

# GOOD SAMARITAN

## St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

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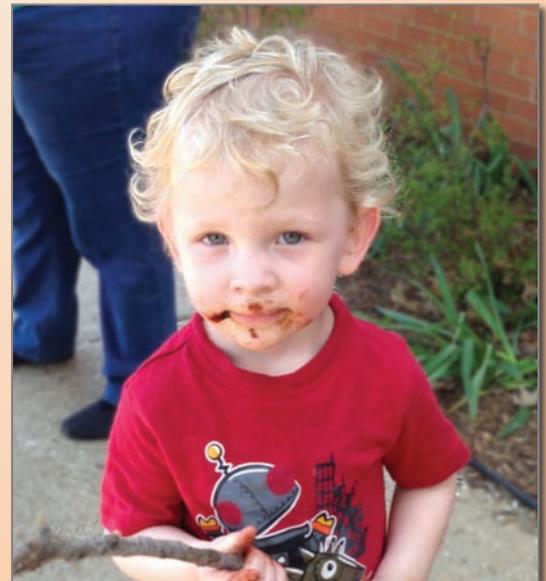
May | 2014

### Expanded Programming for Kids and Parents Underway

The annual Easter Egg Hunt hosted here at SVDP by members of St. Gabriel's Youth Ministry is an eagerly anticipated event for the children who live on the St. Vincent de Paul campus. Each spring, leader Pat Lynch and the youths arrive with bags of arts and crafts supplies, drinks and treats, and tons of ideas for an active, fun morning. As these pictures show, this year's visit was no exception.

St. Gabriel's abiding commitment to nurturing and mentoring these kids exemplifies the kind of quality experiences we hope to expand and replicate here on our campus in the years ahead.

An important first step is the opening of our new Family Success Center, which will provide a place for parents and children to share their talents, learn new skills, and enjoy sports and recreation, arts and music, cooking classes and more. With the strategic goal of breaking the cycle of poverty for these children, SVDP has been planning and collaborating with other agencies across the city to share ideas and brainstorm about even more ways to keep these young people engaged in learning and growing as individuals. See related articles, pages 2 and 3.



Above: Kayla and her mother work on Easter arts and crafts. Top: Jerrica shows off a sack of plastic eggs. Bottom right: Alex's face shows evidence of all the chocolate Easter candy he consumed.

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## On the Ground



By Nancy Naughton

This year represents the sixth year for our summer children's program, Project Possibilities. The program includes a mix of components designed to improve the academic and social skills of the children living on our campus while also providing recreational activities including field trips around Louisville to expand their horizons.

This year we will be adding a new program for children 5 and under that will be conducted along with their parents. This age group represents a critical time to begin focusing on school readiness. Our curriculum is designed to increase vocabulary, alphabet recognition and counting. Our program leaders will show parents how to create a more education-focused home for their children.

Research shows that children from low-income households are significantly behind their higher-income peers. For example, a child from a middle-income home will recognize 22 letters of the alphabet by the age of 5. For low-income children the number of letters recognized is only 9. It is St. Vincent de Paul's goal to greatly improve the performance of our young children. By providing a solid early-education foundation, we hope to ultimately break the cycle of poverty that has existed in some families for generations.

Another first this year is the location of our program. Our Family Success Center, previously our on-campus Thrift Store, will open in June, just in time for our summer activities. The Center is equipped with a gym, art room, tech/learning lab, game space and a Kid's Café, in partnership with Dare to Care.

Should you have some free time this summer, we are always looking for volunteers to help with the program. Or if you have just a little time to spare, stop in to see the program and your generosity in action. You won't be disappointed!

We look forward to sharing with you the progress the children – along with their parents – will be making during the coming summer months. Please remember, without your generous support none of this would be possible.

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

### 2014 Summer Program Needs

Crayons  
Markers  
Pens  
Pencils  
Composition Notebooks  
Pocket Folders  
Construction Paper  
Glue  
Other Arts & Crafts Items

Wi-fi Enabled laptops,  
Notebooks or iPads  
E-readers (Kindle, Nooks)

Kleenex  
Hand Sanitizer  
Healthy Snacks  
Board Games  
Sports Equipment  
Kids' Summer Clothing

**VOLUNTEERS!**

### *SENDING FLOWERS FOR MOTHER'S DAY?*

**Nanz & Kraft Florists**

will donate **\$2** to  
**St. Vincent de Paul**  
for every online order  
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the florist's  
**Helping Hands**  
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# Community Organizers Brainstorm Ideas on How to Help Reduce Learning Loss in Kids Living in Poverty

By Leah Campbell  
Program Manager  
SVDP Families

Last month I had the privilege of attending Louisville's inaugural Summer Learning Summit hosted by BLOCS (Building Louisville's Out of School Time Coordinated System). During the opening session, Ellen Gannett, Director of the National Institute on Out-of-School-Time, energetically conveyed the simple truth that summer learning loss by lower-income students has a devastating impact on potential for achievement and academic success. Strong summer programming provided by partnerships between schools and community-based organizations can help reduce learning loss, and in turn help bridge the gap that prevents our children from reaching their goals.

