

# The Good Samaritan

## A New Coat of Paint and A New Purpose at St. Jude

In June, our Women's Addiction Recovery Center at St. Jude saw its last client, but a new program is set to open in October and we are humbled to be serving a new segment of the homeless population—people who are homeless due to escaping domestic violence and human trafficking.

Through funding from HUD, we will be able to provide transitional housing at St. Jude, case management, and of course, meals at the Open Hand Kitchen, and groceries from our Food Pantry.

We are partnering with Catholic Charities of Louisville who will provide rapid rehousing case management. CCL will also bring its expertise in cultural competency, trauma-informed care, and language fluency to this project.

Domestic violence is so often something that exists behind closed doors. During a pandemic, it's driven even further into the shadows. Advocates say it's likely that domestic violence is on the rise, even though fewer people are asking for help. According to a story from the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting, the number of protective orders increased by 5% in January and February of this year. In March and April, when the pandemic shutdown began, orders dropped 25% compared to the same period last year.<sup>1</sup>

In an interview from The Common Good Hour Podcast (see July 2020 issue of *The Good Samaritan*), Greer Hannan, our Grant Compliance Coordinator, provided background about the grant and shared how domestic violence survivors might find themselves homeless.<sup>2</sup>

"So many people experience homelessness as a result of a domestic violence situation in their lives, and that might be a situation they experienced as a child that has given them post traumatic stress disorder and really disrupted their ability to find stability in their life as an adult, or that might be as

an adult in a relationship, needing to get out of a dangerous relationship and finding no options, no safe or supportive persons."

"So people wind up in the homeless system very often because of their experience of domestic violence, or even human trafficking and it's hard because sometimes they fall through the cracks. Sometimes people define them based on one specific experience of domestic violence or one specific experience of

needing to sleep on the streets because their home is no longer safe and sometimes neither system really identifies that, 'Oh, this is a person that could benefit,' so bringing resources for both people who are survivors and people who are homeless because they are domestic violence survivors together I think has been a key growth point particularly for the Department of Housing and



A team of volunteers from Dean Dorton put a fresh coat of paint on the rooms at St. Jude in preparation for the new program for survivors of domestic abuse and human trafficking that are experiencing homelessness.

Urban Development, which is making the funding available for our new project."

Greer adds, "We provide a lot of housing and a lot of choice and very holistic services. This is a new venture for us to be specifically focusing on the needs of domestic violence survivors who were part of our general population, but now we've seen really deserve their own attention and focus and resources."

This summer, the Programs staff, our maintenance department, and many volunteers have spent several hours prepping St. Jude for this new program and this new chapter in our history. Once the walls get a new coat of paint and rooms are reconfigured to accommodate our new guests, the program will open its doors to both individuals and families with children. Welcoming domestic violence and human trafficking survivors to our campus is a logical expansion of the work we do—housing, feeding, and nurturing those in need. These

Please see A NEW PURPOSE, page 4



**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.

## Support SVDP

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

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— 2020 —

## St. Vincent de Paul Louisville by the Numbers

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

- 328 people have been served since January 1, 2020
- We served 55 families and 113 individuals
- We served 138 children
- 88% of exits were positive

Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter

- 305 men have been served since January 1, 2020
- 58 people exited to stable housing
- 46 people were engaged in case management in July

VA Program

- 34 men have been served since January 1, 2020
- Since January, 81% of men served have exited to permanent housing
- 92% of clients with a goal to be in recovery are successfully in recovery

Tranquil House

- 11 people were served since January 1, 2020
- 67% increased or maintained mental health services
- 45% got a new resource in the community from their case manager

Family Success Center – Summer Camp

- 14 children participated in an in-person summer camp for three weeks

in July. Average attendance was nine children a day

- Children participated in science experiments, Lego robotics, daily outdoor activity, and an educational hour with grade level appropriate work-sheets related to math, science and reading.
- We successfully got through the three-week camp with no reported cases of COVID-19 or symptomatic children or staff. This is a credit to the Program Manager, Julio Anthony, and his staff who underwent extensive planning and training to be able to operate the camp safely. Children were happy to see their friends and parents were grateful to be able to have their children outside of the house.

Mental Health and Substance Use Program (Clinical Services)

- 198 Households have been served since January 1, 2020
- 97% of crisis were successfully resolved. We have had 63 incidents of crisis intervention since January 1. These included suicidality, self-neglect, domestic violence counseling and other mental health crisis.
- 184 clients have been served in individual counseling and 96% of clients surveyed report progress in therapy



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# Summer Programming at the Family Success Center



By Rich Flaherty, Director of Development

In the July issue of *The Good Samaritan*, we highlighted the Family Success Center and the upcoming Summer Camp. Our participants left us abruptly and without warning earlier this year, so it was a blessing to have them in our safe place again. Seeing their smiling faces and readiness to take on what was scheduled to accomplish for the day brought a sense of normalcy many of us are craving.

