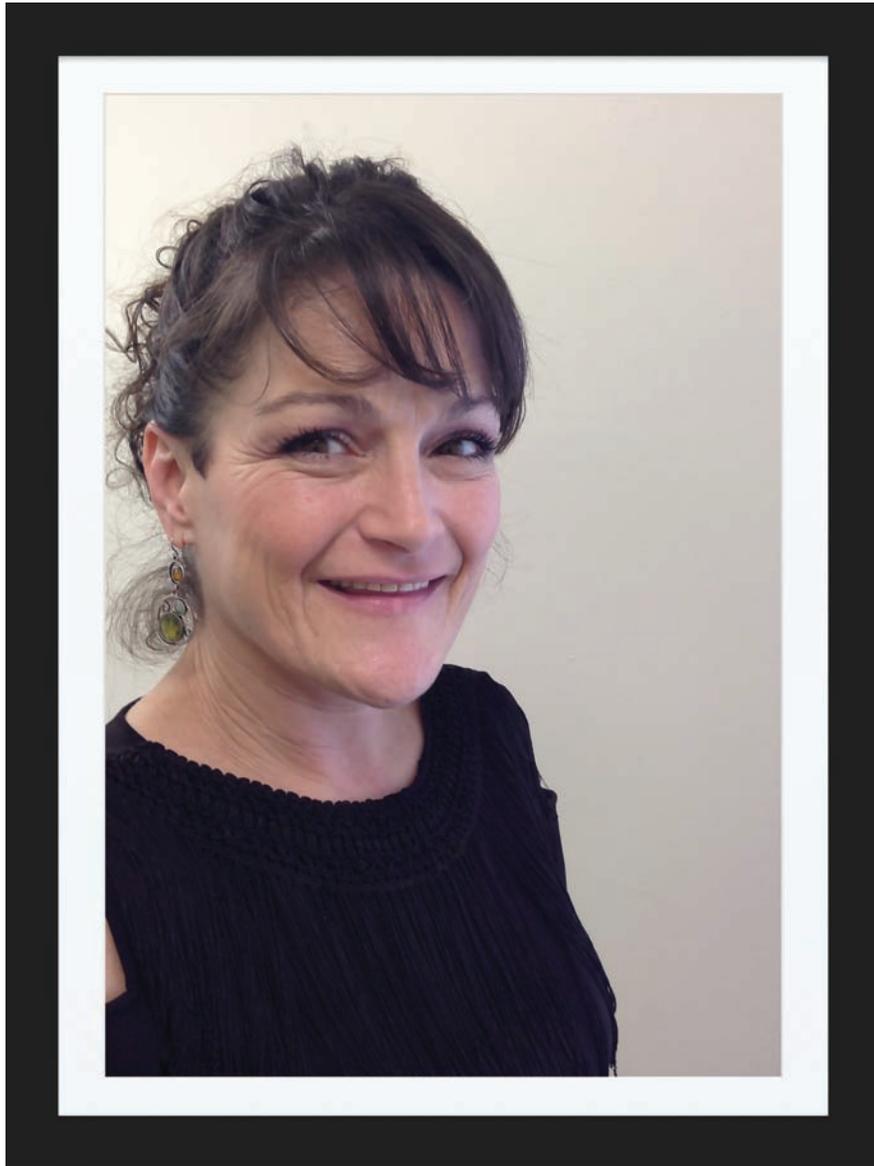


GOOD SAMARITAN

St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

www.svdplou.org

April | 2014



Rejoicing in Sobriety, Lorrie Earns Success After 3 Years at SVDP

Several years after completing the substance-abuse program at St. Vincent de Paul's St. Jude Women's Recovery Center, Lorrie has her own apartment, a new career that she loves, and nearly five years of sobriety. In a few months, she'll obtain her associate's degree.

A lifelong alcoholic and addict, Lorrie has weathered tough times. Her dad committed suicide when she was an infant, and she was raised by a single, alcoholic mom.

"I started drinking alcohol at a very early age, and then at 15, I met the love of my life." She rolls her eyes, indicating the bitter outcome of that relationship. "He was 10 years older than me, also an alcoholic and a drug dealer."

She gave birth to three children while continuing to drink and abuse drugs. "It's by God's grace they're healthy, and it's by God's grace that I lost custody of the children – because I was incapable of taking care of them," she says. "I lived on the streets for 10 years. I was homeless.

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Lorrie, former St. Vincent de Paul client

Age: 44

New Occupation: Social Worker

"I am so grateful for St. Vincent de Paul and for the people who give to make these programs possible. Everybody here is so caring and genuine. I'm so appreciative of how I was treated. I was never talked down to. I was always encouraged. That reassurance was huge for me."

