

The Good Samaritan

St. Vincent de Paul – A History of Caring and Compassion

As you will read later on in the newsletter, we conducted our first live on campus tour since before the pandemic at the beginning of August. It was great to have the attendees back on our campus! The tour focuses on the buildings and programs on our campus as we do a walking tour. For our lead article this month, we thought you might be interested in a little history lesson about St. Vincent de Paul Louisville.

St. Vincent de Paul was established in the Louisville community in 1854, with the purpose of aiding the poor and homeless, providing food, clothing, shelter and compassion. Yes - we are 21 years older than the Kentucky Derby! Bishop Martin Spalding of Louisville first witnessed the work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Paris in 1852, where St. Vincent de Paul was founded by Frederic Ozanam. Bishop Martin then returned to Louisville and established the organization.



Ozanam Inn



Food Pantry

SVDP Conferences were established throughout Louisville over the next 86 years, with the first Conference organized at the Cathedral of the Assumption. These Conferences are parish-based groups of volunteers working in the name of St. Vincent de Paul, to help ease the pain of chronic hunger and poverty. These kind and generous volunteers came to be known as Vincentians.

St. Vincent de Paul's impact on the Louisville community began to expand beyond the Conference network in 1983, when St. Vincent de Paul acquired the Holy Name Salvage Bureau Thrift Store to assist in funding the mission and expanding the reach of the organization.

In 1982, The Archdiocese of Louisville gifted St. Paul's Catholic Church, the rectory, and the school to St. Vincent de Paul Louisville. The Open Hand Kitchen opened in 1983 in the basement of St. Paul's Church and later, in 1997, moved upstairs, allowing the Open Hand Kitchen to expand its service as a large community kitchen which has provided more than 140,000 meals each year to anyone in need. These meals are served by a loyal network of 2,850 volunteers. The expansion ramped up quickly as buildings were built and our services offered expanded.

- 1984 Ozanam Inn opens in the former St. Paul's Elementary School
- 1985 St. Jude House opened as the first halfway house for women in Louisville
- 1988 DePaul Apartments opened
- 1989 Administration Building opened for offices and OHK food storage
- 1990 Robert's Hall opened in the St. Elizabeth Convent on Burnett
- 1992 Tranquil House opened
- 1992 Thrift Store and Processing Center opened at 1029 S. Preston
- 1993 Simon Hall opened in the St. Paul Rectory
- 1999 St. Jude Recovery Center opens replacing St. Jude House
- 2012 The East and West Family Apartments, the SRO (now Waypoint) and the 1-Bedroom Apartments opened
- 2013 Thrift Store and Processing Center moved from Preston Street location
- 2014 The Family Success Center opened
- 2015 St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry opened serving 300 families each month



Open Hand Kitchen

All of this growth and expansion has been accomplished by the support of foundations and you, our devoted donors. Your impact on the community has been vast, and we all celebrate the success with you.



St. Vincent
de Paul

LOUISVILLE

The Good Samaritan

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Our Mission

We house, feed, and support
those in need with
compassion and dignity.

Support SVDP

To find out more about our work or
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Rainy Day Aging Buildings Fund

In the featured article of this month's newsletter, you read about the history of St. Vincent de Paul Louisville and the buildings that make up our downtown campus. For most of those buildings, there is an important program that we offer to our clients within those walls. Through your generosity, you have helped support these crucial programs by giving SVDP the essential general operating funds that are needed. What was not articulated in the feature article is the current critical need most of our SVDP buildings have – a replacement budget for major maintenance issues that arise. Many of the buildings are getting old and just like our personal homes, the infrastructure of the buildings age, too. When an air conditioning unit fails, the repair or replacement costs come out of our general operating funds, which can put a strain on our organizational budget.

We are thrilled to announce the Rainy Day Aging Buildings Fund. We have received generous donations from multiple donors, all of whom have created a solution to this issue by giving a matching pool of funds in excess of \$100,000 which will be used to match all donations, dollar-for-dollar that are given to the Rainy Day Fund. This means that your donation to the fund will have double the impact – allowing us to create a repair and replacement account for each building that so desperately needs it.

