

# The Good Samaritan

## Exiting Veterans Get A Place to Lay Their Head



Mr. Barr in his apartment with his new bed and linens provided by a grant from HomeServe Cares Foundation. Mr. Barr was a client in our Veterans Program at Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter before moving out to his own apartment. *Photo by Brian Scully*

By Rich Flaherty, Director of Development

On November 11th, the country will celebrate Veterans Day. It is an important day here at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville as we celebrate the 20 veterans who we support with transitional housing at Ozanam Inn. Our approach of Home Begins Here is demonstrated every month with our veterans.

On any given night, here in Louisville and across the country, hundreds and thousands of veterans are living on the streets or in shelter systems. Many are chronically homeless and suffer from higher rates of mental illness and health problems.

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville works in partnership with the Veterans Administration to offer transitional housing to these heroes. Ranging in age from 30 to 67, they typically stay in our program for 8 months. During that time, our Case Manager helps them navigate the veteran system, which can become overwhelming if you are not familiar with it. One of the ways we assist Veterans is pointing them in the direction of getting the benefits

that are available to them. The many programs out there to assist veterans are not highly visible or easily accessible.

We empower Veterans to build a budget and get some of the things people need when they move into housing, such as dishes, pots and pans, appliances, etc.

While moving into a new home can be stressful, one housing item they don't need to worry about is a comfortable bed. St. Vincent de Paul Louisville recently received a grant from HomeServe Cares Foundation, which is the philanthropic arm of HomeServe USA. Through the grant and the program, called A Place To Lay Their Head, St. Vincent de Paul Louisville was able to supply a new queen bed, complete with linens and pillows, to every veteran who needs one. This allows our veteran clients to start their new life adventure by getting a good night sleep.

The joy the veterans have when we tell them we can provide a bed is amazing. Usually the reaction is "ARE YOU SERIOUS? NO WAY, YOU CAN DO THAT!" This grant has had a positive

impact on the men here, and they are all very grateful.

Even with the pandemic, we have successfully transitioned ten veterans to permanent housing. Seven have received a new bed through the program. Our first, Mr. Barr is extremely happy with the bed we provided through the grant. He has stated that he was surprised at the comfort and nothing beats a good night sleep.

Transition to permanent housing is never easy, but with good planning, we usually experience fewer difficulties. In a perfect world, the process of Veterans getting the benefits would be easier and less stressful to the people involved. The wait time for some of the programs can be up to eight months, and many need those benefits now. With the system we have now, as long as we have open communication with the Veterans about their needs, we can make it as smooth as possible. St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's goal is always to make the transition successful, but also sustainable. We are thrilled to allow these heroes the opportunity to live the life they deserve.

**HONOR AND REMEMBER ALL WHO SERVED**  
Veterans Day, November 11



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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# Paul Carmony Honored with Bell Award

Paul Carmony has been a volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville since 1999 and his dedication was recently recognized at WLKY's 43rd annual Bell Awards. On October 10th, Paul and 11 others were honored for their volunteer service.

Paul's motivation is simple. "It's just a place that looks

out for people in need. Quite honestly, I think the biggest point was, that I decided when I retired from Humana, that okay, I've got time on my hands and I don't ever want to look back and feel like I wasted the time that God had given me."

Paul sorts and sizes clothes in a garage that bears his name, behind Simon Hall and the Open Hand Kitchen. The clothes then go to the Clothes Closet where clients can shop and take what they need. Paul loves the work, but it bothers him to see so many people in need. "It's just that I want to help them out as much as I can."

In addition to the Clothes Closet, Paul volunteers at our annual Santa Shop and is affectionately known as the "General" of the event.

Thanks to the Republic Bank Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul Louisville will receive a \$500 grant in Paul's name.

You can watch the full Bell Awards event at [wlky.com/bell-awards](http://wlky.com/bell-awards).