GOOD SAMARITAN

Outstanding Vincentians Are Honored

Three outstanding Vincentians received awards Feb. 22 at an awards ceremony at St. Michael Church.

Top Hat Award

Bob Hagan received the Top Hat Award, the highest honor presented by St. Vincent de Paul's Conference Affairs Committee. The Top Hat Award is presented to a Vincentian who exemplifies the spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's founder, Frederic Ozanam.

Hagan, of St. Peter the Apostle Conference, makes home visits, delivers furniture, food or whatever it takes to help a client, offering everything from bus fare to groceries and gasoline to help someone in need. Last year he organized his conference's home visits and raised additional funds when needed. Hagan is always concerned about the needs of clients. He provides not only for their immediate needs but supports them and is instrumental in providing valuable information that will help them in the future.

Hagan volunteers for everything, from helping build the playground on SVDP's downtown campus to working long hours at the charity's annual Christmas Santa Shop. He is part of his church's regular team that serves meals to the hungry at SVDP's Open Hand Kitchen. He attends all council retreats to build his own spirituality, and he attends Ozanam Orientation each year with his new conference members to lend support. He is president of his conference as well as district president on the SVDP Council of Louisville board of directors.



From left: Bob Hagan; Leo Fogle; Beverly Richards; Ed Wnorowski, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville; and Donna Young, SVDP's Director of Volunteers and Conference Affairs.

Ozanam Medallion

The 2013 recipient of the Ozanam Medallion is **Beverly Richards** of St. Paul's Conference. She serves as a role model for other Vincentians and an inspiration to the broader faith community. She began serving SVDP in 2004 by making home visits, visiting clients in nursing homes, and organizing and delivering food baskets. Known for her kindness and ability to make people feel good even in bad situations, she excels in counseling and serving the needs of her clients.

Secretary of her conference, Richards also serves on the bereavement team and assists by preparing minutes, sending out thank-you cards and recording home visits. She is constantly recruiting new members for the

conference, and she tallies all the statistics for the quarterly reports – not only for her conference but for the entire district.

St. Vincent Award

Leo Fogle, of St. Raphael Conference, received the St. Vincent Award, which is given to an individual who, like St. Vincent, has dedicated his life to supplying nonjudgmental and supportive service to those in need. Fogle makes 15 to 20 home visits each month and has been doing these visits since the mid-1990s. He is in charge of locating and distributing funds to the people seeking temporary emergency assistance from the conference. He meets with clients in person, taking another Vincentian with him to minister to their needs.

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A Vincentian for more than 25 years, Fogle has been known to help clients with funds out of his own pocket. Considering that he is a man of modest means himself, this is an extraordinary testimony to his Vincentian spirit.

The time he spends advocating for his clients and the clients from other conferences is simply staggering. As mentioned, he often makes 10 to 15 calls per client, multiplied by 15 to 20 clients per month.



In addition, he assists other conferences by helping raise money for their clients. He is nonjudgmental and sympathetic to the plight of the poor, unemployed, addicted, abused, mentally ill and

clients going through challenging circumstances.

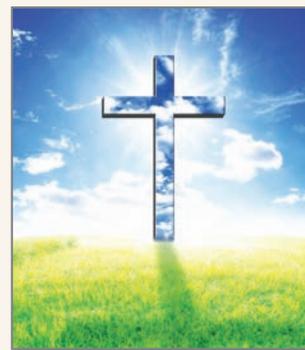
He volunteers at least once a month at the Open Hand Kitchen and has been doing so for more than two decades. He also recruits other people to volunteer at the kitchen.

Over the years, he has volunteered with many other SVDP projects, putting together Christmas food baskets every year to make sure the downtown campus receives at least 50 baskets to help the needy in the Smoketown/Shelby Park area. He might be 92 years old, but he never is too old or tired to help someone in need. Fogel always puts the needs of the clients first.

On the Ground

By Nancy Naughton

Many years ago, Father Carl Morello, a pastor of the Chicago parish in which I grew up, wrote his annual Easter greeting to the parish which I have always kept. He said "...our faith began in a cemetery, not in a stable, not at the River Jordan, not in an upper room.



"The first resurrection appearances happened in a cemetery garden. Cemeteries are places of memories and reminders of resurrected life. Because of His resurrection, our loved ones who have gone before us and we, too, one day will live forever."

On behalf of all of us at St. Vincent de Paul, we wish you a most joyous Easter season!



Nancy Naughton is Associate Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

Welcome, New Vincentians!

The new Vincentians, inducted at the same Feb. 22 ceremony, are:

Holy Spirit: Mary Jo Horlander, Deborah Lopez-Thorpe and Jennifer Sanders.

