

# GOOD SAMARITAN

## St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

www.svdplou.org

February | 2014

## *You Make It Happen*

### Caring People Fulfill SVDP's Mission

Have you ever considered donating your time to a worthy charity such as ours? Former Kentucky Congressman Ron Mazzoli and his granddaughters (pictured) were among the volunteers who helped serve Christmas Dinner to the guests eating in our Open Hand Kitchen on Dec. 25th.



As they and all of our volunteers are well aware, the need for loyal, caring people to help support St. Vincent de Paul's mission of service to the poor is essential. Volunteers are the backbone of our outreach, and we could not serve the poor, the homeless, the mentally ill and others struggling simply to survive, without volunteers' compassion and commitment.

We have an ongoing need for dedicated adults (and teens ages 16 and older) to serve meals in our Open Hand Kitchen, 1026 S. Jackson St. Our serving times are noon and 5pm, seven days a week.



*2014 is shaping up to be an exciting year for SVDP's inner-city campus. If you're interested in upcoming opportunities and projects, sign up for e-mail updates. Contact Linda Romine, SVDP Director of Communications, at [lromine@svdplou.org](mailto:lromine@svdplou.org).*

**Have a smartphone? Text SVDPLOU to 22828**

## Upcoming Events

### Like to eat out?

Two popular local restaurants will donate a portion of their food sales to St. Vincent de Paul on the following dates:

### February 17, 5 to 9pm

The Village Anchor Pub  
11507 Park Road,  
Anchorage, KY 40223  
[www.thevillageanchor.com](http://www.thevillageanchor.com)  
502-708-1850

### March 27, 11am to 1pm 5 to 7:30pm

The Troll Pub Under the Bridge  
150 W. Washington St.  
Louisville, KY 40202  
[www.trollpub.com](http://www.trollpub.com)  
502-618-4829

Details: On both dates, diners need to mention SVDP to the hostess upon being seated, and SVDP will receive a portion of the restaurant's sales that night. So invite your friends to join you!

### Induction & Awards

The Vincentian Induction and Awards Ceremony will be Saturday, Feb. 22, at St. Michael Church, 3705 Stone Lake Dr., Louisville, KY 40299.

Mass will begin at 6pm, followed by the Induction of New Vincentians and Awards Ceremony, and dinner. For reservations and details, contact Donna Young at 502-301-8688; [dyoung@svdplou.org](mailto:dyoung@svdplou.org).

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## On the Ground



By Nancy Naughton

We are always grateful for our many kind and compassionate donors who make our programs possible. This winter we are especially thankful as the need for help has been high due to the cold weather and the continued economic challenges faced by the individuals and families we serve. So many people have offered their gifts of time, talent and treasure to help their neighbors in need.

The Open Hand Kitchen continues to provide for an increasing number of guests. We are now serving approximately 12,000 meals each month—up from 10,000 last year. Thankfully, we have received donations of food and financial support to help us keep up with the growing need.

During the cold weather, Ozanam Inn has operated under White Flag—a frequent occurrence during the winter months—which allows us to exceed capacity in order to bring the homeless to a safe, warm environment. With the extremely cold weather in early January, our normal capacity of 90 men grew to 134.

We were ready for the challenge because of the many people who care about the plight of the homeless. We received numerous gifts of air mattresses allowing us to make comfortable beds with pillows, sheets and blankets for our additional guests.



One generous individual contacted our Programs Director to ask if we needed help managing the increased capacity. We did, and he arrived shortly thereafter to assist with check-in, providing towels, sheets, blankets and a warm greeting to some very cold men.

Thank you to all of our generous benefactors for your steadfast support.

On a personal note, I'd like to congratulate Father J. Roy Stiles on his recent celebration of 50 years in the priesthood. Father Roy is one of the kindest, best people I know, and he has touched the lives of many. Congratulations, Father Roy, from all your friends at St. Vincent de Paul.

*Nancy Naughton is the associate executive director of St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville. To make a financial gift to SVDP, please contact her at 502-301-8682; [nnaughton@svdplou.org](mailto:nnaughton@svdplou.org).*

**Pictured, above, right:** David Tarullo, program manager of SVDP's men's homeless shelter, Ozanam Inn, stands before a stack of air mattresses that are used to accommodate additional overnight clients during extremely cold weather. In recent weeks, his public pleas for additional air mattresses were met, as several donors who heard about the need via social media and through local television and newspaper stories about SVDP, dropped off air mattresses or gave money for the purchase of additional air mattresses.

