

GOOD SAMARITAN

St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

www.svdplou.org

May | 2013



Kids Imagine Their Perfect Playgrounds

Robert, 6, drew monkey bars and a colorful slide. Danae, 11, drew swings and a climbing wall. A clubhouse and even a swimming pool were among the pictures created when children who live at SVDP were invited to a special Design Day event in our Open Hand Kitchen.



Brenna Hull (center, left) KaBOOM!'s project coordinator for SVDP's playground, encouraged the children, parents, and other clients in attendance to dream big and let their imaginations guide their artwork (photo, right).

Their ideas were taken into consideration as KaBOOM!'s expert designers drew up plans for three different playgrounds. Ultimately, clients got to vote on their favorite design, and the winning design will be the playground that is assembled on the SVDP campus on Friday, May 31.

Volunteers are still needed for what promises to be a productive and fun-filled day on May 31. See page 3 for more details on how to sign up.

SVDP Wins Grant for Community Playground

St. Vincent de Paul has been awarded a KaBOOM! grant to build a new community playground on our campus.

Children from formerly homeless families who live in SVDP's supportive housing, as well as children in the surrounding Smoketown/Shelby Park community, will be served by the new playground.



KaBOOM! is a national non-profit organization that empowers communities to build playgrounds. Dr Pepper Snapple Group is the funding partner for SVDP's playground.

More than 60 formerly homeless children live on the SVDP campus, and the new playground will also serve children through SVDP's future Family Success Center, which will provide year-round programs for at-risk children in the surrounding neighborhood.

The new playground will provide hundreds of other children in the Louisville community with a safe place to play.

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GOOD SAMARITAN

On the Ground

I find it amazing that five years have passed since joining St. Vincent de Paul in May of 2008.



These five years have been challenging, enlightening and certainly rewarding. I do have to admit, I possessed some genuine naiveté on my arrival at St. Vincent de Paul.

Five years ago, I did not have an understanding of the complexity of poverty and homelessness, or for that matter, how challenging providing help could be.

My initial views were, frankly, simplistic. My sense of the problem was that all we needed to do was provide food, clothing and shelter to solve the problem.



While addressing the immediate basic needs of those we serve is certainly important, it only addresses the problem of the moment.

Without a comprehensive approach we only postpone and prolong true resolution of their poverty and homelessness.

During my first days at St. Vincent de Paul, I discovered that there was an intended (but not yet initiated) campus Master Plan and expansion with a projected budget of \$10.3 million.

Though I am sure there is no direct correlation, both my work start date and the start date of what has become



known as the "Great Recession" were simultaneous. The impact of the economy has significantly prolonged the completion of this Master Plan.

As you may know, the first and largest phase of the plan was the construction of 54 housing units specifically targeting homeless individuals and families.

Finally overcoming the financial hurdles of the times, we broke ground in November of 2010, and the first occupants moved in on November 15, 2011.

These homes have provided immediate relief of the basic need for housing and have been coupled with intensive case management.

Case management is one of the critical components of the comprehensive solution I spoke of. A professional



case manager can objectively assist the homeless in determining their personal barriers to self-sufficiency and then craft a plan to overcome these barriers. This important piece of the comprehensive solution is in place and operational.

With additional housing, we were certain that there would

be many additional children living on campus. The "Kid Count" is currently about 60 boys and girls of all ages.

The second phase of the Master Plan recognized the needs of these children. Shortly, we will initiate this next piece of the comprehensive solution. This initiative will provide the physical space to deliver programming tools for these kids, with the end goal of preventing the generational repetition of poverty that has been the norm.

With your assistance, phase one of the Master Plan is a reality. I am confident that you will be there for us as we move forward on phase two.

There is much that remains to be done for our work to have an impact and transform lives.

As I start my second five years with St. Vincent de Paul, I am certainly less naive. However, I remain thankful for the challenge, the enlightenment and certainly the reward of making progress in addressing the needs of the poor and homeless.

None of this could have been accomplished without your ongoing support. Thank you!

Whorowski is executive director of St. Vincent de Paul.

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Today's kids spend less time playing outside than any previous generation, in part because only one in five children live within walking distance of a park or playground, according to KaBOOM! research.

