walk participants may designate which local St. Vincent de Paul Conference they would like to receive their donations. One-hundred percent of the money raised



at the Walk here in Louisville will go to provide emergency financial assistance to families and individuals struggling to buy food and pay utility bills, rent, and other basics.

Registration for the Walk is free, but pledges in any amount are required to walk. Registration begins at 1pm, followed by the Walk at 2pm. Participants may register the day of the event.

Thanks for supporting this fun event that is so vital to the good work being done by our volunteers and Vincentians, who spend thousands of hours each year helping families in crisis.



Bookmark Our Website for Updates

Our website is more than just pretty to look at. It's functional as well. There's a lot you can do at www.svdplou.org!

1. Follow our Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest pages with live updates.
2. Read our blog, "On the Ground."
3. Look at photo slideshows of recent events.
4. Print out application and registration forms, as well as past issues of this newsletter.
5. Make a secure online donation. Just click the DONATE NOW! button on the homepage.

Don't Wait!

Make Plans Now to Be Part of Our Christmas Outreach

With our annual Santa Shop less than two months away, on **Sunday, Dec. 9**, now is the time to start thinking about how you can get involved in this holiday outreach.

Volunteers are being lined up to help host seasonal parties and special events for the families and individuals living here on the St. Vincent de Paul campus. Catholic parishes throughout Louisville have stepped up again to serve as hosts for these eagerly awaited gatherings, but it's not too late to sign up to help.



In addition, we need donations of new toys and clothing for children—infants through teenagers up to age 16. These gifts will be offered at our Santa Shop, Sunday, Dec. 9, where parents who have been pre-screened for need will be invited to come to our Open Hand Kitchen and choose Christmas gifts for their children.

To add your organization or family's name to our list of helpers this year, please contact Donna Young at (502) 301-8688; dyoung@svdplou.org.



Calendar:

Oct. 14

5th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk

Churchill Downs

Louisville, KY

1pm Registration, 2pm Walk Start

Dec. 9

Santa Shop

Open Hand Kitchen

Contact Donna Young; dyoung@svdplou.org

Get Help: 502.584.2480



TRUCK WEEKENDS

October 6-7

St. Stephen Martyr
2931 Pindell Avenue
Louisville, KY 40217
Saturday: Noon-6pm
Sunday: 7am-2pm

Holy Family
129 West Daisy Lane
New Albany, IN 47150

October 13-14

Epiphany
914 Old Harrods Creek Road
Louisville, KY 40223
Saturday: 3pm-7pm
Sunday: 8:30am-2pm

October 19-20

St. Bernadette
6500 St. Bernadette Ave.
Prospect, KY 40059
Saturday: Noon-5pm
Sunday: 8:15am-12:15pm

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
5505 New Cut Road
Louisville, KY 40214

Holy Spirit
3345 Lexington Road
Louisville, KY 40206
Saturday: 10am-6pm
Sunday: 8am-2pm

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All the profits remain in the Louisville area, benefiting St. Vincent de Paul and contributing to the local economy, as opposed to going out of state or overseas.

St. Vincent de Paul has once again joined a consortium of concerned local nonprofits to encourage members of Louisville Metro Council to understand the negative impact these for-profit, out-of-state competitors pose for local nonprofits like ours.

We need your support and for you to make your voice heard on this important issue. If you would like to get involved, please contact your Louisville Metro Council representative and tell them you support an ordinance to crack down on these for-profit competitors. A list of Metro Council names and phone numbers can be found on our website: www.svdplou.org/blog.

New Clinic on Campus

In an effort to help meet the needs of our clients, St. Vincent de Paul recently began a partnership with Family Health Centers (Phoenix Health Center) to offer a weekly medical clinic here on our campus.

Free healthcare is offered each Tuesday evening at St. Jude Women's Recovery Center.

Open to men, women and children who are residents or guests of St. Vincent de Paul, the health services are for acute and urgent care, such as coughs, cold and flu symptoms, TB tests, etc.

This clinic is not for emergency care or medication refills.