Congratulations to Paul and all of this year's Bell Award winners. It's volunteers like Paul that make St. Vincent de Paul Louisville such a special place.



St. Vincent de Paul Louisville is grateful to Louisville Metro Government's Office of Resilience and Community Services for providing substantial funding for programs at Ozanam Inn, Open Hand Kitchen, and the Family Success Center. 2020–2021 awarded grants include:

- External Agency Fund (EAF) grant in the amount of \$20,000 for Open Hand Kitchen
- Youth EAF grant in the amount of \$9,900 for Family Success Center
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant in the amount of \$124,000 for Ozanam Inn Emergency Shelter
- Emergency Solution Grant through the CARES Act (ESG-CV) grant in the amount of \$236,000 for Ozanam Inn Emergency Shelter
- Homeless Initiative low-barrier grant in the amount of \$30,000 for Ozanam Inn Emergency Shelter

## Don't Forget to Send In Your Donor Survey



In mid-September, we mailed you 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.

Please take a few moments to complete the 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.

# Announcing Special Tax Breaks for Donations Made in 2020

As part of the CARES Act, passed by Congress earlier this year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, you have the opportunity to take advantage of a new, universal deduction and increased incentives. This means that your support to charitable organizations like St. Vincent de Paul Louisville has additional benefits this year. The following information will help you consider these incentives as you plan your end of 2020 charitable giving and tax strategy.

## CARES Act 2020 Tax Year Benefits

### Standard Deduction

Many people do not itemize their federal returns because the standard deduction (\$12,400 for single/\$24,800 for married) exceeds their deductible expenses. In 2020, the CARES Act provides an “above the line” charitable deduction for cash gifts up to \$300 when using the standard deduction; this creates a dollar for dollar reduction in a donor’s adjusted gross income (AGI), reducing their tax liability.

### Itemized Filers

**Cash Gifts:** Income tax deductions for cash contributions were previously limited to 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI). CARES Act increases the limit to 100% of AGI for 2020.

**Gifts of Appreciated Assets:** If you support SVDP through the sale of stocks, bonds, or real estate that have appreciated in value and been held for at least one year, you are entitled to an immediate charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the assets (up to 30% of your AGI) and avoid capital gains tax that would be due upon the sale. Deductions beyond the 30% threshold can be carried forward up to five additional tax years.

### IRA Distributions

The CARES Act eliminated the required minimum distribution from an IRA for people over age 70½. However, because it also increased the limit for tax deductions on cash gifts to 100% of AGI (see itemized info), people over 59½ can take a cash distribution from their IRA, avoid early withdrawal penalty, donate the cash to SVDP, and receive a charitable deduction up to 100% of their AGI.

*Please consult your legal or tax advisor for specific advice regarding the tax deductibility of charitable contributions.*

## Thanks to Everyone That Attended Home Begins Here

By Abigail Costello, Development Coordinator

We want to thank everyone for their participation in the inaugural event, Home Begins Here. While we expected to be in person, we hope you took the time to watch the program virtually. Home Begins Here is an event centered around the mission of St. Vincent de Paul Louisville, partnering with individuals and families in crisis and help them navigate a path to stabilize their lives and reach their full potential.

The opening of the event shared many moments at SVDP this past year through dedicated staff, volunteers and donors serving the clients of SVDP. The introductory song, “This Holy Place” was written and performed by our very own Danny Flanigan & Littleband. He wrote the song about the Open Hand Kitchen and Ozanam Inn. With appearances by Executive Director/CEO, Ed Wnorowski, Director of Volunteers and Conference Affairs, Donna Young, and Donna Russow, Board member, the program discussed the successes and adaptations during the pandemic and what 2021 will hold



for SVDP. The special guest speaker, Natalie Harris, Executive Director for The Coalition for the Homeless. Jennifer Clark, Director of Programs spoke with Natalie about the partnership between SVDP and The Coalition, the barriers people face preventing them from sustaining permanent housing, and what an individual can do to help. To wrap up the event, Councilwoman Barbara Sexton Smith of Metro Council District 4 graciously talked about the great Shelby Park and Smoketown neighborhoods and the importance of the SVDP community there.

