

GOOD SAMARITAN

St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

www.svdplou.org

March | 2014

On the Move Thrift Store Expands in New East-End Site

St. Vincent de Paul's thrift stores have been a critical source of funds for our programs for the poor and homeless for many years.

We are now embarking on an expansion of our store network to support our growing services and make way for our new Family Success Center through the repurposing of our Preston Street store.

The Family Success Center will inhabit the old store in order to serve the growing number of families on our campus and those in our surrounding neighborhoods of Smoketown and Shelby Park. The Center will be a much-needed addition to a neighborhood that has virtually no place for children to grow, learn and play safely.

Our Preston Street store, which also served as our donation processing center, is being relocated to Dorsey Plaza, at Dorsey Lane and Shelbyville Road (pictured), which will provide a much-improved, larger retailing space and a more convenient drop-off location for our generous donors. We expect to open the store by early April.

We ask for your help in filling our stores. Your donations are critical to the success of our thrift stores. As you begin to think about spring cleaning, please don't forget about St. Vincent de Paul. We will put

your donations to excellent use!

Our stores have performed very well, even without the benefit of expensive advertising campaigns. Thanks to parish "truck weekends" and St. Vincent de Paul supporters who drop off merchandise or call for a donation pick-up, our revenue has increased 36% versus a year ago. All of this revenue is used to support St. Vincent de Paul's programs for Louisville's poor and homeless.

The repurposing of the Preston Street store into the Family Success Center has begun. The Center will provide year-round programming for the children as well as enrichment programs for adults.

Importantly, the Center will serve both children and their parents to drive family stability as we focus on parenting skills, helping parents create a home focused on learning, positive reinforcement and love, to ultimately break the cycle of poverty.



The Family Success Center is scheduled to open in June of this year. We will provide an update on both these high-impact initiatives next month. In the meantime, should you have any questions please don't hesitate to call!

To make a cash contribution toward the Family Success Center, please contact Nancy Naughton, associate executive director of St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville; 502-301-8682; nnaughton@svdplou.org.

TRUCK WEEKEND

March 29-30

St. Edward

9608 Sue Helen Drive

Louisville, KY 40299

Saturday: 10am to 6pm

Sunday: 8am to 2pm

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Volunteer Spotlight: Paul Carmony

When Paul Carmony retired from Humana more than 15 years ago, he knew he wanted to make the most of his free time. So he decided to devote his energy to a good cause – St. Vincent de Paul.

He had not been familiar with the organization until years earlier, when a friend invited him to volunteer for SVDP's annual Santa Shop. He did, and the rest, as they say, is history.

He has overseen and organized the major holiday outreach for many years, carefully sorting and bagging toys, boys' and girls' clothing, and other donated gifts that will go to needy families. During the rest of the year, he fulfills a similar role, organizing and maintaining SVDP's Clothes Closet, which provides clothing, toiletries, diapers and household items for SVDP clients and other indigent people seeking assistance at our campus.

Whether in the scalding heat of summer or the bitter cold of winter, he spends hours in the unheated garage that sits just across the alley from the administration building on our campus. He culls through donations, including blouses, shirts, shoes and trousers, hanging items by size and type.

When asked what he enjoys about volunteering, Carmony's answer was surprisingly frank: "I don't enjoy it," he said.

'Enjoy' is the wrong word to



describe the experience, he explained, because it actually saddens him to see so many of the poor and homeless people who come through the alley on a daily basis.

Carmony is active in other volunteer endeavors outside SVDP. In addition to the 12 to 15 hours per week he averages here on our campus, he has also spent the past few years volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children caught up in the legal system.

Clearly, Carmony cares about others.

He would like to encourage more people to become involved in helping those in need.

"What if every person would ask themselves the question 'Why not volunteer?' he says.

We are grateful to Carmony for his dedication and service.

Your Help Needed

We would like to begin recognizing our volunteers by listing their names in this newsletter on a regular basis, but we need your help in updating our records.

Each time you visit at St. Vincent de Paul to volunteer, please sign in with your name, the organization you're with (if any), and your e-mail address so that we may keep you updated about events and opportunities.

Thanks for your cooperation.



Churchill Downs' Backside Ministry Gifts Classroom Bus to SVDP's Summer Kids' Program



Isn't She a Beauty? This former Tumblebus-turned-mobile preschool classroom was recently donated to St. Vincent de Paul by the Kentucky Race Track Chaplaincy (Backside Ministry at Churchill Downs). The bus, which is equipped like a preschool classroom with desks, chairs, and cubbies for storage, will be used as an auxiliary classroom by SVDP's summer enrichment program for children. DonorsResource.org, which connects people who wish to donate items to area non-profit organizations, arranged the transfer of the bus to SVDP. **What should we name the bus? Send your suggestions to: svdplou@gmail.com with the subject: Bus.**

Now's The Time to Give, as Feinstein Food Bank Challenge Gets Underway

Now is the time to make your donations to our Open Hand Kitchen count for more. For the 17th consecutive year, the Feinstein Foundation is supporting hunger-fighting charitable organizations nationwide with a total donation of \$1 million.

St. Vincent de Paul, which serves more than 120,000 free meals each year in the Open Hand Kitchen, has

been one of the many recipients in this hunger-challenge fundraising program. We hope donors will continue to make the most of their contributions again this year.

Here's How:

For every donation of money or food items St. Vincent de Paul receives **in March and April**, the Feinstein Foundation will contribute money to SVDP to help fight hunger here in Louisville and Southern Indiana.

For questions, or to make a donation to help St. Vincent de Paul continue to fight hunger, please contact Bonnie Lyvers at 502-301-8695; blyvers@svdplou.org. And be sure to designate your gift as part of the Feinstein Foundation challenge.



WISH for FISH



Each year during Lent, our Open Hand Kitchen observes the Christian season by serving fish

on Fridays in keeping with Catholic tradition.

However, fish is harder to come by than the normal commodities we receive at food banks and can purchase on our tight budget.

If you would like to donate toward the purchase of fish to be served in our Open Hand Kitchen, please contact Charlie Shunnarah, OHK Executive Chef/General Manager; 502-301-8691 Ext. 231; cshunnarah@svdplou.org.

Calendar:

April 20
Easter Sunday Meal
Noon
Open Hand Kitchen
Louisville, KY



PLEASE JOIN US!

The Troll Pub Under the Bridge, a popular bar and restaurant in downtown Louisville (steps from the KFC Yum! Center), will host a fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul this month.

From 5 to 7:30pm on Thursday, March 27th, the eatery will donate a portion of food sales to SVDP. No reservations are required, but upon arriving, please tell the hostess or waitress that you're there to support us!

For details, call Robin Wickham, SVDP Events Coordinator, at 502-301-8692 or e-mail her at rwickham@svdplou.org.

Open Hand Kitchen Hosts “First-Timers”



Employees with Strategic Communications (above, left), recently made their first visit to the St. Vincent de Paul campus, volunteering to serve lunch in our Open Hand Kitchen. In late February, just days before their first game of the season, the Bellarmine University baseball team served up Chef Charlie Shunnarah’s family-friendly ballpark dinner of chili-cheese dogs, nachos, and homemade cookies to 260+ guests. We’re thrilled to welcome these new faces to our growing volunteer roster!