

# GOOD SAMARITAN

## St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

[www.svdplou.org](http://www.svdplou.org)

August 2013

### Teachers Reflect On Growth of Our Summer Program

With a record number of children -- 20 -- in this year's summer academic and enrichment program for kids who live at St. Vincent de Paul, teachers and staff had to get creative.

Dividing the students into two groups -- one for younger children and another for the adolescents -- was a starting point. So was adding a third teacher, Lucy Bruenderman, to assist our program's co-teachers, Bethany Borgemenke and Megan Fleming.

This adjustment also allowed the teachers to tailor the curriculum into two age-appropriate tracks. The lesson plans and activities were targeted to keep students engaged and focused on strengthening core academic skills, while also having fun.

Reading, math, science, and writing were reinforced through individual study as well as team-building activities and competitions. The kids even launched a classroom blog.

Outdoor recreation, arts and crafts, gardening, and cooking were also part of the camp, which ran Mondays through Thursdays from 9am to 3pm.

Initially launched to address the "brain drain" that often occurs during the summer months when children are out of school, SVDP's kids' program, known as Project Possibilities, has a broad mission: "We want these children to be intelligent and productive young citizens in their community," Fleming says.

Seeing them succeed at various tasks this summer was very rewarding, says says.



*Teacher Megan Fleming with one of her students, Malik. Below: Bethany Borgemenke (standing, second from right) embraces Erika, while teen volunteers at left help another child complete a worksheet.*

Whether it was "making a cake, reading a tough book, finishing a project, or working hard through an uncomfortable conflict," she was pleased to watch them learn and grow.

Given that most of the children have experienced extreme poverty, hardship and homelessness in their young lives, disagreements and behavioral issues were sometimes a challenge.



"In the first week, we did an activity about words and actions that hurt hearts or heal hearts, and we continued to use that language [throughout the summer]," Borgemenke says. With the three teachers' patience, compassion and positive reinforcement, these lessons gradually took root. "It touches me to hear kids say things like, 'I healed her heart!' or 'I don't want to be a heart hurter,'" Borgemenke adds.

See Page 3 to read about the summer program's key volunteers; to see more photos from the kids' activities and field trips, visit [www.svdplou.org](http://www.svdplou.org).

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## SVDP is About Much More Than 'Just Housing'



By Nancy Naughton

St. Vincent de Paul's ability to help the homeless on our downtown campus has increased significantly over the past 18 months with the addition of 54 new homes for

families and individuals who were previously homeless.

It is important to note that these new units, along with our other existing shelter programs, do not represent just "housing".

Person-to-person contact is at the heart of the wide-reaching mission of St. Vincent de Paul, with dedicated Vincentians making home visits to those in need throughout Louisville and Southern Indiana.

Similarly, each day St. Vincent de Paul case managers make home visits to the SVDP apartments, focusing on helping the men, women and children we serve achieve a more enriching, fulfilling life.

Those of us who have the privilege of being part of the St. Vincent de Paul team can see the results of these visits first hand. Our residents feel part of a caring community.

We know our residents by name and celebrate with them when milestones are achieved. We know the sadness of our case team when a client has a set back...a job lost, a relapse, an illness.

And we watch the children residing on our campus grow under the nurturing care of our case management staff so they will have a future that is more stable and successful than that of their parents.

Merely providing a roof and four walls does

not solve the problem of homelessness. It takes constant, proactive and diligent counseling to teach a family or an individual how to operate successfully in a world they know little about because their chronic poverty has left them out of the mainstream.

By providing a vibrant community on the SVDP campus we are able to teach them to build connections with their neighbors, take responsibility for their neighborhood and take pride in their contributions.

Success is not just about housing; it's about creating a home. Your ongoing support makes it possible to dramatically change the lives of many men, women and children. On their behalf, thank you so much!

*Naughton is Associate Executive Director of SVDP.*



Ella (right), who is raising two of her grandchildren at SVDP, with case manager Robin Wickham.

## 4 Easy Ways to Help With Our 10th Annual Charity Golf Event

1. Buy a raffle ticket. At \$25 a pop, you are entered in a drawing to win \$5,000. Not a golfer? You don't have to attend the Golf Scramble to win.



2. Buy a stack of raffle tickets, and share them with your friends and associates. Why? We have never sold all 750 raffle tickets, and the 10th anniversary of this fundraiser seems like the time to finally break that barrier!

