

The Good Samaritan

Family Success Center Looks Ahead with Summer Programming

The halls have been dark, and the gym has been quiet at the Family Success Center since JCPS decided to close classrooms and switch to non-traditional instruction (NTI) to help combat the spread of the coronavirus. That hasn't stopped Program Manager Julio Anthony from keeping busy, and more importantly, helping our kids that attend after-school programming.

Like everyone else, Julio has had plenty of time to clean and straighten, and with 45 kids enrolled in the program, the FSC can get a little messy. In addition to straightening the bookshelves and organizing the art room, the Clothes Closet for Kids needed sorting to move out the winter clothes and bring in spring and summer clothes. Parents have been stopping by weekly to pick out new clothes for the kids.

Julio is always working hard to see that The Family Success Center is living up to its name. When JCPS announced the switch to NTI, the technology gap widened for many students, including the kids at the FSC, so Julio worked with the Diversity, Equity and Poverty Department at JCPS to see that Chromebooks were delivered to the FSC and distributed to our kids.

Even with Chromebooks in hand, NTI is a challenge for families without internet access at home, so Julio opened the FSC Wi-Fi network to the families and put together paper packets of the lessons for the families to pick up.

Decode Project was working with a few of the kids that were struggling with reading at grade-level before the pandemic struck. This interruption is no small setback. LaToya Whitlock, Executive Director of Decode Project, said, "All kids are negatively impacted by Covid-19 and the disruption of life as we've known it. Decode Project is proud of our partnership with St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's Family Success Center and our Literacy Mentors miss the kids terribly. Unfortunately kids that we identified as needing additional structure literacy support, as they were already not yet reading at grade-level, will likely be even further behind as a result of the social distancing measures we all had to take to keep everyone safe."

"What we know is that given equitable access to the resources they need to learn to read, in an environment where they are comfortable, welcomed and cared for, with structured literacy, and one-to-one mentoring, the kids were improving weekly in reading and developing positive attitudes toward literacy in general."

Of Decode Project's participation, Julio Anthony said, "I will add that I began to see a love for reading and a positive behavior swing for those that were receiving the help from Decode Project. The bond that our FSC participants shared with DP was incredible! Our participants knew what their schedule was and reminded staff when it was their day to meet with DP. This program helped our participants to establish

trust when other educators counted them out."

This forced downtime can't be regained, but Julio is finalizing plans for a summer program that will get the kids back on track and engaged. The program will not look the same as past summers, but it will be an essential program, regardless of what the fall school year looks like.

Julio is designing programs in art, science, computer skills, and literacy that staff can teach,

while adhering to guidelines created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Decode Project has offered to make education packets to help ease the transition back to school in the fall. This transition will likely be a challenge, but it's urgent to address. LaToya said, "The positive impact of this virus is that generational inequities have been highlighted and we are all aware of just how lethal the lack of access can be. Students we serve are in the unique position to change generational academic, wealth, and overall health outcomes if provided the necessary resources. Literacy is one of those resources and Decode Project is happy to help."

In the meantime, Julio continues to check in with the kids and their parents to make sure they have the resources they need to weather the pandemic until a sense of normalcy returns.



Classrooms have been empty at the Family Success Center since JCPS decided to close schools and switch to non-traditional instruction to combat the spread of the coronavirus.



St. Vincent
de Paul
LOUISVILLE

The Good Samaritan

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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.

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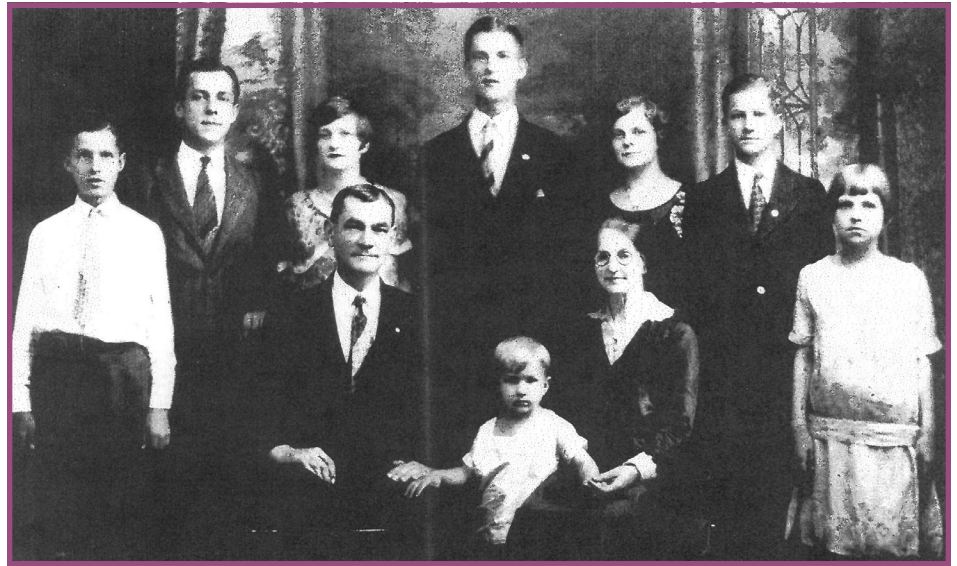


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Support of St. Vincent de Paul Louisville a Long-standing Family Tradition



Editor's Note: We received this letter along with a donation and are happy to share it with you in its entirety. We hope you enjoy this bit of history as much as we did. Thank you to the Fortwengler family for their years of support.

