

The Good Samaritan

A Welcome Return to Roses & Rosé

By Abigail Costello, Associate Director of Development

Roses & Rosé was a wonderful opportunity to gather together again. It was a wonderful day filled with mothers, sisters, daughters and friends enjoying time together in person to support the mission of St. Vincent de Paul Louisville. The event raised over \$10,000 and had over 70 people in attendance. We want to thank our sponsor, Zoeller Pump Co, those who supported the event in person, virtually or by purchasing raffle tickets. We also want to thank the dedicated committee members: Donna Young, Monica Schroeder, Karen Miller and Tonda Helton, Member of the Board.

This year, SVDP gave people the option to purchase a nice brunch meal from Louvino for every client in the Domestic Violence program. Thanks to everything that purchased a meal and made that a success. The mothers in the program were also given roses, generously donated by Donna Koenig, a longtime supporter of SVDP.

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville chose to have the Mother's Day celebration at Porcini Restaurant because of their already spaced-out safe way to dine and because Porcini has been supporting SVDP for many many years. For over 10 years, Clubs & Cocktails dinner event was at Porcini Restaurant and the Porcini Farmer Foundation has given grants to the Family Success Center. They were a natural choice for SVDP to host our first in person event since the beginning of the pandemic.

We thank you again for supporting the work at SVDP! Every dollar raised goes to funding the vital work at SVDP.





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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Showing Love for People in Poverty, Not Pity

By Rich Flaherty, Director of Development

As we re-open the Open Hand Kitchen to on-premise dining and the return of our volunteers who serve our clients the much needed nutritious meals, we can each reflect back to our first experience of sitting and eating with those we serve and hearing about their lives and stories. Below is one experience that was written about in a book called *The Problem of Wealth* by Bellarmine professor, Elizabeth L. Hinson-Hasty.

For about six years, I have worked with Crossroads, a local ministry sponsored by St. Williams Catholic Church, which plans retreats in low-income areas of Louisville. One the immersion experiences requires taking students to eat at the Open Hand Kitchen, a ministry of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. All that is required of the students is to eat here. What happens at the Open Hand (Kitchen) is learning how to cross invisible yet tangible boundaries of social class and to build relationships with people who, at least at first, appear to be different.

The Open Hand Kitchen offers a unique environment for the meal because the cafeteria buffet line is set up in an old church sanctuary. After going through the line and picking up your food tray for the meal, you face the chancel area of the old sanctuary. The chancel area is adorned with images of saints, and a plastic folding table surrounded by six chairs sits in the place of the altar. One cannot avoid thinking of Jesus's greatest feast of love.

A young man named Cole was another one of the students who took my Theology from the Margins course in the spring of 2016. He eagerly signed up for the immersion experience at the Open Hand Kitchen and, because of his excellent social skills, was easily able to engage in conversation with people sitting at his table. He met a couple whom I will call Sally and Anirudh. Sally and Anirudh had recently moved to Louisville from Eastern Kentucky, which was also Cole's home. Early on in the conversation Cole realized that they came from the same county. The reason the couple decided to move to Louisville was to get away from some "toxic people" in their lives. Neither of them had much money. They just had enough to pay for gas to drive to the city and planned to stay with Sally's brother until they got back on their feet. What was most surprising to Cole was that Sally's brother turned them away when they arrived at his doorstep because Anirudh was from India. By the time Sally and Anirudh reached her brother's doorstep, their savings were depleted by the move so they didn't have anywhere else to go. They were both picking up odd jobs for minimum wage, and neither of them could get enough hours to qualify for full-time benefits. So they regularly eat at the Open Hand Kitchen.

Cole reflected on his experience sitting at the table with Sally and Anirudh in his final project for the class. He wrote, "I had an epiphany... This may sound strange and hard to understand, but it has greatly impacted my outlook on those waiting in the soup lines, standing on corners asking for change, and sleeping in their vans night after night." Cole allowed himself to encounter "the full humanity of those [he] was speaking to" and to face up to the fact that almost anyone could be in that situation if they were turned away or cast out by their family. He felt a sense of righteous indignation at the fact that someone would claim a sense of moral superiority by turning away his sister just because of who she loved. While sitting at the table of the Open Hand Kitchen, Cole "realized the importance of showing love for people in poverty, not pity" Cole transformed his way of thinking. What Sally and Anirudh need most are family sustaining wages and affordable housing.

If you have not had the opportunity to experience a meal at the Open Hand Kitchen, come volunteer and meet the clients. It will be one of the most rewarding experiences you can have.



