

# GOOD SAMARITAN

## St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

www.svdplou.org

April | 2013

### Kids Grateful for Game Day Fun at KFC Yum! Center

Thanks to the generosity of St. Vincent de Paul donor Phil Gahm, children who live in our supportive housing programs for formerly homeless families got to enjoy the thrill of college hoops at the KFC Yum! Center recently.

Gahm, through his charity the Champ Foundation, donated use of his arena suite to SVDP's Charity Golf Scramble & Auction Event last September.

An anonymous bidder at that event purchased the suite experience for \$10,000. All proceeds go toward



the creation of SVDP's new Family Success Center, and that \$10,000 will be matched by a challenge grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation.

On March 9th, a group of lucky school-aged children attended the University of Louisville men's basketball team's winning game against the University of Notre Dame.

The kids were very appreciative of the time Gahm, his friends, and several SVDP case managers and board members spent with them – and for the generosity of those who made this memorable field trip a reality for them.

Thanks very much to everyone who was involved!



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## On the Ground

By Nancy Naughton



I am fortunate to be a graduate of the University of Notre Dame. As such, I am a frequent reader of Notre Dame newsletters, magazines and Twitter feeds. I was recently struck by a column written by a recent Notre Dame graduate who recalled a framed quote by William Penn, embroidered by her great-grandmother, which hangs in her childhood home. This quote has had a lasting impact on her desire to serve others.

“I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness or abilities that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.”

In this issue of the Good Samaritan you will see many stories of acts of kindness by people who care deeply about helping men, women and children who are enduring very difficult times, and they took action.

From providing funding for fish meals during Lent in the Open Hand Kitchen, to taking the children living on St. Vincent de Paul's campus to see a University of Louisville basketball game, to providing homemade cupcakes for our Open Hand Kitchen guests, these acts of compassion and generosity make a significant difference to the people helped by St. Vincent de Paul.

Last month, more than 300 people called St. Vincent de Paul for help, ranging from assistance with utilities to emergency food baskets for their families. This represents a 3% increase in requests versus last year and a 58% increase over pre-recessionary levels.

Because of the consistent, compassionate support from St. Vincent de Paul donors and supporters, we have been able to respond to the urgent and heartbreaking calls for help from our neighbors in need.

On behalf of all the people served by St. Vincent de Paul, thank you for your past and future generosity.

*Naughton is associate executive director of St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville. Contact her at [nnaughton@svdplou.org](mailto:nnaughton@svdplou.org).*

## Rallying for Children

By Leah F. Campbell

February 7th, more than 1,000 energetic people gathered at the capitol building to rally around a legislative agenda focusing on Kentucky's children. Bright sunshine brought welcome warmth for those of us gathered on the front lawn to kick off the day.

The crowd was impressive. Yellow buses streamed in to drop off schoolchildren headed to observe important committee meetings. High-schoolers staked out hallways, engaging legislators from their districts to discuss policy.



Companies and non-profit organization employees wore matching T-shirts with messages about issues on the legislative agenda that support children of all ages and from all walks of life. It was, in a word, inspiring.

Children need a voice when budgets drive legislative decision-making.

Anyone who has the privilege of working with and being around children sees firsthand how laws can frustrate or prevent a critical need from reaching families on a daily basis.

Early childhood education, adequate healthcare, and fair tax support for working families are just a small sample of the many issues on the legislative agenda that affect the lives of nearly every child in Kentucky.

If you'd like to learn more about children's issues, here are two good sites:



**Kentucky Youth Advocates**

<http://kyyouth.org>

**Blueprint for Kentucky's Children**

<http://blueprintky.org>

I encourage you to consider how we can all work together to make children a priority each and every day.

*Campbell, an attorney, joined SVDP last fall as the program manager for SVDP Homes Families and Children. At left, she embraces children attending a client Christmas party.*

# Earning Bikes Helps Homeless Men Move Forward

A new program at our men's homeless shelter, Ozanam Inn, is not only helping to motivate men – but to keep them mobile as well.

Free bicycles are offered as an incentive to men staying at the shelter as a reward for completing certain tasks or working toward goals that help move them toward self-sufficiency.

Late last year when Harrison Swadley (above, left), a case manager at the shelter, learned about a Northeast Christian Church outreach program to collect donated bicycles and distribute them to local charities and organizations, he initiated a partnership between them and St. Vincent de Paul.

As a result, Mark Doll, the bikes program coordinator at Northeast, has delivered more than 45 donated bicycles to our men's shelter in recent months.

Swadley and the staff encourage men who want a bike to do volunteer work here – such as washing dishes in the Open Hand Kitchen – or to meet other personal goals identified in their individual case management plans.

When the client has successfully volunteered or reached a milestone, Swadley offers to let that person choose his own bicycle from the basement storeroom where the bikes are kept.

So far, 45 bicycles have been donated to the men's shelter, and 17 additional bikes have been designated for children who live in SVDP's supportive housing.

So far, the bike program has been a huge hit with homeless shelter clients such as Todd, who was all smiles the day Harrison



took him to pick out his “new” bike. “It’s a blessing,” Todd (above, right) said, explaining that now he will have flexible transportation to and from his job, and that he will no longer have to rely solely on the bus.

Working and earning a paycheck while he stays at our overnight emergency shelter will allow Todd (and other men like him) to save money so that he can eventually move out of the St. Vincent de Paul campus and into his own apartment or house.

