

The Good Samaritan

Learning Practical Skills and Honing Their Empathy

This semester, St. Vincent de Paul Louisville worked with six practicum students. Of those, five undergraduate students are from UofL's Kent School of Social Work. One graduate student is from Campbellsville University's School of Social work. SVDP pairs each student with an experienced staff member to learn the practical aspects of social work.

Students learn by shadowing their task supervisors. They interact with clients, completing needs assessments, reviewing resources with clients, and more. Students concentrate on different target groups segmented by age, gender, and life experience. Working with these groups strengthens the practicum students' skills and increases their empathy. Indeed, students learn that compassion improves their clinical relationships with clients.

One of our students, Alexandria, works at Waypoint, a home for youth. She explains, "The most important thing that this practicum has taught me is to take the time to get to know the clients. I try to see things from their perspective."

Another student, Madison, works with our children. She urges everyone to give those we serve a chance to flourish: "These kids have great hearts and all the ability in the world to be great. Some of them have experienced some major setbacks, but they deserve to grow through it."

With empathy, students learn practical skills. They learn to help the Louisville community and particularly the homeless community.

Larry, a student working in the counseling office, selected a practicum at SVDP to receive the practical experience. Larry provides assessments, holds individual counseling sessions, and supports clients in many aspects of mental health care. At first, Larry was curious about the value of the Housing First model. He soon realized that having a home makes it possible to effectively treat other issues like mental health. Larry explains, "The stress of homelessness adds another level to the struggle to function with mental health or substance abuse issues. We don't need to make these people do without basic

human needs while we treat depression or alcoholism."

Our practicum students want to make a difference in this society. Through their experience with SVDP, they are learning what kind of difference they can make in the world. We are grateful to them for their passion and support for those we serve.



Practicum student Madison (right) with teenage client.



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.

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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

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Home Begins Here February 17

About two years ago, St. Vincent de Paul made the decision to split its annual Clubs & Cocktails into separate events. Instead of the usual back-to-back auction dinner and golf outing, we planned to convert the dinner into a lunch event later in the fall.

Due to COVID-19, however, the opportunity to have a face to face luncheon last fall was impossible to manage safely. We worked to convert this to an entirely virtual event, and saw a wonderful turnout and great success given the circumstances.

We are thrilled to announce our new mission luncheon, Home Begins Here, to be held in-person on Thursday, February 17th at The Omni Louisville. This name is significant as it encapsulates the goal of our mission and all the work that our staff and clients do to achieve that mission.

Whether accomplished through the permanent and transitional housing programs, our men's emergency housing at Ozanam Inn, the meals we serve at

the Open Hand Kitchen, the food we offer at the Pantry, or the children and families we help at the Family Success Center, everything we do is aimed at helping our clients to break the cycle of homelessness and position them to transition to a safe and secure home.

The program will include a message from our new Executive Director, our dedicated staff and volunteers, a moving story from one of our clients, and local celebrity Claudia Coffey as our emcee. Enjoy a delicious lunch from The Omni Louisville, networking with fellow SVDP donors, volunteers, and community supporters, and a selection of silent auction items donated by local businesses.

We hope you will be able to attend to celebrate with us the accomplishments and successes of this past year and hear why SVDP is so important to the Louisville community. Tickets will go on sale in January.



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Success Story

Tom had been in prison for years. When he was released, he struggled to get a job and a place of his own. He quickly became homeless and was homeless for over 2 years, going back and forth between shelter and camping in a tent.

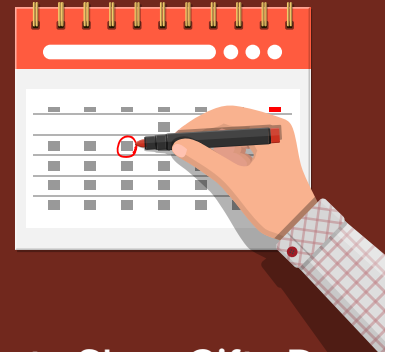
Tom had an injury that required surgery and it never healed properly. He has a lot of pain and follow-up doctor appointments. For a long time, he didn't think that he needed help. He thought he could figure out how to get housed on his own. However, his injury kept him from a lot of the types of work he did before he went to prison. Eventually, he was approved for disability benefits, and he accepted that there was a lot of work he couldn't do anymore. The months turned into years and Tom was tired of not having housing.