In this month's newsletter, you will find two remittance envelopes; the standard white Good Samaritan envelope and a lilac Rainy Day Aging Building Fund envelope. We hope you will continue to support our programs with your standard donation to the Good Samaritan, while also giving a second gift to the Rainy Day Fund. Think of this like the Fifth Sunday special offering for St. Vincent de Paul at church, where we all give to our church and also to your local SVDP conference. But, in this case, your donation has double the impact.

Thank you for supporting this effort to ensure the buildings will stay as strong as the programs housed within them. With your generosity and continued support, you can help make that happen.

—2021—

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville by the Numbers

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

- 309 people have been served since January 1, 2021
 - We served 52 families and 108 individuals
 - We served 125 children
 - 73% of exits were positive

Ozanam Inn Shelter

- 273 men have been served since January 1, 2021
- 26 people exited to stable housing

NOTE: Our housing outcome was effected by the COVID-19 outbreak at the shelter in February, staff turnover and reduced capacity due to COVID-19

VA Program

- 40 men have been served since January 1, 2020
- Since January, 80% of men served have exited to permanent housing

Tranquil House

- 15 people were served since January 1, 2021
 - 70% increased or maintained mental health services
 - 70% increased their participation in the community by attending an event, group counseling or other social or emotional event

Family Success Center – NTI (Non-traditional Instruction)

- 34 children have been served, average daily attendance is 15
- 90% of participants are up to date with their assignments. When NTI support started the first week in September, only 2 participants were up to date on assignments.
- 86% of students increased or maintained their grades.

Family Success Center – Summer Camp

- 33 children registered for summer camp and 28 participated consistently
- 16 of the participants were NEW
- 84% of all kids participated in all enrichment activities which included Kentucky Kingdom, as well as science and reading.

Mental Health and Substance Use Program (Clinical Services)

- 255 households have been served since January 1, 2021
- 130 Crisis have been resolved since January 1, 2021 with a 98% success rate
- 97% of participants in individual counseling report making progress on a therapeutic goal

Meet Makenzie

We are thrilled to introduce you to our new Development Coordinator, Makenzie Smith. For some that name may sound familiar. Makenzie's relationship with St. Vincent de Paul Louisville started back when she was 7-years-old. In second grade, her teacher was talking about the upcoming winter and how cold it was supposed to be that year. The conversation then evolved into talking about those less fortunate, and how they don't have basic necessities such as a coat to keep them warm in those cold months. "This got my 7-year-old brain thinking about what I could do to help those people. By the time I got home from school that evening, I told my parents I wanted to start a coat collection to keep the homeless warm. Makenzie's Coat Closet was started and grew for 10 years, collecting well over 35,000 new and gently used coats for those in need!", Makenzie explains. SVDP was a recipient of Makenzie's efforts and the relationship between her and SVDP was formed. For the next decade, Makenzie organized distribution days where she met face-to-face with the clients, individuals, and surrounding organizations she was able to support.

Makenzie's Coat Closet ended when Makenzie went to college, but her connection to SVDP did not. In the summer of 2019, Makenzie joined the Development Staff as an intern, and was able to see the organization in a whole new light and knew it was where she wanted to work. After finishing her Masters of Science and Technology focused in Organizational Leadership this past May, Makenzie

joined the Development team again, this time as a Development Coordinator.

"I'd say my biggest accomplishment thus far in my life is just being able to be considered a young philanthropist. I have been fortunate enough to have some incredible opportunities given to me because of my work with Makenzie's Coat Closet – awards, interviews, recognitions – but knowing that I made a small impact, a small difference on some lives just by giving someone a coat? That's my biggest accomplishment. That feeling of 'wow, I was really able to help those people.' And now that this is my fulltime job, I really couldn't ask for anything more."

On a personal note, Makenzie grew up in Borden, IN. She is the oldest of three children to parents who have been married for 25 years. Her hero is her papaw, her grandfather. "He was the most selfless, kindest, genuine person, and always supported me with whatever I did." Makenzie loves to travel, spend time with family and friends, and binge watch shows on Netflix. She claims to be an introvert, but loves



meeting new people and looks forward to working with the incredible supporters of St. Vincent de Paul Louisville.