Dear Society of St. Vincent de Paul,

Enclosed is a check for \$1,200, from my wife and I, as a donation in honor of my grandfather, as well as a photo of him and his family, and an accompanying story that you might use in your newsletter if you find it interesting. If so, feel free to edit or shorten it. It would be nice to have some of the great-great-grandkids to be aware of the St. Vincent connection in the family tree.

Herman Fortwengler, A neighborhood Story

Enclosed is a check in the amount \$1,200 we received as a Covid-19 government stimulus check. We want it to go toward the feeding and care of those in need, a job that St. Vincent de Paul does so well. We also want the donation to be given in honor of my grandparents, Herman and Josephine Fortwengler and family. My grandfather, Herman, volunteered with St. Vincent de Paul to help feed and care for the poor and told me about it a few times in the early 1950s when I was a kid. Herman, of German heritage, lived in the St. Vincent Neighborhood at 222 E. Ormsby (a two-story house he purchased in 1916 for \$2,000) with his wife Josephine and eight children.

Herman, everyone called him "Pop," walked to St. Vincent frequently to do his volunteer work. He was a skilled saddle-maker and didn't make a lot of money so some of their children had to trade-off their extended education to find jobs and work, as was common back in the day, to make ends meet.

The enclosed family photo shows family members from left to right as; Ed, 4/25/16; Albert, 6/23/1907; Alice, 8/19/1911; Herman P., 5/20/1909; Helen, 1/11/1905; George, 9/30/1913; Mary Jo, 3/21/1919; Herman "Pop" Fortwengler, 1/29/1878 and wife, Josephine, 2/22/1883; married 9/1/1903; Joe, 9/26/1925.

So as my grandfather would say, use the money to continue the great humanitarian work that St. Vincent de Paul has done since it started in 1853.

Thank you,

Phil and Jill Fortwengler

— 2020 —

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville by the Numbers

Permanent Housing Programs (All scattered site, all on-campus apartments except Tranquil)

- 302 people have been served since January 1, 2020
- We served 69 families and 107 individuals
- We served 126 children
- 100% of exits were positive

Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter

- 244 men have been served since January 1, 2020
- 18 people exited to stable housing
- 41 people were engaged in case management in April

VA Program

- 27 men have been served since January 1, 2020
- Since January, 75% of men served have exited to permanent housing
- 80% of clients with a goal to be in recovery are successfully in recovery

St. Jude Recovery Center

- 43 women have been served since January 1, 2020

Tranquil House

- 11 people were served since January 1, 2020
- 82% increased or maintained mental health services
- 72% received a new resource in the community from their case manager

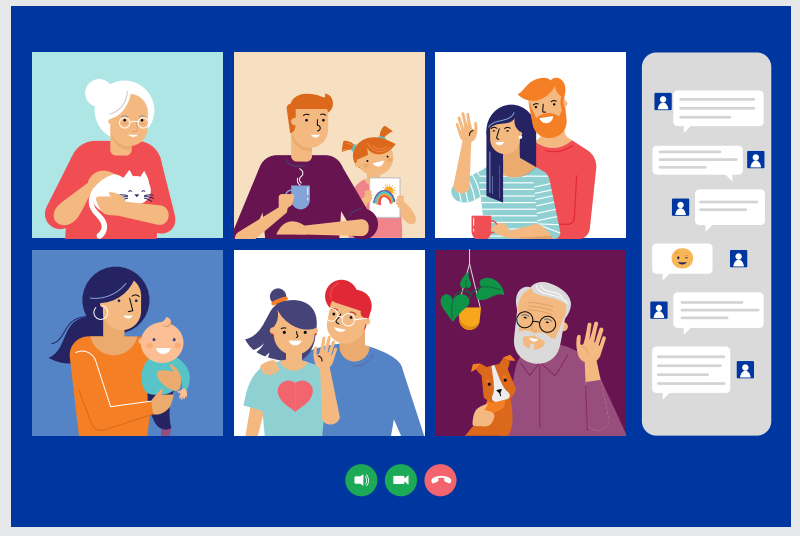
Family Success Center - After School Program

- The Family Success Center was closed in March and April due to JCPS switching to NTI

Clinical Services

- 113 Households have been served since January 1, 2020
- 43 crises were successfully resolved (100%)
These included suicidality, self-neglect, domestic violence counseling and other mental health crises.
- 79 clients have been served in individual counseling and 97% of clients surveyed report progress in therapy

CORRECTION: In the April issue, we misspelled Donna and Jack's surname in the photo caption. They are Donna and Jack Koenig, not Koenig. We apologize for the error. In fact, over the past few issues we've had more mistakes in the newsletter than we should have. It's been a crazy couple of months, but we will try to do better. Thank you for your understanding.