Feed Louisville is a street outreach group that visits camps and distributes food. A street outreach volunteer had gotten to know Tom over several months and convinced him that he could get housing. The street outreach volunteer helped Tom complete an assessment and get referred to SVDP. Once Tom had a voucher, he became really motivated. He worked with his case manager to find a unit and was housed in 90 days. His SVDP case manager helped him get settled in his new apartment, with furniture from the SVDP Thrift Stores.

Tom told his case manager that he didn't know how much he had missed sleeping in a real bed until the first night he slept in his new apartment.

Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS AT
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LOUISVILLE



Santa Shop Gifts Due

Monday, December 6th

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25th

Tour de Change

February 8th

Home Begins Here

February 17th

Roses & Rosé

April 30th

Clubs & Cocktails

September 19th



We have a new Facebook
Page! @svdplouky



Like us today!

New page. Great content.

Look for in-kind donation and volunteer opportunities, check out events, share our success, and keep up with St. Vincent de Paul Louisville.

Check out our new page on Facebook!
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Re-Introducing Sam Schreier

by Sam Schreier

Some folks may remember me from my time working at the SVDP Family Success Center (FSC) or as a practicum student at Ozanam Inn.

I was born here in Louisville and raised across the river in Southern Indiana. I joined the army after high school and was shipped to Fort Leonard-Wood for Basic Training and completed my training to become an Army Second Class Engineer Diver at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in Panama City Beach Florida in 2012.

I was stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii, and in my three years there I was sent all over the South Pacific and Southeast Asia on missions with the Corps of Engineers, the Department of Prisoner of war/ Missing in Action Accounting Agency, and the State Department.

Sometimes I was on teams that completed underwater construction missions to repair breakwaters and piers, other times I was helping recover service members who had perished in plane, helicopter, or boat crashes in past conflicts such as World War II or Vietnam.

I appreciated my time in the service and wouldn't trade the experience for

the world. I saw some great places and worked with some amazing people.

After completing my time in service I decided to come back to the area and get my undergraduate degree. In December of 2018 I graduated from the University of Louisville with my bachelor's degree in social work.

After graduation I was selected to participate in a year-long fellowship program with a disaster response organization called Team Rubicon, and I went to Houston, TX, to help rebuild homes that were affected by Hurricane Harvey. I was a volunteer coordinator for that year and facilitated the rebuilding of 65 homes in 2019. I accepted a job to continue working in a similar capacity at Team Rubicon in Houston, but the pandemic hit a month after I started that role, so I shifted to a role on their development team.

In my two years on the development team at Team Rubicon I specialized in strategic partnerships and grants.

During my time away I always knew I wanted to come back to Louisville at some point, and it was my hope that I could work here for this organization with a mission that means a whole lot to me.



Development Coordinator
Sam Schreier at the FSC playground.

Ever since I finished my practicum here I would always tell people that asked about my plans for the future that I wasn't sure what I'd end up doing, but I knew I was going to be in Louisville at some point and at the least volunteering for St. Vincent de Paul Louisville. So it should come as no surprise that I jumped at the opportunity to come back here to work in a capacity to support this mission, and work with some wonderful folks.

Donor Survey



We want your feedback! Watch for our donor survey, coming in January.

Please help us communicate better with you by filling out and sending in the donor survey included in your January Good Samaritan.

St. Patrick's Turkey Drive

Thank you to the generosity of the parishioners of St. Patrick Church. This year they collected items to support the Open Hand Kitchen's Thanksgiving Dinner and donated 29 Turkeys, 14 Hams, 23 large and 12 small can of vegetables, 32 boxes of mashed potatoes mix, 80lbs premade mashed potatoes, 22 boxes/bags of mac and cheese noodles, and 16 boxes of mac and cheese.



Some of the many turkeys given to the Open Hand Kitchen.

Truly, Gifts from the Heart

Gifts pour in as we prepare for this year's Santa Shop. As of November 12, we have dozens of coats, jackets, pajamas, and other items of clothing.

"The generosity of our supporters brings joy to children from low-income households all over the county," says Donna Young, director of volunteer programs and conference affairs. "We have so much to be grateful for."