

The Good Samaritan

Driven to Get Back on the Road Again

By Abigail Costello,
Development Coordinator

2020 was a year of firsts for many people, but homeless was not a first Doug thought he would experience. Doug has been an over-the-road truck driver for over 25 years, many of which he was an owner-operator. In 2019 diabetes forced him off the road as he lost his CDL (commercial driver's license) because of the disease. Using his savings, he rented an apartment—his first in years—and began working on regaining his health with a goal of getting back on the road in the spring of 2020.

Like so many others, the shutdown intended to slow the spread of the coronavirus deprived Doug of any employment opportunities. It didn't take long before he had burned through his savings and found himself facing eviction, despite the moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent. In July 2020, the inevitable happened, and Doug was evicted and now homeless.

Needless to say, depression set in, and with that, thoughts of suicide. Thankfully Doug sought treatment for his depression at UofL Health - Peace

Hospital. At the end of his two-week stay, his caregivers connected him with Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville.

As you might imagine, this has been hard for Doug. "I've never in my life been homeless... I've had tough times but never homeless. It was a wake-up call for me to get motivated and get moving to where I can get a place and get my life back on track," Doug said.

"I would describe Doug as everyone's favorite grandfather. He helped a lot of other guys who were feeling hopeless get connected with Pam (Scott) and Matt (Weaver) as well as promote their groups. Doug was a very easy client to assist. He was always thankful and appreciative of everything St. Vincent de Paul Louisville could do for him," said Olivia Raley, Doug's case manager at Ozanam Inn.

While staying at Ozanam Inn, Doug was able to seek counseling for his depression with the expanded clinical services staff. Doug said, "I was fighting depression really bad early on. Thanks to Matt and Pam... I was able to work through a lot of it and not let it get too severe. All the little things early on that piled up that pushed me into a depression and everything. As we got closer to getting the apartment and getting the housing taken care of it has been fantastic as far as helping relieve a lot of that situational type depression that I was going through." Many medications used to treat depression are restricted for those that wish to maintain a CDL which meant Doug was unable take any medication available to him. "My experience with Doug has been one of the most successful yet from a therapeutic point of view," said Matt Weaver, Associate Director of Clinical Services at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville. Matt adds, "Doug presented with situational depression stemming from medical/



Doug volunteered in the Open Hand Kitchen while staying in the shelter.

physical issues, loss of employment and minimal support leading to homelessness and exacerbation of anxiety and depressive symptoms resulting in need for intervention and 1:1 therapy. Despite ebbs and flows surrounding his medical issues and housing timeline setbacks, Doug always presented with a positive and grateful attitude."

That attitude is what drove Doug to seek help getting control of his diabetes. "Doug began attending my groups at Ozanam Inn somewhere in August," said Pam Scott, Clinical Services Coordinator at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville. "He somehow got the idea that due to my role being addiction counseling, he needed an addiction to fit it to my groups. His substance of abuse was sugar, and Doug was facing that fact. He spoke about his diabetes getting out of control in group and really how he lost his job due to his diabetes. His blood sugar was not regulated. Doug set out on a journey to get his diabetes regulated so that he could return to his job as a truck driver. He reported to the group that he has lost

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Doug takes advantage of the technology center in Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter to search job listings.



**St. Vincent
de Paul**
LOUISVILLE

The Good Samaritan

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St. Vincent de Paul | Louisville

Send correspondence to PO Box 17126,
Louisville, KY 40217-0126

Visit us at 1015-C South Preston Street,
Louisville, KY 40203-2733

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Donna Young
Director of Conference Affairs
& Volunteer Services

David Sharpe
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Send comments and change
of address notifications to
dsharpe@svdplou.org