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Three Convenient Locations
Bargains Found Everyday
Easy Donation Drop Off
All Proceeds Fund Our Mission

Visit [SVDPLOU.ORG](https://www.svdplou.org) for Hours
and Donation Details

Are You Ready for 24 Hours of Giving?



This month, St. Vincent de Paul is once again participating in Give for Good Louisville. On this unprecedented day of unity in the name of philanthropy, we need YOUR help to achieve our goal of raising \$40,000. This year, we have a focus of putting these funds towards our comprehensive Family Support Services, which includes our Family Success Center, Open Hand Kitchen, and Family Housing. With these funds, we can continue serving the Louisville and Southern Indiana communities in dire need. We also have matching funds that can double your donation!!! Get ready to donate on September 17th, not before or after, as all

donations have to be made on this day to count in the totals for the Give For Good day. On September 17th donate at <https://www.giveforgoodlouisville.org/organizations/st-vincent-de-paul-louisville>. Please reach out to Makenzie Smith at msmith@svdplou.org or 502-272-2134 for more information or any questions. Mark your calendars to support St. Vincent de Paul Louisville!



Tour de Change Returns

Despite experiencing the re-implementation of some restrictions due to the Delta Variant, we were able to have our first in person, on campus Tour de Change since February 9th, 2020. On August 10th, we welcomed 9 supporters of St. Vincent de Paul for some donuts and coffee, and then our Director of Programs, Jennifer Clark, led the group on a tour of the campus and programs. Due to restrictions, the group was not able to enter all the buildings. They were able to hear about all the wonderful work our staff does with the different populations we support and most were surprised by everything we do. “It was a very informative tour and I’m glad I attended. I plan to scan the brochure and email it to all my fellow SVPD conference members at Epiphany,” said Steve, a tour attendee. We thank those who attended, and look forward to our next Tour de Change which is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9th. Watch the October Good Sam newsletter for details and a link to register!

Volunteering in the Open Hand Kitchen An Experience to Remember

Submitted by Rich Flaherty, Director of Development

With the Open Hand Kitchen re-opening, Donna Young, Director of Conferences and Volunteers, needed help filling serving slots. Some of her teams weren’t able to return after the pandemic. I decided to ask the residents in my neighborhood, Owl Creek, through our neighborhood Facebook page to see if there was interest, and there absolutely was. I received responses from over 10 families who wanted to give back to the community and from that group the first team was formed. The team has taken on the first Monday of each month slot for dinner, and they were able to experience the joy of serving others for the first time on August 2nd. The feedback from the team was all positive. “It was great!” “Went really well. Faster than we all anticipated.” “Yes, was Great. Time Flew” “Enjoyed the experience.”

St. Vincent de Paul is blessed to have fantastic support from volunteers. Whether it is working at the Open Hand Kitchen, helping at the Food Pantry, tutoring kids at the Family Success Center, fulfilling Christmas dreams for kids at the Santa Shop, or the countless volunteer projects on campus each year, over 2,000 volunteers support the mission and efforts of SVDP each year. If you are interested in helping individually or in a group, please contact Donna Young at 502-301-8688 or dyoung@svdplou.org.

Client Success Story

Tina was 20 years old and living in a tent in an encampment near downtown Louisville. She was referred to SVDP in May 2021 and quickly got the keys to her apartment. However, when the case manager went to visit Tina so they could get furniture delivered, she wasn’t home. Tina had not had a working phone at any point while she was working with her case manager. The case manager had partnered with St. John Center’s Outreach team to find Tina, communicate with her and get her housed. The case manager kept going by the apartment and a few other places in the community where she knew Tina may hang out. She couldn’t find her. One day, a St. John’s Center street outreach team member told the case manager she had seen Tina. Tina hadn’t been living in her apartment. She hadn’t

connected with her case manager to get furniture ordered and the AC wasn’t working in her unit so she went back to sleeping outside. Then she lost her keys. Together, street outreach and the case manager got Tina back to her apartment and got her furniture delivered. They also realized that Tina needed help figuring out how to work the thermostat in her apartment. She had never lived on her own and had been homeless for much of her teenage years. There was a lot that she needed support with. One month later, Tina showed up for case management. Tina looked different. She had a haircut, had put on weight, was freshly showered and sober. Tina thanked her case manager for not giving up on her. She said she felt like a new person.