

Good Samaritan

The monthly newsletter of St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

www.svdplou.org

Warm Welcomes Await All, on Dec. 25th & Throughout the Year

The sweet little girl with the big brown eyes is well known to the staff and regular volunteers in our Open Hand Kitchen. She accepts the warm hugs and words of affection offered to her each time she frequents St. Vincent de Paul's soup kitchen with her dad. He is raising his daughter since her mother, who previously accompanied them here, died last year.



Older youths who eat in our Open Hand Kitchen sometimes arrive without a parent or guardian. The elderly, those struggling with mental or physical infirmities, and others who appear lonely, angry or indifferent to their surroundings are also part of the year-round clientele

at the community kitchen, where a free hot lunch and dinner is served to anyone in need seven days a week.

On holidays, including Christmas, the compassion of our volunteers and staff is put to the test, as the poor and homeless, clients in our shelters and programs, and those living on the streets join us for a traditional holiday meal prepared with special care.

Charlie Shunnarah (right), SVDP's executive chef and general manager of the Open Hand Kitchen, remembers his first Christmas working at a community soup kitchen. "Sure, it was heartbreaking to think these people didn't have anywhere else to go," he says. "But the way I look at it is, 'I'm glad we're here for them. And I know they appreciate it.'"

Delicious, homestyle food and gracious service from scores of volunteers help make the meal special for the diners. Donations from generous parishes such as St. Albert the Great and scores of local businesses provide holiday turkeys, hams and festive desserts.

Hundreds of meals will be served this Christmas Day, a fraction of the more than 140,000 served in our OHK each year. Your loyal support makes SVDP's critical hunger outreach possible on Dec. 25th - and the other 364 days of the year. On behalf of our clients, thank you.





By Nancy Naughton
SVDP Associate Executive Director

Every Christmas season here at St. Vincent de Paul, one of my favorite quotes resonates in my mind:

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2

St. Vincent de Paul, through your kind and compassionate help, provides care for hundreds of men, women and children throughout the year. These individuals constantly teach us humility, how to be thankful, resilience and hope. I often feel it is our many volunteers and staff that receive such incredible gifts versus the people we serve.

I am always touched by the uplifting attitudes of the individuals who come to St. Vincent de Paul for help. They are grateful for the food they receive from the St. Vincent de Paul pantry, the meals served in the Open Hand Kitchen, the volunteer who gives them a ride home when their food basket is too heavy and the shelter they are provided. It is not at all difficult to see the face of Christ in these individuals who have so little.

This wonderful opportunity is made possible by the gifts of time, talent and treasure from so many people across our community. The compassion they show for people in need is extraordinary. This kindness has made our food pantry, the new Family Success Center and the growing number of meals served at the Open Hand Kitchen all possible.

As Father Herb Yost, a priest at the University of Notre Dame, wrote:

“Charity is to give from the heart, no matter what the amount—it is measured not in coins but in heartfelt gifts.”

St. Vincent de Paul is blessed with many heartfelt gifts for which we are so thankful. Your kind and generous support has made the lives of many people more hopeful, safer and happier.

On behalf of everyone here at St. Vincent de Paul, thank you for entertaining the angels around us. We wish you and your family a most joyous Christmas season!

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.

Meet SVDP's Newest Case Managers

A few months ago, **Angela "Angie" Griffin** joined the staff of St. Vincent de Paul.



She is a case manager working with the residents of SVDP Homes' 1-Bedroom Apartments and CHS program. The CHS program is for clients in off-campus, or "scattered-site," supportive housing for the chronically homeless.

Prior to joining SVDP, Griffin had seven years of experience

in direct client services in both Florida and two years while living in India.

Whitney Sartin is SVDP's

newest SRO Case Manager, which is now a coed, dormitory-like facility for adults.

Sartin came to SVDP earlier this year after having worked for more than a decade in direct care and administrative support for non-profit organizations, including



the Salvation Army, Metro Government, Our Lady of Peace and the YMCA Child Enrichment Program.

Finally, **Matt Weaver** joined SVDP as a part-time counselor in our MH/SA counseling program. Weaver has been associated with SVDP for about eight years via his practicum CADC (certified alcohol and drug counselor) groups here twice a month.

A Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) experienced in counseling and therapeutic services, Weaver offers individual and group counseling to shelter and housing residents at SVDP.

An Easy Way To Give

Register Your Kroger Card Online, Choose SVDP to Get Kroger Donation

Help St. Vincent de Paul earn a portion of the proceeds each time you shop!

- Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com.
- Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with SVDP after you sign up.

(If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, get one at any Kroger service desk.)

- Click on Sign In/Register
- If you are a new online customer, click on SIGN UP TODAY and follow the instructions.

- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering ZIP code, clicking on your favorite store, entering your email address, creating a password, and accepting terms and conditions.
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address/password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm information.
- Enter from list and click on Confirm.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.
- REMEMBER, purchases won't count for SVDP until after you register your card(s).

(Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 800-576-4377 and select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.)

- For each purchase to count, swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping.

DECEMBER

DEC. 18 DEADLINE

SANTA SHOP & FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS:

Unwrapped gifts, clothing and nonperishable food

Drop off at:

SVDP Administration Bldg.
1015-C S. Preston St.
Louisville, KY 40203

To make a secure online cash donation, please visit svdplou.org

SANTA SHOP
Sunday, Dec. 21
Family Success Center
1029 S. Preston St.



CHRISTMAS DAY MEAL

Noon, December 25th
Open Hand Kitchen
1026 S. Jackson St.

From Skeletons to Rock Bands, Food Pantry Collections Have Been Creative

To raise awareness of St. Vincent de Paul's Food Pantry, a variety of canned-goods drives and other creative collection efforts have helped to keep the pantry's shelves stocked this past fall and into winter.

Presentation Academy High School students (at right) collected more than 1,000 cans of food through their Halloween-themed Canstruction contest between grades. Structures, built from canned goods, included a cemetery scene featuring a biology class skeleton nicknamed "Lucy," a scarecrow, witches and even a wedge of pumpkin pie.



Enlisting community support, Holy Trinity Parish School (center photo) in St. Matthews collected 720 cans and boxed food items. The student council asked each student and parish family to contribute food items for the Halloween-week Scare Out Hunger initiative.



Volunteers who work in our food pantry, Rebecca Davis and Julie Campbell, staged their own unique food drive. They enlisted the help of local rock band StoneDog (bottom photo) and the Wick's Pizza location on Goose Creek Road for a Friday-night event that encouraged diners to bring canned goods to the venue while they enjoyed their food and music.

All local branches of Stock Yards Bank & Trust Co. contributed to what's become an annual effort during the week of Veterans Day. This year, the team collected more than 1,000 cans of food.

St. Albert the Great - in addition to going above and beyond their normal support for the Open Hand Kitchen with generous help for holiday food purchases - also contributed food to our pantry.



With support such as this, St. Vincent de Paul can continue to help prevent hunger in one of the poorest areas of Louisville, the neighborhoods around our campus in Smoketown/Shelby Park.