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
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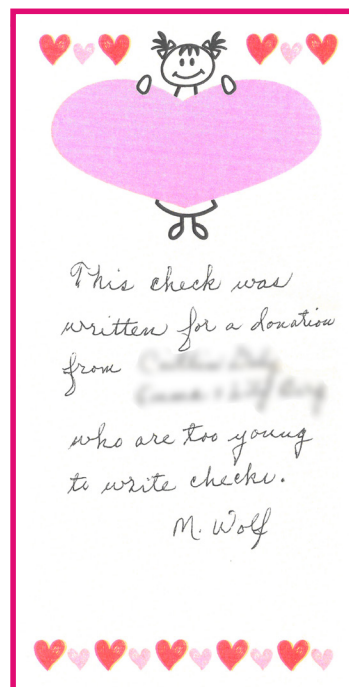
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Roses & Rosé Scheduled for May 8

Out of an abundance of caution and to follow CDC guidelines, we canceled Roses & Rosé in 2020. We are excited to bring back Roses & Rosé this year on May 8 but have not made final decisions about how it will be presented. We are continuing to watch vaccination numbers and positivity rates with plans to make final decisions in April. Our current plan is to host the event at Porcini Restaurant, allowing us to comply with CDC and state guidelines. Our choice of restaurant for the event was purposeful with safety in mind. Restaurants, and especially Porcini, have shown us a clear record of experience in safely providing a fine-dining experience. As a contingency, we are prepared for an all-virtual event this year.

No matter what we decide, our event will offer a curbside to-go meal option along with a virtual program. Additionally, we will now include a new option to buy a nice meal to deliver to the many mothers on St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's campus. Please follow our website for the most up-to-date information or contact Abigail Costello at acostello@svdplou.org.



You're Never Too Young to Support SVDP

We recently received a note along with a donation that was too good not to share.

"This check was written for a donation from [name withheld] who are too young to write checks."

We would like to thank these young people very much for their support and for putting a smile on everyone's face in the office.

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100 pounds and is working on getting healthy enough to get back on the road, which he is very passionate about. Doug has always been there to lend a hand to others when in need and is a very caring individual," Pam added.

Doug's hard work and perseverance are paying off. He has since moved out of

Ozanam Inn and into his own apartment with a rapid rehousing voucher. He recently started a new job and is still has his eye on renewing his CDL.

"We are hopeful that we will be able to assist Doug in meeting his goal, and he will soon be 'On the Road Again'! Not only will Doug continue attending groups, he will bring others to it and help them along the way," Pam said.

Kids at FSC Celebrate Black History Month



Bessie Coleman



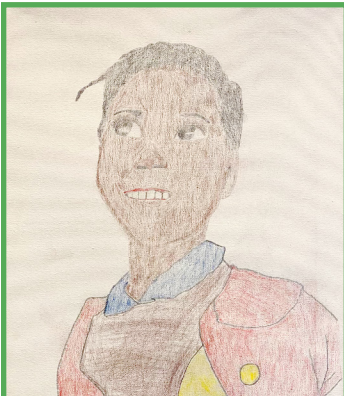
Malcolm X



Frederick Douglass



LeBron James



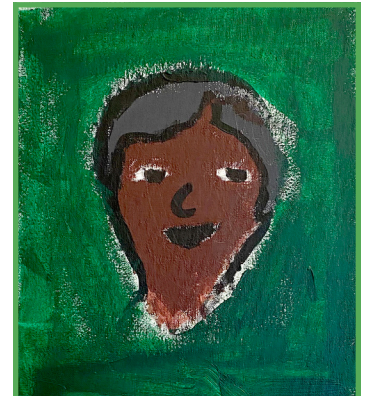
Ruby Bridges



Harriet Tubman



Martin Luther King, Jr.



Rosa Parks



Students hang their work at the Family Success Center.

The kids attending NTI at the Family Success Center celebrated Black History Month by creating portraits of their favorite Black heroes, past and present.

Local artist Mariah Lewis worked with the kids on their projects. "The kids were so full of energy and so talented to be as young as they are. They definitely have a bright future ahead of them. All of their pieces were done by them with little to no help from me!!! They were very engaged and asked wonderful questions to ensure their knowledge of art in general. I was so proud of their masterpieces they created and their creativity!!!," Mariah said.