Home Begins Here raised over \$20,000 for this first time event. The winner of the Weller Flight was Ben Mannino. The winners of the Weller Special Reserve are Cheryl Willett and David Burianek.

We are excited to continue the event in the coming years and hopefully see all of you in person sooner than later. Visit the SVDP website to view the virtual event recording!



## Councils Band Together for Giving Tuesday

Join us in a friendly competition between St. Vincent de Paul Councils in other states on Giving Tuesday, December 1st. There will be a couple of categories for competing like dollars raised, number of donors, and social media engagement. We are excited to join other St. Vincent de Pauls around the country raising funds to help those who need it most.

## Santa Shop to Look Different This Year

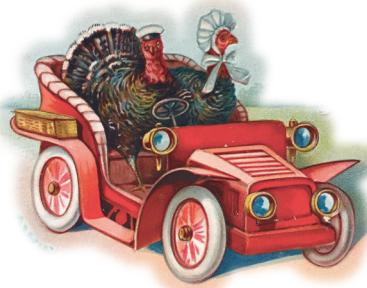
Due to safety concerns surrounding the pandemic, the Santa Shop will look very different this year. Instead of gifts, we are asking for donations of gift cards to Louisville area stores (Kohl's, Kroger, Meijer, Target, and Walmart). The families invited to the Santa Shop will receive toys for the children (provided by Toys for Tots) and a gift card for each child in that family. The parents can use the gift cards to purchase what the child might need.

The Santa Shop is scheduled for Sunday, December 13th and donations are needed no later than November 30th. Your donation supports our mission of extending a helping hand to those in need.

Last year, over 530 families were invited to the Santa Shop. This year, we anticipate there will be an equal number needing help to provide Christmas for their families. We cannot help these families without you. Please help us help others experience the joys of Christmas again this year. For more information, contact Donna Young (502) 301-8688 or [dyoung@svdplou.org](mailto:dyoung@svdplou.org).

## Cans for Cuts Campaign Kicks Off

We are thankful to Oak & Swan Barber Shop for supporting St. Vincent de Paul Louisville with their Cans for Cuts campaign. Oak & Swan is a new barber shop on the corner of Oak and Swan in the heart of Germantown. During the month of November and December, every customer who brings a canned food to their appointment, 10% of the proceeds of the haircut will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul Louisville. The canned goods will be donated to the SVDP Food Pantry. Oak & Swan, once deemed safe, will be coming on campus to offer free haircuts to our veterans who reside in Ozanam Inn. Oak & Swan is following all CDC and state guidelines at their shop. Show them your appreciation by scheduling a haircut. Visit them on Facebook at Oak and Swan Barber Shop or call for an appointment at (502) 709-8974.



## It's Time for a Turkey (and Ham!) Drive

We are committed to providing holiday meals this season, even if it means we will miss seeing all the volunteers that choose to spend their holiday serving others, year after year.

Angela and the kitchen staff still plan to prepare delicious meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas, but sadly our guests will not be able to enjoy them in the Open Hand Kitchen. We are planning on serving just as many people as we normally would, but the meals will be prepared to go, instead of our guests dining in.

We're planning the meals and asking for donations of turkeys and hams. Items may be delivered to the Open Hand Kitchen at 1026 South Jackson St. Call or email Angela Leavell at (502) 301-8691 or [aleavell@svdplou.org](mailto:aleavell@svdplou.org) for more information. Thank you! With your help, we will make these the best holidays possible.



## Your Holiday Celebrations Can Support SVDP

Enroll in Kroger's Community Rewards program and all your holiday food shopping will earn rewards that fund campus programs at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville.

Visit [kroger.com/communityrewards](https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and enter organization number MI073



community  
rewards