## SVDP Collaboration with Makenzie's Coat Closet Results in 4,400+ Coats Being Given to the Poor and Homeless



Pictured Above: Makenzie Smith (center, holding coat) was at St. Vincent de Paul last month to give away thousands of coats she and her family collected for people in need. From left: Carolyn Wigginton, Kevin Smith, Linda Smith, Dick Smith, Kelly Nelson and Carrie Smith.

For the eighth consecutive year, Makenzie Smith and her family have collected donated coats for the poor in our community, which they have delivered to St. Vincent de Paul around the holidays.

This year set a new record for Makenzie, a 14-year-old from Borden, IN, who started the project when she was in second grade. Her annual coat drive collected more than 4,600 coats for men, women and children. More than 4,400 of these coats were given away Jan. 9 at St. Vincent de Paul's Open Hand Kitchen.

Thanks to the Smiths and to all the volunteers who helped make the coat giveaway such a success.



## Donating Your Vehicle to SVDP Is Easy

*Wanda Selph, SVDP's donations scheduler, offers these simple steps when donating your car or truck to St. Vincent de Paul:*

Vehicle donations are a great way to support the programs of St. Vincent de Paul. Most of the vehicles we receive, at the very least, will provide a net proceed of two hundred dollars.

**All types of vehicles are accepted. The vehicle does not have to be running.**

First, the donor must have a title – the official certificate of ownership. If the donor has lost the title, we

can tell the donor how to apply for a duplicate title.

Second, call SVDP at **502-589-7837**. Please be ready to provide the year, make, model and vehicle identification number (VIN) of the vehicle. (This information is on the title.) The donation line is open 8am to 4:30pm Monday-Friday.

At the time of the call, the donor can ask for a free tow of the vehicle, or the donor can arrange to drive the vehicle to SVDP. A tow is scheduled at a time that is convenient for the donor. Manheim of Louisville tows the SVDP donated vehicles.

Third, the donor signs the title to transfer the vehicle to SVDP. Our staff will provide a receipt for the donation, will complete the transfer of ownership at the County Clerk's office, and will provide the necessary tax forms to the donor to claim a tax deduction for the donation.

Under current IRS laws, the donor is allowed to deduct the **actual sale price** of the donated vehicle (not the estimated value), if the donor itemizes deductions when filing taxes.

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## In New Pilot Program, SVDP Residents Benefit from On-Campus Counseling and Mental Health Assistance

Mental illness, when untreated or undiagnosed, is one of the major causes of homelessness. Helping



individuals address their mental health issues as they transition from homelessness back to self-sufficiency is critical too.

More than six months into a new initiative aimed at doing just that, St. Vincent de Paul's program managers are optimistic about its impact on our clients. The pilot program, called the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Stabilization and Self-Sufficiency Program, is made possible through a Louisville Metro Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Its purpose is to assist clients through the use of individual and group counseling.

Two group counseling sessions of about six participants each meet on a weekly basis, while eight residents also receive periodic individual counseling.

"We determined through assessing our current residents that about 60% identified as having a substance abuse condition and approximately 80% identified as having a mental health condition," says Cory Bledsoe, SVDP's director of programs.

More than half of those respondents said they did not have access to timely mental health care that met their needs, he adds.

SVDP's Debbie Slagle Pike, along with another SVDP program manager, Beth White, lead the group therapy sessions. Slagle Pike counsels clients individually as well. "Many of our clients have severe mental illnesses, and many of them have unresolved trauma issues that they have never dealt with," Slagle Pike says.

For people in recovery who are trying to maintain their sobriety, the added burden of having an untreated mental health issue makes abstaining from drugs and alcohol extremely difficult, she explains.

Slagle Pike is program manager of SVDP's St. Jude Women's Recovery Center, a state-licensed residential treatment facility for homeless women trying to overcome addiction. In addition to their 12-Step meetings, some of her St. Jude clients are also

participants in the new group therapy sessions, attending alongside other adults in SVDP's supportive housing.

"Many of our clients have unresolved grief issues," Slagle Pike says. "They're dealing with some pretty serious things like child sexual abuse, domestic violence...some of them have abandonment issues... These are the kinds of things that, when they aren't addressed, cause people to go out and drink and use drugs."

She is pleased with the openness and camaraderie established in the two counseling groups, she says. Clients receiving one-on-one counseling also are making progress and achieving personal breakthroughs as they grapple with painful issues that threaten their emotional stability.

"This new program gives them a person to talk to about their traumas," she says. "They're learning coping skills, so now they don't have to be so afraid. They don't have to fear they're going to be hospitalized or feel quite so helpless when they're trying to resist drugs or alcohol."

SVDP staff are now assessing the new program's effectiveness and measuring outcomes in hopes that the program can be continued, Bledsoe says.