

Good Samaritan

The monthly newsletter of St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

www.svdplou.org

\$5,000 From Walmart Will Beef Up Pantry Meat Supply

It was no surprise that usage at St. Vincent de Paul's Food Pantry increased as 2014 drew to a close. Open just six hours each week, from 9am to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the pantry ended the year serving more than 300 people a month, more than five times the number expected when the facility opened July 1st.

Open to the poor in Smoketown and Shelby Park, the pantry provides a variety of foods, including canned fruits and vegetables, grains and pastas, soups and proteins including peanut butter and canned fish, cereal, fruit juice, dried and canned beans, and milk.

Fresh produce varies from week to week, but often includes bananas, cabbage, carrots, potatoes and the like. By late last year, the freezers in SVDP's Food Pantry were empty for a short time: A lack of meat and poultry

meant clients who came in for groceries that week had to do without those items.

Which made the timing of a financial gift from Dare to Care especially welcome. On a weekday in early December, Dare to Care Food Bank representatives, along with a regional vice president for Walmart, made a site visit to SVDP's Food Pantry to deliver a much-needed check to SVDP for \$5,000.

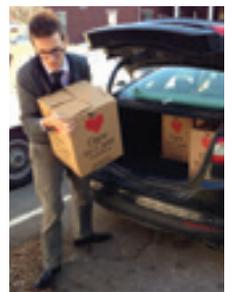
It was money earned during our participation in Walmart's Fight Hunger Spark Change online contest last fall, in which we helped Dare to Care place in the Top 50 Food Banks in the USA. Accepting the check, Ed Wnorowski, SVDP's executive director, made no bones about how the money would be spent. "Now we can buy meat!"



St. X Food Drive Yields 2,000 Pounds of Canned Goods

The week before Thanksgiving, St. X teachers Ben Kresse and Bobby Nichols made a special delivery to St. Vincent de Paul's Food Pantry: an estimated 2,000 pounds of canned goods.

Packed into boxes that had been wedged into every square inch of Nichols' compact car, the food arrived on an afternoon when the pantry shelves had been depleted that very morning.



Chuck and Eric Peters (left), volunteers who oversee our pantry operations, made sure the goods were unpacked as quickly as possible so that our clients would have plenty of choices awaiting them.



Front from left: Eric Peters, volunteer; (back) Brian Riendeau, Dare to Care executive director; Ed Wnorowski, SVDP executive director; Chuck Peters, volunteer; Deacon Scott Haner, SVDP board member and volunteer; David Combs, Walmart regional vice president and Dare to Care board member; and Jim Carrico,

After Growth, Honing a Holistic Approach

By Ed Wnorowski
SVDP Executive Director



The New Year is a time to pause and consider the successes and shortcomings of the past few months and to contemplate what the coming year will require for St. Vincent de Paul to continue to effectively serve the poor and homeless in our community.

Clearly, St Vincent de Paul has experienced extraordinary growth during the past several years, and not simply in terms of budget or even the number of individuals and families served. We are serving more individuals and families than ever, and in more ways than ever before, as we guide them toward restored, productive and more independent lives.

Aside from a noteworthy increase in numbers, SVDP has been pursuing a more holistic approach to addressing the needs of our clients. We are more fully serving both the needs of the individual and the family unit.

The new Family Success Center is the centerpiece of this transition to a more holistic approach. The key word is FAMILY. To have an effect on the generational poverty that so many of our clients have experienced, we must deliver services that will bridge the deficits of poverty for the current and upcoming generation.

Since September, the Family Success Center has been providing a wide range of programs for both children and their parents. For the kids, programming is targeting success in school and social situations. For the parents it is a two-faceted approach; first to facilitate acquiring knowledge and skills to assure their personal success and second to develop their ability to support and guide their children's academic and social success. The name "Family Success Center" is, in fact, a mission statement.

This is where you, our volunteers and donors, can truly make a difference. The Family Success Center operations will be expanded in the coming year. There will be many opportunities. Opportunities to engage our youngest clients could be through early childhood development and school readiness programs.

Engaging the elementary, middle and high school kids might be through peer mentorship, athletics, tutoring or other special skills you might be able to share. For the parents, there will peer mentoring opportunities and life skills classes.

Think of all the experiences your parents tried to expose you to as you were growing up: sports, music, art, Scouts, etc. Any one of these opportunities could seed a child's passion that could change her life.

Your loyal financial support makes it possible. With your generosity we have the opportunity to transform the lives of those who come to us in need. I invite your suggestions and ideas for the Family Success Center: ewnorowski@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.

U of L Vs. UK Football Game a Treat for Kids

For the past several years, SVDP donor Phil Gahm has extended an invitation to children of SVDP client families to attend University of Louisville men's basketball games, joining him and his friends and family in their suite at the KFC Yum! Center, a treat the kids have thoroughly enjoyed.

This year Gahm switched things up a bit, inviting the kids to attend a U of L Football game at his suite at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium.

About eight youths, along with three SVDP case managers, accompanied Gahm's guests for the game, in which Louisville beat the University of Kentucky.

Everyone had a great time!



Hardy Backpackers Ensure Shelters Have Happy Rucksgiving



John Biros (far left), and Rucksgiving hikers. Charlie Shunnarah (far right), OHK's executive chef and general manager.

They came on foot, hiking south along Jackson Street toward the Open Hand Kitchen on a freezing Saturday just before Thanksgiving.

Bundled against the cold, they labored under backpacks bulging with canned foods and heavy frozen turkeys, all to help SVDP feed the hungry.

"Rucking" is the term for hiking with a weighted backpack, often for long distances, says John Biros, organizer of the "Rucksgiving" outreach.

His group of 20 hikers walked across downtown Louisville, delivering food to shelters and soup kitchens, including SVDP. Sponsored by the Obstacle Course Racing World Championships, the event is planned again next year.

JOIN THE FUN



**January 19th
5 TO 9pm**

A Portion of Sales
Will Be Given to SVDP

Molly Malone's
933 Baxter Ave.
502-473-1222

SVDP THRIFT STORE TRUCK WEEKENDS

January 24-25, 2015
St. Bernadette
6500 St. Bernadette Avenue
Prospect, KY 40059
Saturday: Noon-5pm
Sunday: 8:15am-12:30pm

OZANAM ORIENTATION

Saturday, January 17
9:30am to 1pm
at SVDP
Lunch in Open Hand Kitchen
Registration due: Jan. 12
Fee: \$10 includes materials for
participants to take home

Signature Healthcare Among OHK's Guest Servers in December



In addition to the many dedicated teams who serve lunch and dinner daily at our Open Hand Kitchen, we are fortunate to welcome a growing number of new faces to our Open Hand Kitchen, as new volunteers from area businesses, schools and civic groups request involvement with St. Vincent de Paul's well-known hunger outreach to the poor.

One of those teams in December was from Signature Healthcare. Pictured above (from left) are: Donna Hodges, Lori Whitlock, Jaclyn Austin, Jennifer Welch, Kim Allen.

If you would like to schedule a spot on our serving team volunteer schedule, please contact Donna Young, SVDP's Director of Volunteers and Conferences, at 502-301-8688; dyoung@svdplou.org. Thanks for your interest in our mission!

