

# Good Samaritan



The monthly newsletter of St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

www.svdplou.org



## Grateful Neighborhood Residents Say SVDP Food Pantry Is A Blessing

Frank (above) was quietly thankful as he left the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry one recent morning after choosing free groceries.

Hesitant at first to speak with staff, he later explained what a difference the food would make for his family: Having raised his own kids alone, he is now supporting grandchildren, Frank said. In addition, he is letting several homeless family members with toddlers stay with him until they can get back on their feet.

His story is similar to ones told by others who stand in line and

fill up the lobby of the pantry at 9am on Tuesday and Thursday.

The free groceries they receive are helping prevent hunger in our community.

Despite limited resources, this pantry is already serving more than five times the number of households Dare to Care Food Bank of Louisville, KY, estimated the facility would serve, when they helped us establish this critical community outreach.

Thanks to all of our supporters, donors and volunteers, we are serving some of the poorest

households in metro Louisville.

Additional thanks to everyone who participated in Walmart's "Fight Hunger Spark Change" online campaign last month. St. Vincent de Paul earned \$5,000 by helping cast enough votes to land Dare to Care's Food Pantry in the Top 50 food-bank vote-getters nationwide!



# On the Ground

By Nancy Naughton



*If we would be faithful to the Gospel we must take up our cross daily and follow Him. Whether it be unfair treatment, fatigue or frustration at work, a lapse of health, tasks beyond talents, seasons of loneliness, bleakness in prayer, the aloofness of friends; or whether it be the sadness of our having inflicted any of this on others ... there will be dying to do on our way to the Father. But we do not grieve as people without hope, for Christ the Lord has risen to die no more. He has taken us into the mystery and the grace of this life that springs up from death. ... We must be people with hope to bring.*

- Excerpts from the 'Constitutions of Holy Cross,' #112, 117, 118

The people who come to St. Vincent de Paul for support have had many crosses to bear in their lives. Some have lived in severe poverty their entire life. Others suffer from mental illness or addiction.

Still others have faced life-changing events such as a severe illness that caused great financial hardship or they lost their job and could not recover financially.

Despite these catastrophic events that have led to homelessness and fear, I am always struck by the frequent expressions of thankfulness for St. Vincent de Paul's help.

If you happen to be in the Open Hand Kitchen during a mealtime, the vast majority of guests will thank you for the meal. Despite the hardships they face, they take the time to sincerely thank those who have prepared and served their meal.

Walking around our campus, you will experience a similar giving and positive attitude. Many of our clients volunteer to

help with campus tasks.

For example, several men from our Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter were critical to the conversion of our old maintenance facility to our beautiful new food pantry. They were happy to help and were critical to the success of the project.

To face each day with an open heart despite lacking the resources and conveniences we often take for granted takes courage, faith and hope.

These truly are people with hope to bring.

*Nancy Naughton is Associate Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville. Contact her at [nnaughton@svdplou.org](mailto:nnaughton@svdplou.org).*



## The Good Samaritan

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## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

St. Vincent de Paul is a nonprofit charity dedicated to serving the poor and providing others with the opportunity to serve. St. Vincent de Paul serves people in need, including those who are homeless, living in poverty or who suffer from addiction and mental illness, as well as people who are in crisis or facing unexpected hardship.

Through a continuum of care that includes food, shelter, affordable housing, counseling and emergency financial assistance with rent and utility bills, St. Vincent de Paul assists people, regardless of their background or faith, with the goal of helping each person achieve self-sufficiency.



# SVDP Case Managers Learn Best Practices at Inner-City Los Angeles Youth Center

Prior to the opening of the Family Success Center on September 29, three St. Vincent de Paul employees spent two days in Los Angeles shadowing the Bresee Foundation, which provides comprehensive after-school programs and family services to young people.

The Bresee Foundation was established in 1982 to address the social needs of the community. Today, Bresee offers an after-school youth program including homework help, one-on-one tutoring, art, music and dance classes, and a technology lab and multimedia studio.

It also has a pediatric clinic, family supportive services and case management, and a gang prevention program.

Bresee has awarded more than 100 students nearly \$500,000 in college scholarships and provided career-readiness and employment to more than 500 youth.