Quoting from James Levine's book, *School Age Child Care: An Action Manual*, Gannett noted a premise that stuck with me throughout the day: "Solutions are really to be found at the community level, and that they can best be developed by mobilizing people with similar interests to help one another." Throughout the day full of mini-sessions that provided invaluable materials and information on a variety of topics from curriculum building to fundraising, I kept returning to one specific thought: Why in the world haven't we done this before?

The attendees and organizations represented demonstrated the incredible dedication our city has in meeting the needs of our youth.

I engaged in spirited discussions and exchanged ideas for myriad collaborative projects with public and private school teachers, the director of an emergency youth shelter, a theatre group that works with at-risk youth, and a retired private tutor interested in simply improving her impact on her students.

I brought back an armload of resources and information to my SVDP colleagues, excited to dive into the intricate process of planning our own summer program on campus. This year we are looking at providing programming for all ages – and parents – given the highly anticipated opening of our Family Success Center early this summer. The expansion of our campus to include an incredible space for learning, enrichment, and play opens up worlds of opportunities for programming that in past years just hasn't been feasible.

The Family Success Center (pictured above, during construction in April) will offer a teaching kitchen, computer lab, and a gymnasium that can be converted into a theater complete with a stage. We will have space! Wonderful space for enrichment



classes, artistic expression, musical genius, and books of intrigue. Games and sports. The programming possibilities truly feel limitless.

Our summer program planning process has incorporated many of the materials and ideas from the Summer Learning Summit and those shared by other passionate educators in our community. I am already looking forward to participating in next year's Summit!

*Summit organizer Building Louisville's Out-of-School-Time Coordinating System (BLOCS) is a community partnership convened to create a coordinated system for the enhancement of youth services in Louisville. BLOCS' founding organizations include Louisville Metro Government, Jefferson County Public Schools and Metro United Way. The Partners work to bridge in-school learning with out-of-school opportunities as a fundamental mechanism for improving education outcomes.*

## Truck Weekends

### May 10-11

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
5505 New Cut Road  
Louisville, KY 40214  
502-366-5651

### May 17-18

St. Patrick  
1000 N. Beckley Station Road  
Louisville, KY 40245  
502-244-6083

### May 24-25

St. Raphael  
2141 Lancashire Avenue  
Louisville, KY 40205  
502-458-2500

### May 31-April 1

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

Contact parishes for specific hours designated for dropping off your gently used donations for our Thrift Store trucks at each location.

## Other Events

### June 11 - 5:30pm

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville  
Council Meeting  
St. Stephen Martyr  
2931 Pindell Ave  
Louisville, KY 40217

### June 19

Opening of SVDP's  
Family Success Center



## College Kids Want To Help SVDP

Members of Bellarmine University's Swim Team asked for the opportunity to serve lunch to our guests this spring and got the opportunity – their first time ever serving in our Open Hand Kitchen – on Sunday, March 23. Thanks to these compassionate young adults for caring about the less fortunate in our community!

Front row, from left: Hannah Warfel, Casey Guernsey, Lindsey Horrell and Gretchen Cox. Back row, from left: Evan Tillett, Trent Mattingly, Emma Bryan, and Christian Taylor.

## A NOTE TO ALL VOLUNTEERS:

*A heartfelt thank-you to our more than 60 loyal teams who have been serving meals in our Open Hand Kitchen so faithfully over the years.*

*We appreciate your willingness to relinquish your scheduled dates on occasion to accommodate new volunteers who want to be included in this meaningful outreach to the poor and homeless.*

*By allowing newcomers to get involved, it is our hope that they will become equally dedicated, joining with us to help carry out the broader mission work being done here on the St. Vincent de Paul's inner-city campus.*

*On behalf of the men, women and children we serve on a daily basis, thanks for your support! We couldn't do it without you!*

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