Vaccination Clinic Held at Open Hand Kitchen

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville collaborated with Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness to hold a vaccine clinic on May 10. Ensuring that everyone has access to vaccinations is important to a successful return to normalcy. We will continue to direct clients and staff to opportunities for vaccinations. There have been pop-up clinics for vaccines happening across the community and Phoenix Family Health Center continues to offer vaccinations.

Success Stories

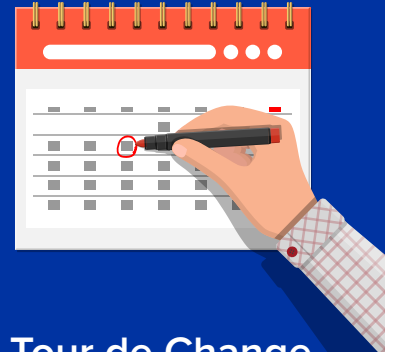
Billy, a long time client at Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter, became ill after he returned to his home state of Florida, and subsequently relapsed. After a week in Florida he returned to St. Vincent de Paul Louisville, and began immediately working with his case manager in the MH/SU program. Weekly goals were set and Billy returned to meetings, got a sponsor, and resumed his medications. Billy was able to get housing at Glade House where he is supported with his recovery and ongoing health issues.

Alice was struggling to make it to her housing meetings due to mental health concerns and trying to juggle other appointments. She was able to make a crisis plan with Matt and Corbin and has since made it to all necessary meetings and even got to begin her housing search which she is very excited about.

Wallace has been transitioned into housing after almost two years in the veterans program at Ozanam Inn Men's Shelter. He battled significantly with depression and was very reluctant to participate in case management due to not being able to trust any service provider. Within 3 months, Wallace was able to build a trusting relationship with his case manager after participating in weekly Kroger runs, attending the peer support groups, and seeing that his case manager is here to help him. He now receives SSDI benefits thanks to assistance from case management and a pro bono attorney for veterans, Brandon Renner. St. Vincent de Paul Louisville was able to provide him with a bed, mattress, dresser, and tv stand. Thanks to assistance from his case manager and Betty Garcia from the Salvation Army outreach program, he also has a used vehicle of his own.

Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS AT
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LOUISVILLE



Tour de Change

Tuesday, August 10th

Give for Good

Friday, September 17th

Clubs & Cocktails

Monday, September 20th

Tour de Change

Tuesday, November 9th

Home Begins Here

Thursday, November 11th

Your Used Car Can Help House and Feed Those in Need



Call Wanda at
(502) 468-8953
to Schedule
Your Donation





Food Pantry Volunteer Appreciation

We were so disappointed that the shutdown forced us to cancel the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon last year. We love our volunteers and the luncheon is our way of say thank you and recognize their amazing effort.

With more people vaccinated and rules easing a bit, we decided to take the time to provide lunch to our Food Pantry teams.

It's a small gesture considering the effort that goes into keeping the Food Pantry going week after week. Our volunteers go above and beyond to ensure that our neighbors in the 40203 zip code can feed their families.

Dominican Brothers Return to Service This Summer

Please join us in welcoming Brothers Raphael (left) and Linus (right) to St. Vincent de Paul Louisville. It has been a tradition for two Dominican Brothers to visit campus each summer, but that tradition was interrupted last summer during the shut down. The Brothers will be working with all the programs and will be on campus Tuesdays and Thursdays through July. Their activities will include helping Waypoint House and Ozanam Inn, tend the garden, hosting lunches at Robert's Hall and St. Jude, serving in the Open Hand Kitchen and the Food Pantry and supporting the SVDP Summer Camp in July.



Family Success Center Playground Get a Fresh Layer of Mulch

By Jon Wysong, Development Coordinator

On Friday, May 21st, SVDP welcomed 9 volunteers from Republic Bank to do a major mulch project on our campus playgrounds. The project, which was originally designed as a supplement to the indoor volunteer project we hosted on the Mayor's Give a Day in April, was rescheduled due to weather.

Despite the late springtime heat, within three hours, our volunteers efficiently decimated the 10-foot pile of mulch, covering the main playground, which was to be opened to Family Success Center clients and on-campus client families later in the day. The mulch was specifically designed with children safety in mind, being derived from rubber, so we were excited to have help from Republic Bank volunteers to make the playground safer.

Interested in organizing your own volunteer project? Contact Donna Young, Director of Conference Affairs & Volunteer Services, at dyoung@svdplou.org and 502-301-8688.