Kendra Oatis, program manager of children and families programs at St. Vincent de Paul, served as an intern at Bresee in 2008 during her senior year of college. This relationship led to the opportunity to spend time observing an established after-school program.

Along with Oatis, Julio Anthony, SVDP's case manager for children and families, and Beth White, SVDP's assistant director of programs, were able to see the Bresee Youth Center in action, as well as spend time talking about successes and failures with several members of the Bresee staff. The group split up to observe different grade levels during homework help



*From left: Julio Anthony, Leigh Ann Greenfield, Chheav Em, Kendra Oatis, Beth White, Daniel McWhirter*

and were also able to participate in several workshops, such as golf, dance, and art.

In meetings with many of Bresee's staff members, including director of programs Daniel McWhirter, the group learned about the operations, planning, and assessment of a successful after-school program.

In discussions with Dunia Perich, director of family services, they were able to gain insight about serving both student and family, including various assessments and service plan templates.

Bresee also provided opportunities for the group to talk with Blanca Orellana, director of middle school programs, to learn more about running a homework center and coordinating tutoring services.

In addition to program operation, the group met with Leigh Ann Greenfield, volunteer coordinator,

to discuss recruitment of volunteers and how to create a specific volunteer experience that uses the skills of volunteers to meet the needs of the organization.

The two days the group spent at the Bresee Foundation provided them with fresh ideas and knowledge to begin implementing the after-school program in the Family Success Center. Twenty-six students are currently registered, but the number is expected to increase.

The trip to Los Angeles to shadow the Bresee Foundation and continued communication with its staff have proven very beneficial to the implementation of SVDP's program.

*For a Wish List of Family Success Center needs, see [svdplou.org](http://svdplou.org).*

*To volunteer at the Center, contact Kendra Oatis; [koatis@svdplou.org](mailto:koatis@svdplou.org).*

## PLAN AHEAD



### SVDP THRIFT STORE TRUCK WEEKENDS

**November 1-2**

St. Patrick

1000 N. Beckley Station

Louisville, KY 40245

*Hours to be announced*

**November 8-9**

St. Peter the Apostle

5431 Johnsonstown Road

Louisville, KY 40272

Saturday: 9am-5pm

Sunday: 8am-2pm

**November 15-16**

St. Athanasius

5915 Outer Loop

Louisville, KY 40219-4136

*Hours to be announced*

## THANKSGIVING

Noon, Nov. 27

Open Hand Kitchen

## SANTA SHOP

Sunday, Dec. 21

Family Success Center

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## Shout-Outs to Some of Our Recent Volunteers and Guests on Campus

Thirty-five employees from local offices of **Honeywell Security** volunteered to paint the interior of our Open Hand Kitchen one day last month. The team provided all the paint and supplies to put two coats of cream-colored paint on the dreary tan walls. Plus, they carefully painted the dark brown wood trim around the former sanctuary's stained-glass windows a cheerful white.

In addition, **Congressman John Yarmuth** (right) also stopped by,



spending more than an hour chatting with volunteers including project leader **Ray Roberge**

(at left), director of customer service, Honeywell Security Products Americas.

\* **David Novak** (not pictured) and executive team members from **Yum! Brands** catered dinner in our Open Hand Kitchen one night last month. They arrived early enough to help our Chef Charlie Shunnarah do prep work in the kitchen before serving the KFC meals themselves, to more than 600 appreciative people.



\* **David Frey** was involved in our new Family Success Center as well as with the KaBOOM! playground project a year ago.

During the playground build, he planned and worked side by side with the youth volunteers that revived the landscaping around the Family Apartments. In addition, he made the selections for the trees and planters for the DePaul playground area.

During the Family Success Center build-out, David developed the design, sourced the plants (at a below-wholesale price) and was the first person onsite with a pickax in hand prepping the planting beds. The scope of this project was immense, requiring two different groups to complete – GE and BB&T.

To accomplish the planning and logistics, let alone do the work, David gave up at least three days of work for the two separate events. We are extremely grateful for his leadership and expertise on these landscaping projects.

Thank you to these and all of the other caring volunteers who help St. Vincent de Paul care for the poor and homeless!