This was the first summer that we balanced education with hands-on fun, with more emphasis on preparation for the fall

semester. Our normal summer camps are filled to the brim with STEM education activities, field trips and social enrichment. This year, it was very necessary for our participants to have instructional guidance before they returned to either their respective schools or NTI 2.0.

In light of that necessary preparation, our participants enjoyed classic activities like Lego Robotics and science experiments. They built drones and cars, and learned how different chemicals react with each other. Overall, it was an awesome summer and we are looking forward to many more.

## Are You Ready for 24 Hours of Giving?

On September 17th, we're participating in Give For Good Louisville, a city-wide fundraising event. St. Vincent de Paul Louisville needs YOUR help to achieve our goal of raising \$15,000. All contributions will go towards the vital programs supporting the homeless in our community. Donate on September 17th at [giveforgoodlouisville.org/organizations/st-vincent-de-paul-louisville](https://giveforgoodlouisville.org/organizations/st-vincent-de-paul-louisville). No donation is too small, and you



will be making such an impact on our organization. **All donations must be made on September 17th**, not before or after, and your donation goes even further that day through the matching

incentives throughout the day based on the number of donations we receive! So, mark your calendars to support St. Vincent de Paul Louisville on September 17th!!!





Many times when clients come to St. Vincent de Paul Louisville, they often have nothing more than the clothes on their back. In an effort to provide a warm and welcoming environment for the new faces on campus, we started the Help Make It A Home program.

Part of the program is a registry we've created with items that will fill in the gaps that we so often take for granted—everyday items like linens, trash cans, cleaning supplies, utensils, and all the necessities to care for a child. This program will benefit Robert's Hall,

the Youth Homeless Demonstration Project at Waypoint House, and the new domestic violence project at St. Jude.

### What You Can Do to Help

With your support, we can welcome new clients with the essentials they need to prepare them for the next stage of their life—the road to sustainable living.

Simply select the items you would like to purchase from the registry and they will be mailed to SVDPL!

Visit [svdplou.org/help-make-it-a-home](http://svdplou.org/help-make-it-a-home) and make a difference.

## Success Stories

Julia moved into a family apartment at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville several years ago. She has struggled with mental health issues and has been resistant to treatment with medication. She lost custody of her child and moved to a one-bedroom apartment. After moving, she spiraled, using drugs to self-medicate and uses loud music as one of her coping mechanisms, resulting in many complaints from her neighbors.

Julia's case manager referred her to our Clinical Services Coordinator, Matt Weaver, and then to our CADC (Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor), Pam Scott, under the pilot project.\* Our CADC established an excellent rapport with Julia, and while she continues to use and is reluctant to accept medication for her mental health diagnosis, she has worked on her behaviors and coping mechanisms. Complaints have ceased and through a harm-reduction approach, she has achieved fewer instances of crisis and her mood has stabilized significantly.

Through a team approach, staff have kept Julia housed, despite her many challenges. She has stayed engaged with services and we hope to see her make significant progress in the next year.

*\* You'll read more about this new project in a future issue.*

## A NEW PURPOSE

Continued from page 1

survivors will receive the same care, focus, and attention that you and the community have come to expect from St. Vincent de Paul Louisville and Catholic Charities of Louisville.

Watch this newsletter and our website for updates and success stories.

1. Eleanor Klibanoff, "Steep Decline in Domestic Violence Orders, Shelter Calls Worry Advocates," Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting, May 7, 2020, audio, <https://kycir.org/2020/05/07/steep-decline-in-domestic-violence-orders-shelter-calls-worry-advocates/>.
2. Greer Hannan, "Ep 4: Cultivating individual donors and writing successful HUD grants with Maria Azuri and Greer Hannan," interview by Drew Reynolds, The Common Good Hour Podcast, June 15, 2020, audio, <https://www.commongooddata.com/podcast/2020/6/15/ep-4-cultivating-individual-donors-and-writing-successful-hud-grants-for-dv-survivors-with-maria-azuri-and-greer-hannan>.

## Donor Surveys Landing in Mailboxes Soon



St. Vincent de Paul Louisville wants to thank you for your generosity and trust in us to serve so many vulnerable people in our community. We want your experience, as a donor, volunteer, advocate, etc. to be the best it can be. In mid-September, you will be receiving a donor survey that will help us achieve better engagement with you and is designed to help connect you better to the programs and efforts that matter most to you.

We are also doing this because we need more people like you who engage so deeply with St. Vincent de Paul Louisville and our mission and the information you share will help guide us. Please watch your mail for the envelope marked Donor Survey and thank you in advance for participating! You can also visit [svdplou.org/donor-survey](http://svdplou.org/donor-survey) and complete it online.