More Virtual Tours Scheduled

Grab your coffee and join us for our next Virtual Tour de Change. This is a great way for you to learn about St. Vincent de Paul Louisville and our programs and mission, all from the comfort of your home.

Our next tours are scheduled for June 17th at 10 am and June 24th at 6 pm. We will meet on Zoom and you'll hear from our staff about the impact of our work, as well as take a virtual tour of our campus.

To attend the virtual tour, go to svdplou.org/events or contact Jon Wysong at jwysong@svdplou.org or (502) 301-8695.



THRIFT STORE UPDATE

All Three Stores Open

By the time you read this, all three St. Vincent de Paul Louisville Thrift Stores should be open and ready for business. On May 26th, our Dorsey Plaza and Hikes Lane locations opened and the Market Street location opened June 2nd.

All three stores have new hours, including special hours for donation drop offs. The new hours are Tuesday — Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm. Donations are accepted from 11 am to 3 pm those days. All locations are closed to shopping and donations on Sundays and Mondays.

These new hours may change as we adapt to the new normal. We'll keep you posted. Please check our website the most up-to-date information.

We have missed everyone and hope to see you in the stores shopping very soon. Your support of our thrift stores directly funds the mission at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville and we appreciate you.

Atherton Student Driven to Help Those in Need



Alex Paul's hard work results in a sizable donation for the Food Pantry at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville.

By Rich Flaherty, Director of Development

Imagine that you are 13 and living through the COVID-19 pandemic. You are remotely finishing your 8th grade year at Crosby Middle School and getting ready to go to Atherton High School next year. Most young men would not be thinking about others, but then most young men are not Alex Paul.

Alex is a normal rising high school freshman. He loves Social Studies and learning about history, especially the revolutionary war. He runs track and cross country and plays basketball. He plays violin and looks forward to being part of the Atherton Orchestra. But let's step back a year.

Alex's sister, Emily, volunteers and has done fundraising for Norton's Children's Hospital. Alex has helped her sell flowers on Valentine's Day, selling bracelets and they had been working on a dance marathon fundraiser until it was canceled due to COVID-19. But, Alex

wanted to find his volunteering niche and as Alex says, "hospitals are not my thing". Last spring, he started looking for a place to volunteer where he could make a difference and having always been emotional about the needs for the homeless, an announcement about a meeting that Mayor Fischer was hosting about the plight of homelessness here in Louisville, caught his attention. He and his mom attended the meeting and received a recommendation to look at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville and Alex found his spot. Alex jumped in and started volunteering at the Food Pantry last summer helping every Tuesday.

This spring, Alex was getting ready to continue his summer Food Pantry volunteering when he decided he wanted to do more. He came up with the idea to run a weekly canned food drive to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Louisville Food Pantry. He created and distributed flyers in paper boxes in the Owl Creek neighborhood where his dad lives and in the first two weeks of collecting has already gathered nearly 100 cans which he has brought to the pantry. He plans to continue collecting can goods all summer and hopes to grow the weekly donations tenfold.

Not surprising, someone like Alex has big plans in the future. Although his is an IU fan, his dream schools are UCLA and Pepperdine in southern California. He wants to study Psychology and become a counselor for individuals suffering through mental health and dependency issues. He sees himself having a private practice. He loves volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville and finds the hands-on work helping the needy families who get their food there exciting. He wants to continue to work at the Pantry each summer and is looking to expand to other volunteer opportunities at the St. Vincent de Paul Louisville campus. He even hopes to engage his future classmates at Atherton to help with the St. Vincent de Paul Louisville mission. Alex has found his niche and it is helping the homeless.

Home Visit Comes Full Circle

By John Raque
St. Raphael Conference President

St. Raphael conference made a home visit on December 20th to check on a "neighbor" who was in need of rental assistance in the Dupont Circle area. We visited Jane and discovered she had moved from California, with no family in Louisville, no transportation, unemployed, little financial backing and dealing with health issues. What she did have was a strong desire to improve her situation and shared with us that she had already started the process of seeking permanent housing and employment. We were there to assist and help in the transition. With faith, we journeyed together over the next 25 days.

Jane contacted St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's Roberts Hall (24 room, long term program that serves single women 21 years or older) and began the process of applying for residency. She received a

move in date of January 15 pending an opening & approval.

Jane was seeking employment as a security guard (her previous background) and was hopeful that being able to move into Roberts Hall and closer to downtown would offer more job opportunities. She did have some interviews already lined up.

Our role at St. Raphael was to offer financial assistance & work with the landlord to allow us to assist on a weekly basis. We provided Kroger food cards during her stay and drove her to get medication and food. As always, we received great support from multiple conferences to help offset the financial assistance. A true team effort!

On Jan 15, I was thrilled to drive Jane to Roberts Hall as she moved in and am pleased to announce she is employed. We never know what a home visit will bring, but through the Grace of God and the Holy Spirit, we are called to help our neighbor in Need. We are Blessed!