Holy Trinity: Eugene Mosely.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Donald Ferry, Patty Hendricks and Gwen Pyle.

St. Agnes: Lauren Pieper, Stephanie Reilly and Steve Riester.

St. Anthony of Padua: Mike and Robin Basham, and Mike and Becky Wheeler.

St. James: Nelia Rausch, Linda Brown, Regina Cheek, Chuck Hinton, Carol Johnson, John McKeating, Bob Rausch, Ann Redding, Mary J. Reinach, Gery Skees, Martina Spalding, Jacinta Tillett and Lorna Vertrees.

St. Michael: Joni Lamb, Cathy O'Brien, Pam Bates, Deacon Ken Carter, Paul Garcia, Robin Garcia, Nancy Hoover, John and Charlene Kelly, Corrine Knepp, Mike Lamb, Therese McClelland and Jim Moss.

St. Patrick: Ken Hoffmann and Bob and Laurie Tancula.

St. Paul: Mary and Dickie Deats, Debra Griswald and Teresa Pacheco.

St. Stephen Martyr: Thomas Koenig and Edward LePera.

Calendar:

Thrift Store Donations Truck Weekends

April 5-6

Epiphany

914 Old Harrods Creek Road

Louisville, KY 40223

502-245-9733

Saturday: 3 to 7pm

Sunday: 8:30am to 2pm

April 5

Spiritual Advisers Conference

9:30am

SVDP Administration Building

1015-C S. Preston St.

Louisville, KY 40203

April 26

Mid-East Regional Meeting

St. Joe, Michigan

Contact Donna Young; 502-301-8688;

dyoung@svdplou.org

April 20

EASTER SUNDAY

Noon Meal

SVDP's

Open Hand Kitchen

Free to Anyone in Need



How to Help? Here Are 3 Current Needs

1. DESIGNATED GIFTS

Throughout April a percentage of all cash donations designated for food will be matched by the Feinstein Foundation. The challenge awards \$1 million annually to food banks nationwide each spring.

Contact development assistant Bonnie Lyvers at 502-301-8695; blyvers@svdplou.org.

2. BATH TOWELS

SVDP's men's homeless shelter is in desperate need of new or gently used white bath towels. All men staying in our shelter are required to shower nightly. Why white? The towels are washed in *heavy bleach* on a daily basis and become worn out over time. The shelter needs to replace most of its threadbare towels.

Contact case manager Harrison Swadley at 502-301-8697; hswadley@svdplou.org.

3. LIVING-ROOM CHAIRS

Simon Hall, a supportive housing residence for homeless men with mental disabilities, needs to replace some of its living-room chairs.

Contact case manager Renee Yates at 502-301-8686; ryates@svdplou.org.

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She remembers her resolve in trying to do better. "I had good intentions, but once I was drunk or high, that next hit or that next beer took precedence. I had moments of clarity: I remember thinking, 'What am I doing here? I am such a screw up!' I had such guilt and such shame that I would just keep using to numb those horrible thoughts."

In addition to being an addict and an alcoholic for 25 years, she was also a domestic violence victim. The turning point in Lorrie's life occurred when she finally sought help and called the police.

She checked into JDAC (Jefferson Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center) to detox. From there, a counselor referred her to SVDP's St. Jude Women's Recovery Program for long-term residential treatment.

It was exactly what Lorrie needed.

"St. Jude offered me a safe, supporting and loving environment where I didn't have the pressures of putting a roof over my head and food on the table. I just had to pay a minimal amount for my bed, and I could work on me," she says. "I could work on the process of accepting that I have the disease of alcoholism and addiction. I began the process of the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. St. Jude gave me a foundation toward a recovery-based lifestyle."

After graduating, Lorrie transitioned into St. Vincent de

Paul's Follow-Up Program, where she received a rent subsidy for her own apartment and continued to get case management from SVDP.

"Having that housing assistance grant helped me so much," Lorrie says. "I started college, and I was taking nine credit hours, plus working at McDonald's and making only about \$150 a week."

The grant covered 80 percent of the rent and utilities and cost her 30 percent of her check. "I wouldn't be where I am today without that," she says. "It gave me an opportunity to hold myself accountable. I had somebody (my case manager) checking on me. And I didn't have the financial stress of trying to get by – and go to school – while living way below the poverty line."

Today, several years after exiting SVDP's programs, Lorrie has a good job as a case manager for Volunteers of America, a social-services agency that helps the poor. Soon, she hopes to begin a bachelor's degree program to become a counselor for alcoholics and addicts.

In addition, she sponsors women in her AA home group that meets weekly at St. Jude. "I love giving away what I've freely been given. It's such a huge gift," she says. "You can't put a price on it ... to see that light come back into a person's eyes."