3. Be a Golf Scramble Hole Sponsor. For \$125, you'll have a sign promoting your company.

4. Register to play in the Golf Scramble. Cost is \$350 per person, for non-sponsors. 502.301.8695; blyvers@svdplou.org.

## St. Vincent de Paul's 10th Annual Charity Golf Event

Sept. 8-9, 2013

Porcini

Big Spring Country Club

[www.svdplou.org](http://www.svdplou.org)

## Volunteers Make Summer Program Possible

Countless volunteers from area churches, schools and civic groups help keep St. Vincent de Paul's annual summer enrichment program running smoothly. Although it would be impossible to list all of them here, certain groups have gone above and beyond.

St. Gabriel's Youth Ministry, led by Pat Lynch, has consistently given time, effort and resources toward ensuring the kids and teachers have what they need. In addition, St. Gabriel also has accompanied the children on weekly field trips to museums, parks, and other places of local interest.

The Bellarmine University Governors Scholar Program (GSP) has also devoted hours of service to these children. This year, the young adults in this service-oriented program extended their time here at SVDP, by adding a day to their previously scheduled visits.

The GSP group leader for the past two years, Conrad Newman (top photo, front left), launched an innovative drama program this summer, in which kids were asked to create their own characters, imagine what superpowers these characters had, and then create skits in which their powers were somehow tested. The children enjoyed this imaginative role-playing as they learned lessons about how to work with one another to solve problems.

Finally, Bill Ash, youth ministry leader for several local parishes, including St. Athanasius, St. Rita, and Elizabeth Ann Seton, has also been active in engaging young people with SVDP's mission to help these at-risk kids stay engaged during the summer break.

Thank you all! Please know that you have truly made a difference in the lives of these children!



Clockwise, from center left: High school friends Miriam and Emma volunteered throughout the summer; a participant in the summer program proudly shows off his Avengers t-shirt; Jamie and Noah, among the 17 volunteers with the American Jewish Society for Service, blogged about their SVDP experience: [www.svdplou.org](http://www.svdplou.org)

# Calendar

Contact Donna Young  
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dyoung@svdplou.org

Sept. 11-15  
SVDP National Meeting  
Madison, WI  
To Register: [www.svdpusa.org](http://www.svdpusa.org)

Oct. 6  
Friends of the Poor Walk/Run  
Churchill Downs  
1pm registration, 2pm walk/run

Oct. 19  
Vincenian Retreat  
Nazareth Retreat Center  
Nazareth, KY  
Father Louis Arceneaux:  
"Building Vincenian Spirituality"

## SVDP Staff News: White Promoted to Program Manager



Beth White, a case manager at St. Vincent de Paul, has been promoted to the position of program manager for the Follow Up Program. She oversees clients who are in SVDP's scattered-site (off-campus) housing, making home visits with them and working with the clients to help them overcome barriers to self-sufficiency.

In May, White obtained her master's degree in social work from the University of Louisville. Subsequently, she completed requirements to become a Certified Social Worker.



## Brother, Can You Spare a Sign?

St. Vincent de Paul's four area Thrift Stores are extremely important to our mission, in that all store profits are poured back into our programs for the poor and homeless.

Receiving good-quality donations on a consistent basis is critical to keeping our stores operating efficiently. Trucks help make this happen.

Our small fleet of trucks is dispatched daily to all parts of the metro area to pick up donated goods. However, our newest box truck, purchased with a grant from the Kentucky Colonels, is still in need of signage.

We are looking for a donor who would be willing to provide this service. If you can help, please contact Wanda Selph at 502.589-7837. Thank You!

### TRUCK WEEKEND

One of our Thrift Store trucks will be at the following location this month.

### August 24-25

St. Agnes Catholic Church  
1920 Newburg Road  
Louisville, KY 40205  
(502) 451-2200

## Campbell Named to State Boards

Leah Campbell, program manager for SVDP Homes' Family Apartments, has been selected to serve on two Kentucky Citizen Foster Care Review Boards (CFCRB).

Appointed to two- to three-year terms by a local chief district or family court judge, board members volunteer to review the cases of children in the custody of Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services to ensure that children are receiving adequate services while in foster care.

The CFCRB also makes sure that every effort is being made to locate permanent placements for these children, so they do not linger needlessly in the foster care system.

Campbell, who is a licensed attorney, also completed training recently to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in Jefferson County. CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to help abused and neglected children find loving, permanent homes.



Leah Campbell (right) with Jasmine, who lives with her dad and brother in SVDP's Family Apts.

## SVDP Hires New Kitchen Manager

Charlie Shunnarah has been hired as the new executive chef and general manager of the Open Hand Kitchen.

Shunnarah, who holds culinary and hospitality degrees from Sullivan University, has extensive food-service experience. His first day on the job at SVDP was July 15th.