In addition to the portraits, the kids wrote bios for each subject and presented their work to staff, fellow students, and proud parents.

Thinking About Spring Cleaning?

Consider Donating to Our Thrift Stores

As the weather warms, we all start thinking about doing a little spring cleaning. Want to recycle the old stuff you're not using? Consider donating it to one of our three area Thrift Stores. All three locations accept donations from 11 am to 3 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Donation guidelines are available on our website at svdplou.org/donation-guide-for-thrift-stores.



Conferences are the Backbone of St. Vincent de Paul Louisville

There is a reason St. Vincent de Paul Louisville is the number one referred agency when people call Metro 2•1•1 seeking assistance—it's the Conferences. The 29 area Conferences of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul make home visits to people who contact us for help, tailoring assistance based on the need of each individual or family.

Whether the need is for rent, food, utilities, or some other need, our 699 Conference members respond. Conferences also donate clothing and toys to Santa Shop, air mattresses and blankets to Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter, donate to the Food Pantry, host holiday parties for clients, volunteer on campus, and so much more.

You'll find a current list of Conferences below. If you know a Conference member, please thank them for all they do. We are forever grateful to them.

Epiphany

914 Old Harrods Creek
Louisville, KY 40223
(502) 245-7658

Holy Family

3938 Poplar Level Road
Louisville, KY 40213
(502) 459-6066

Holy Spirit

3345 Lexington Road
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 893-3982

Holy Trinity

501 Cherrywood Road
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 897-5207

Mary Queen of Peace

4205 Cane Run Road
Louisville, KY 40216
(502) 448-4008

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

7333 Southside Drive
Louisville, KY 40214
(502) 366-5651

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

425 North Central Avenue
Campbellsville, KY 42718
(270) 465-4282

St. Agnes

1920 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40205
(502) 451-2220

St. Albert the Great

1395 Girard Drive
Louisville, KY 40222
(502) 425-3940

St. Aloysius

202 Mt. Mercy Drive
Pewee Valley, KY 40056
(502) 241-8452

St. Athanasius

5915 Outer Loop
Louisville, KY 40219
(502) 969-3332

St. Bernadette

6500 St. Bernadette Avenue
Prospect, KY 40059
(502) 425-2210

St. Brigid/St. Christopher

1225 S. Wilson Road
Radcliff, KY 40160
(270) 351-3706

St. Brigid/St. James

1520 Hepburn Avenue
Louisville, KY 40204
(502) 584-5565

St. Dominic

303 W. Main Street
Springfield, KY 40069
(859) 336-3569

St. Edward

9608 Sue Helen Drive
Jeffersontown, KY 40299
(502) 267-7494

St. Gabriel the Archangel

5505 Bardstown Road
Louisville, KY 40291
(502) 239-5481

St. Ignatius Martyr

1816 Rangeland Road
Louisville, KY 40219
(502) 964-5904

St. James

307 Dixie Ave.
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
(270) 765-6268

St. Lawrence

1925 Lewiston Drive
Louisville, KY 40216
(502) 448-2122

St. Leonard

440 Zorn Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 897-2595

St. Martha

2825 Klondike Lane
Louisville, KY 40218
(502) 491-8535

St. Patrick

1000 N. Beckley Station Road
Louisville, KY 40245
(502) 719-0359

St. Paul

6901 Dixie Highway
Louisville, KY 40258
(502) 935-1223

St. Peter the Apostle

5431 Johnsontown Road
Louisville, KY 40272
(502) 937-5920

St. Raphael the Archangel

2141 Lancashire Ave.
Louisville, KY 40205
(502) 458-2500

St. Rita/St. Luke

8709 Preston Highway
Louisville, Ky. 40219
(502) 969-4579

St. Stephen Martyr

2931 Pendell Avenue
Louisville, KY 40217
(502) 635-5813

St. William

1226 W. Oak Street
Louisville, KY 40210
(502) 635-6307