This play deficit is having profound consequences for kids physically, emotionally and cognitively.

Children need a place to play every day in order to be active and healthy.

The project is part of Let's Play, a community partnership led by Dr Pepper Snapple Group to get kids and families active nationwide.

Through Let's Play grants and projects through 2012, Dr Pepper Snapple Group and KaBOOM! built or improved 1,154 playgrounds, which will benefit an estimated 2.8 million children during the lifetime of the playgrounds.



REACHING A MILESTONE

St. Jude Women's Recovery Center recently held a graduation ceremony for women who had successfully completed a long-term treatment program at the residential facility for homeless women struggling with alcoholism and substance abuse. Kneeling, left to right: Casandra T. and Jacklynn S. Standing, left to right: Anne L., Jennifer J., Paige P., Sara V., Lauren F., Courtney S., a child, and Tara E. Congratulations!

VOLUNTEER!

Help Build Our Playground
No Special Skills Needed!

WHEN: Friday, May 31st
8am Breakfast
8:30am Opening ceremony
9am Building begins
2:30pm Closing ceremony

WHERE:
St. Vincent de Paul
1015 South Preston Street
Louisville, KY 40203

HOW:
Contact Robin Wickham
(502) 301-8692
rwickham@svdplou.org

Louisville Bicycle Club Members Offer Safety Training

Children living at SVDP recently received donated bicycles collected by Northeast Christian Church.



On the day the children got their "new" bikes, a safety event was held in the parking lot of the SVDP Homes Family Apartments.

Expert guidance was provided by two

members of the Louisville Bicycle Club – John Cummings and Andy Murphy – who taught the kids safety tips and helped the youngest children learn to ride a bike for the first time.

Parents of the children, including Katrina Ellis (below, with one of her four sons), also helped out as the kids learned new skills. Although there were the inevitable fears and falls, all the children – wearing helmets – had a great time.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this fun event possible for the children at SVDP!



More pics:

www.facebook.com@svdplou.

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Donations Needed for Kids' Program

In just a few weeks, SVDP's annual summer enrichment program for the children of clients will get underway.

Bethany Borgemenke and Megan Fleming, both master's-level educators, will once again lead the program, which incorporates academics and social skills with recreational opportunities and weekly field trips.



We are asking for your help with supplies or cash donations. Please contact **Paula Wolfe** at **(502) 272-2141**;

or by e-mail at pwolfe@svdplou.org.

Have You Seen Our New Box Truck?

One of our Thrift Stores' box trucks recently received new signage. The design is similar to the sign for our Thrift Store on Lewis & Clark Parkway in Clarksville, Ind.

As SVDP supporters know, sales from our four area Thrift Stores are vital to our operations. All proceeds are turned back into programs SVDP provides to the poor and homeless in our community.

Maintaining an adequate supply of quality donations – gently used furniture, clothing, household items, etc. – is a constant challenge. We rely on donors to drop off items at our stores or to call us to schedule free pick-up of large donations, such as furniture.

We are currently seeking a donor who would be willing to pay for the cost of signage for one of our newest box trucks. If you can help, or to get more information, please contact Randy Nord, Director of Thrift Stores, at (502) 585-1184.

Another Way to Help

Look for one of our Thrift Store trucks at the following Catholic parishes this

month. Drop off your donations at the times listed below, or contact the church to verify exact times.

Although furniture donations are not accepted during these "truck weekends," donors may contact SVDP to schedule a free pick-up of these items:

Call (502) 589-7837.

MAY TRUCK WEEKENDS

May 11-12

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
5505 New Cut Road
Louisville, KY 40214
(502) 366-8199

May 18-19

Holy Family (IN)
129 West Daisy Lane
New Albany, IN 47150
(812) 944-8283

Holy Spirit

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

Classroom Supplies

Pencils
Pens
Markers
Colored Pencils
Electric Pencil Sharpener
Whiteboard Markers
Composition Notebooks
Construction Paper
Chart Paper
Plain paper
Tissues
Hand Sanitizer

Technology

New computers and/or tablets
Printer

Other

Field Trip Tickets
Gift Cards for Food and Gas