

GOOD SAMARITAN

St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville, KY

www.svdplou.org

November | 2012

Making Thanksgiving Special

Long before the first people line up outside the doors of our Open Hand Kitchen on a cold Thursday morning in November, the Thanksgiving feast being prepared inside is well underway after weeks of intensive planning.

St. Vincent de Paul's soup kitchen is open 365 days a year, serving hot, nutritious meals to anyone in need. But holidays are special: Much time and extra care go into the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, in particular.

For example, in mid-October, our kitchen staff starts cooking and freezing side dishes and breads that can be thawed and quickly warmed up on the big day.

"I've already made 100 pounds of green beans – boiled the green beans down with ham hocks and seasonings, and (I) froze them in aluminum pans so they'll be ready to go on Thanksgiving," said Norm Brown, the OHK's chef/manager.

Heat 'n' serve rolls are another handy holiday staple that can be prepped ahead of time. Brown estimates he has prepared and frozen 40 flats of the rolls. Flats are stackable plastic carrying trays, with each flat containing about 240 individual rolls. That's almost 1,000 rolls.

On Thanksgiving morning, when the roasted turkeys, hams, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, and other traditional meal staples are being cooked and carried out to the steam table for waiting guests, the rolls can be popped into the ovens at the last minute.

Although donations of food to our Open Hand Kitchen usually pick up during the holidays, they are not guaranteed, which can make planning tricky at times. Chef Norm said the kitchen needs about 150 turkeys and 300 hams to get through the holiday season – starting with Thanksgiving and extending through Christmas and New Year's. However, as of mid-October, he said, "Right now, we have zero."



Local supermarket chains such as The Kroger Co. and Meijer have been generous in donating these items in the past, and he is counting on them to come through again this year. In addition, volunteers and organizations often stop by with boxes or bags of much-needed food items.

The 10-pound, pre-cooked hams are especially practical for serving in large quantities, Norm says. He and his kitchen staff can prepare a glaze to be brushed on top of the meat before being baked and sliced for serving on holidays.

Desserts are usually abundant at the holidays, with area bakeries such as Heitzman's and the Homemade Ice Cream and Pie Kitchen pitching in with Thanksgiving favorites such as pumpkin and apple pies.

Given the increase in the number of people eating their meals in our Open Hand Kitchen, Norm expects big crowds for the 2012 holiday season. Last year, the kitchen served 94,000 meals, and this year we expect that number to increase to 120,000. On average, St. Vincent de Paul's Open Hand Kitchen is serving about 10,000 meals each month to men, women and children who would go hungry without this critical outreach. As always, these meals are free and open to anyone in need. Your generous donations make this mission possible, not only at the holidays, but also 365 days a year.

GOOD SAMARITAN

On the Ground By Nancy Naughton



Education is critical to helping the people we serve... both children and adults...achieve a more promising future.

Unemployment data paint a bleak picture for those without adequate skill development.

For individuals without a high school diploma, the unemployment rate is over 11% compared to 4% for those with a college degree or higher.

The St. Vincent de Paul case management team works with our clients daily to help them develop the skills necessary to compete in today's marketplace.

In many cases this starts with building each person's self-esteem and instilling the belief that they can, in fact, succeed despite a history of chronic poverty and homelessness.

Providing access to learning opportunities is another critical deliverable. The St. Vincent de Paul Life Skills University curriculum encompasses a core set of classes including financial literacy, communication skills and employment counseling to help in the education process.

We are grateful to our community partners, including Fifth Third Bank and LG& E, who volunteer their professional expertise to teach our classes and deliver outstanding course content.

These educational initiatives and the case management services provided to our clients are working.

Ninety-eight percent (98%) of our clients who are able to work are employed and/or are going to school, and 64% of our clients now have a savings account.

Through the help and support provided by St. Vincent de Paul, made possible by our many donors, the men, women and children we serve will have a chance to build a secure home of their own.

While they work toward that goal, we are thankful to be able to provide a welcoming, safe home for them on the St. Vincent de Paul campus.

On behalf of the St. Vincent de Paul staff, we wish you and your family a very happy Thanksgiving, and we sincerely thank you for your generosity in providing for all the families who depend on St. Vincent de Paul for help.