In addition to the generosity of Northeast Christian Church in sharing the bicycles with us, another donation has helped spur the success of the initiative: Paul (who wants to be identified only by his first name), a long-time volunteer at Ozanam Inn men's shelter, purchased 30 new bicycle locks so that each man who earns a bike also receives a brand-new bike lock to keep it secured.

Additional bike locks (of any kind, not only U-shaped locks) are still needed, Swadley says.

To help, contact him at 502-584-2480, ext. 224; [hswadley@svdplou.org](mailto:hswadley@svdplou.org).

## BIKES

### BY THE NUMBERS

45: BICYCLES DONATED

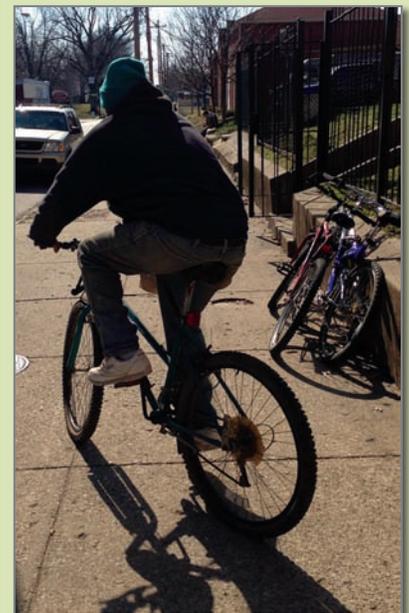
37: HOMELESS MEN WHO HAVE EARNED BIKES

17: BICYCLES DONATED TO CHILDREN LIVING IN OUR FAMILY APARTMENTS

17: BICYCLES TO BE GIVEN TO THESE CHILDREN AT EVENTS LATER THIS MONTH.

30: HEAVY-DUTY U-LOCKS DONATED BY A SHELTER VOLUNTEER

35: POUNDS LOST BY ONE CLIENT SINCE HE BEGAN RIDING HIS “NEW” BIKE



# Can You Help With This Request?

Our program manager for Simon Hall, a supportive housing program for 10 formerly homeless men with disabilities, is seeking free admission or tickets to local attractions, for use during their monthly group outings this spring and summer. Gift cards to restaurants would also be appreciated!

Please contact Rene Yates: [ryates@svdplou.org](mailto:ryates@svdplou.org).

## TRUCK WEEKENDS

April 13-14

St. Edward  
9608 Sue Helen Drive  
Louisville, KY 40299  
Sat. 10am to 6pm; Sun. 8am to 2pm

April 20-21

Epiphany  
914 Old Harrods Creek Road  
Louisville, KY 40223  
Sat. 3 to 7pm; Sun. 8:30am to 2pm

April 27-28

Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
1752 Scheller Lane  
New Albany, IN 47150  
Sat. 9:30am to 4pm  
Sun. 6:30 to 7pm

## Acts of Kindness and Compassion Abound

From socks and shoes to cupcakes and haircuts, the past few weeks have been especially bountiful for St. Vincent de Paul.

Individuals, school groups and businesses have shown an outpouring of kindness toward the men, women and children who live and receive services on our campus here in the Smoketown-Shelby Park community.

Cornita McDaniel (right, with one of our young clients) brought her teenaged son, Jaylen, and three stylists from her hair salon, **Above & Beyond Salon**, 6501 Shepherdsville Rd., to SVDP. They volunteered their time by offering free haircuts to men, women, and children staying here on our campus. The women also gave away door prizes of shampoos, conditioners, spritzes and other hair care products. Jaylen even brought some of his clothing for our clients. Thank you for your time and generosity!



*In other donor news:*

- A \$500 grant from the Payless Gives Shoes 4 Kids program allowed all 57 children living on the SVDP campus to choose a pair of free shoes. Thanks, **Payless ShoeSource!**
- First- and 2nd-graders in **St. Gabriel's Religious Education** classes donated boxes upon boxes of new white socks stuffed with personal care items for the poor and homeless clients we serve. Check out these photos of the kids at work on the project: [www.facebook.com/svdplou](http://www.facebook.com/svdplou).

Thanks so much to the **Marriott Downtown Louisville** for the donation of 150 duvet covers. These fluffy white "blankets" will be used by grateful families and adults living in our housing units and in our homeless shelter's transitional programs.

And, finally, **Assumption High School** students had a sweet idea for their spring service project. They decided to bake more than 350 cupcakes for our Open Hand Kitchen. The team of girls spent an afternoon at **Sullivan University**, where they elaborately decorated the cupcakes. Kim Atwood, Sullivan University's Student Life Coordinator, and students Kyle Jessie, Ricky Wilson, and David Lawless II then delivered the desserts to us.

We are most grateful for the compassion and care of these and countless other groups and individuals. On behalf of the poor and homeless clients we serve, thank you very much.

## RESPONSE TO LENTEN FISH REQUEST IS OVERWHELMING

Thank you so much to everyone who responded to our request to help St. Vincent de Paul purchase fish for the Lenten season.

The parents of 1st-graders at **St. Nicholas Academy** collected money to buy 60 pounds of catfish and several cases of commercial-sized cans of green beans.

In addition, the parishes and organizations listed below donated money for fish that was served to grateful men, women, and kids in our Open Hand Kitchen.



The OHK serves 10,000 free meals each and every month, thanks to the gracious support of so many caring people.

Guardian Angels  
Holy Spirit  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
St. Agnes  
St. Athanasius  
St. Brigid/St. James  
St. Frances of Rome  
St. James, Elizabethtown  
St. Lawrence  
St. Margaret Mary  
St. Martha  
St. Peter the Apostle  
St. Raphael  
St. William  
SVDP Store, Elizabethtown