

The Good Samaritan

Santa Shop Still Going Strong After 23 Years

On December 15, the efforts and generosity of numerous donors and volunteers came to fruition. As a result, more than 1,000 children awoke on Christmas morning to new toys and clothes under their trees.

The Santa Shop is only possible because of the hard work of volunteers that sort, shop with the parents, and wrap the presents. Gifts are donated by area businesses, schools, and parish conferences participating in our Gifts from the Heart tree program, as well as individuals that shop our Amazon wish list. Toys for Tots also supplies boxes and boxes of toys.

“Every year, Santa Shop puts a smile on everyone’s face at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville. More importantly, we see the smiles of the parents who have an opportunity to shop for their children and the volunteers that help make this day so special,” says Donna Young, Director of Volunteer Services and Conference Affairs.

Thank you to everyone that made Santa Shop a success this year.





St. Vincent
de Paul
LOUISVILLE

The Good Samaritan

The monthly newsletter of
St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

Send correspondence to PO Box 17126,
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Our Mission

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville partners with individuals and families in crisis and helps them navigate a path to stabilize their lives and reach their full potential.

Support SVDP

To find out more about our work or
make a donation, visit our website.

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Program Manager Knows First Hand the Struggles of Addiction



“Over time it takes a toll. Your moral compass gets skewed and you start doing things you wouldn't normally have done. Before you know it your life spins out of control.”

—Patrick Crady,
Program Manager at
Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter

On the return trip from a Coast Guard rescue mission in the Bering Sea, Patrick Crady misjudged the distance from the MH-65 Dolphin rescue helicopter to USCG Cutter Rush and jumped 30 feet to the deck. With a broken femur and fractured hip, Patrick was unable to return to duty and received a temporary assignment in Kodiak, Alaska for a year. Like so many others, he was prescribed opiates for pain and his addiction began.

With a cancer-stricken father, Patrick requested an assignment closer to home and landed at the Marine Safety Unit in Cleveland Ohio. He was able to mask his addiction from his family for a time, but after losing his prescription for pain medication, chasing opiates began catching up with him.

After leaving the Coast Guard and deciding to return to school, Patrick says, “life just got bad.” He adds, “I started buying opiates off the street and did a pretty good job of keeping it under wraps and keeping it hidden from my family. Over time it takes a toll. Your moral compass gets skewed and you start doing things you wouldn't normally have done. Before you know it your life spins out of control.”

Patrick's family supported him through several stints in rehab, and several relapses. “My grandmother stuck by me through thick and thin and she always believed in me. She just passed away four months ago. I love this

woman. The smart bet would have been to drop me and she never did.”

“Like everybody I eventually hit rock bottom and my rock bottom consisted of losing everything. I've always been very prideful and when you had more when you were 16 than you did when you're 29 or 30, it hurts.”

“I kept going back to meetings and got a sponsor. I tried the abstinence approach six different times and it didn't work for me, but I went to a local methadone clinic and that allowed me to go back to work, go back to school, get an apartment, get out of that lifestyle.”

His persistence and the unwavering support of his family paid off. Patrick completed his Master's Degree and began rebuilding his life.

Patrick, a 1991 St. X graduate, joined St. Vincent de Paul Louisville in November 2018 as a case manager for the VA Program at Ozanam Inn. He knows first-hand exactly what many of our clients are experiencing. “Maybe I can get an opportunity to help some guys not make the same mistakes I made. It's a rewarding job. It really is. And I love to help people. I love being able to use my experiences, bad and good, to try to keep people from going through some of the pain and suffering that I went through.”

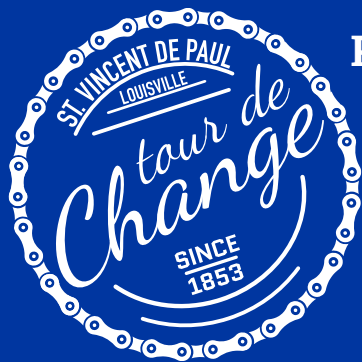
In December 2019, Patrick was promoted to Program Manager at Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter.

2020 Tour de Change Dates Announced

Join us for a coffee, pastries, and a brief tour of St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's campus and learn more about our mission: Changing Lives.

Our next tour is scheduled for February 19 at 8 am. We'll meet in the Family Success Center, 1029 South Preston Street, and you'll hear from clients and staff about the impact of our work, as well as take a walking tour of campus.

To attend the next tour, please contact Jon Wysong at (502) 301-8695 or jwysong@svdplou.org. We look forward to seeing you!



Please Join Us

February 19

May 13

August 5

October 7

Success Stories

H. F. was a 74 year old man staying at Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter. He was in poor health and he was admitted to the hospital several times during his stay at Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter. With the help of case managers, we were able to get family involved in his care and get him in a higher level of care at a nursing facility.