Naughton is Associate Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul. Contact her at nnaughton@svdplou.org.

WHY WE NEED YOUR HELP

- **10,000** meals are served to people in need each month in the Open Hand Kitchen.
- The cost to keep our kitchen open to help our neighbors in need is more than **\$300,000** each year.

Each month, **hundreds** of desperate people come to St. Vincent de Paul's doors in need of help . . .

... to feed their families,
to clothe their children,
or to ask for help with their
rent to stay in their homes.

WAYS TO GIVE

Make a secure, online donation on our website: www.svdplou.org.

Place a check in the envelope provided in this month's Good Samaritan newsletter.

Call us to make your donation by phone, using your credit card: (502) 301-8695.

THANK YOU!



Giving Back: Volunteers Lead Fall Events, Services for the Poor

September and October were especially busy months for the St. Vincent de Paul campus, as volunteer groups, students, and individual donors outdid themselves looking for ways to help people in need.

For the third time this year, Clyde Hayes (third from the left) enlisted his family and friends who came to the Open Hand Kitchen to serve a meal he furnished. Pulled pork sandwiches and side dishes were a big hit.

Seniors in Bellarmine University's nursing program launched their weekly visits to our Open Hand Kitchen, where at lunchtime they perform blood-pressure and blood-sugar tests free of charge. Below, our Ozanam Inn men's shelter program aide, Harrison, broke the ice by being the first in line to have his blood pressure checked.

The youth ministry and entire parish at St. Gabriel the Archangel Church pulled out all the stops for their annual fall picnic/potluck for clients and the community. Girl Scouts (at right) led arts-and-crafts. Bingo, corn hole and other activities got everyone involved.



Calendar:

Saturday, Jan. 12

Ozanam Orientation, 9am to 1pm

Conference Room, St. Vincent de Paul (Downtown Campus)

1015-C S. Preston St., Louisville, KY 40203

Dec. 9

Santa Shop

Open Hand Kitchen

Louisville, KY

Sunday, Feb. 10

The **Vincentians Induction Ceremony** will be held at St. Patrick Church, 1000 N. Beckley Station Road, Louisville, KY 40243

Times and more information to be announced

For more information, contact Donna Young at (502) 301-8688



TRUCK WEEKENDS

NOVEMBER 3 and 4

St. Edward

9608 Sue Helen Dr.

Louisville, KY 40299

Saturday: 10am to 6pm

Sunday: 8am to 2pm

NOVEMBER 10-11

Holy Trinity

501 Cherrywood Road

Louisville, KY 40207

Saturday: 1 to 4:45pm

Sunday: 9:30 to 10:45am and

Noon-3pm

Please bring your gently used clothing and household items to these locations at the times listed above. Remember, all donations to our four local Thrift Stores help fund the critically needed services St. Vincent de Paul provides to the poor and homeless here in our community.

*To schedule a FREE pick-up of your large donations or furniture, please call
(502) 589-7837.*

Friends of the Poor Walk Raises Thousands of Dollars for People in Need

The blustery weather and threat of storms did not deter the enthusiastic crowd who turned out Oct. 14th for the 5th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk at Churchill Downs.

About \$33,000 in pledges were raised at this fundraiser for SVDP's 48 parish conferences. All the money goes to provide emergency financial assistance to families struggling with rent and utility bills and other basic needs.

"This was a fun event that provides a significant financial resource for all of the Conferences," said Ed Wnorowski, SVDP's executive director. "The event took the labor of many to produce such a well-organized and enjoyable time.

"I would like to extend a special thanks to Mike Lutes, Walk Chairman; Donna Young, Leslie Harrington...and all of the Conference Vincentians who were involved in so many ways." *Pictured above: Judy, Mary Ann and Marilyn from St. Ignatius on the Churchill Downs infield.*

A few weeks prior to the event, St. Agnes Elementary School students staged a pep rally to celebrate the money the children raised toward this effort.



Thanks to principal Carol Meirose and her team (including a costumed "St. Vincent de Paul") for encouraging the effort, which raised \$3,000! *Pictured (from left): Rev. David Colhour, Pastor, St. Agnes; Alex Hinkebein (St. Vincent de Paul); Donna Young; Melissa Lorenz (St. Agnes Conference).*

See more photos from the Walk at www.svdplou.org.