Stacy moved into Roberts Hall in February of 2017. Stacy suffered from mental health issues and substance abuse issues. She had bouts of paranoia and would not come out of her room. Renée Bailey, Program Manager at Roberts Hall, worked with Stacy, connecting her with Bridgehaven where she received the needed medication and began attending group and individual therapy sessions. After faithfully attending therapy and adhering to the program at Bridgehaven, Stacy blossomed. She reconnected with her children and began spending time with them. She had filed for disability when she entered the program and was finally approved in June of 2019. Stacy has worked hard at becoming self-sufficient and is now ready to move into her own apartment!

Thank You!

Thank you to the following groups that provided holiday meals, gifts, and good cheer to our clients here at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville.

**Dixie Louisville Kiwanis/
DeSales Key Club**

St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church

St. Michael Catholic Church

St. Raphael the Archangel Parish

St. Xavier High School

Scout Troop 71

Scout Troop 380

UPS



Local Haunted Attraction Donates Parking Proceeds to St. Vincent de Paul Louisville

By Rich Flaherty, Director of Development

When most Louisvillians think of Waverly Hills, they think spooky, creepy, scary. Here at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville, we will always think caring, giving, wonderful. In early October, David Price, President of Waverly Hills Historical Society, reached out to let us know that they wanted St. Vincent de Paul Louisville to be the beneficiary of the parking proceeds from their yearly Haunted House Fundraiser.

"Each year we like to find a way to give back to our community and we try to find where we can have the greatest impact. Over the last 12 years we have chosen to do so by donating our parking proceeds collected during our largest fund raiser of the year, our Haunted House. We hope that we can help give back to the community that has helped us in our efforts to save Waverly Hills," David explained. "We were looking for an organization whose values and goals match our efforts to impact our community and those in need. This year we re-evaluated what organizations were doing, the transparency of those organizations and how they impacted Louisville. We thought St. Vincent de Paul Louisville was a great fit for what we were looking to accomplish with our donation this year."

We appreciate that choice as thanks for everyone who attended the Haunted House Fundraiser, Waverly Hills donated \$11,790 to St. Vincent de Paul Louisville. Thank you to Waverly Hills for their gracious and generous support.

If Santa Brought You a New Car for Christmas, Donate Your Old One to Us

Your used vehicle, running or not, can help people in need. St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's Donated Vehicles Program provides a critical revenue stream to help support our many programs and services. We accept cars, trucks, RVs, boats, etc.

What happens to your donated vehicle? They are not given away to clients, but are sold "as is," at fair market value, either to the public or at auction.

Contact Wanda Selph to learn more about how you can earn a tax donation for your gift. She will handle all of the details, including the title paperwork. We strive to make the process as easy as possible for our donors. We even provide free towing for vehicles, if needed. Contact Wanda at (502) 589-7837 or wselph@svdplou.org.

Foundations and Others Support the Mission of St. Vincent de Paul Louisville

Support for the Crisis Family Housing Project

Dawn Foods | \$4,000.00

Support for the Food Pantry

Knights of Columbus, St. Michael Council | \$200.00

Support for the Open Hand Kitchen

Crossroads Ministry Inc. | \$1,335.00

St. Albert the Great Parish | \$2,000.00

SVDP Conference of St. Albert the Great, Inc. | \$500.00

Support for Santa Shop

Isaacs and Isaacs, PSC | \$500.00

R.W. Marshall Foundation, Inc. | \$5,000.00

St. Bernadette Church | \$500.00

Support for the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project

AT&T Believe Louisville | \$25,000.00

And general support for vital programs from

AmazonSmile | \$349.86

Archdiocese of Louisville | \$600.00

The Conference of Epiphany Inc | \$100.00

Combined Federal Campaign | \$416.63

First Lutheran Church | \$100.00

GE Foundation | \$3,125.00

GE United Way Campaign | \$618.04

Give for Good Louisville | \$9928.80



On December 11, Kentucky Planning Partners brought KFC for dinner at the Open Hand Kitchen and presented St. Vincent de Paul Louisville with a \$2,000 donation.

Lyle and Linda Graham Charitable Fund | \$2,000.00

Holy Trinity Catholic Church | \$135.00

Kentucky Planning Partners | \$2,000.00

Kroger Community Rewards | \$381.32

Le Moo, LLC | \$666.65

John and Carolyn McBride Fund | \$4,000.00

Allen S. Mattingly Trust B | \$6,400.84

St. Agnes Catholic Church | \$200.00

United Auto Workers Local 3058 | \$200.00

Waverly Hills Historical Society Inc. | \$11,790.00