

The Good Samaritan

Coming Home: Veterans Find Hope at SVDP

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville works in conjunction with the Veterans Administration office to serve homeless veterans. The program provides a room and bed at our men's emergency shelter, Ozanam Inn, and houses 20 veterans at any given moment. Veterans stay on campus and work with a case manager to get all the benefits available to them through the VA. The veterans have access to mental health and substance use treatment on campus, and they work to become self-reliant. The ultimate goal of the program is to help veterans get off the street and into homes of their own. Our case managers, counselors, and benefits navigators work tirelessly to help these veterans find homes.

Shana Burnley is the case manager for our Veterans Program.* She works with the men from referral to home. This relationship can last for a few months or a year, depending on the needs of each man. She takes them through the bureaucracy that can be difficult for the veterans to manage. She is a sounding board to their fears and frustrations, and she brings the veterans hope of a better future.

"These veterans need empathy and compassion," Shana explains. "Sometimes all they need is to know they've been heard."

When asked why she feels such empathy toward the veterans, Shana explains that she has many veterans in her life. "Both my dad and my husband are vets," she smiles. "Our veterans know that I get it."

Shana says that each veteran is special, with his own needs and goals. "I have one gentleman who came into the program and within a few weeks, he was ready to start looking for a home," she says. "I've had others who have been here a year. Everyone is in their own place on the path to self-sufficiency."

When asked about a proud moment for her, Shana tells us about "Nate." Nate came to St. Vincent de Paul Louisville at a low point in his life. Homelessness and poverty had left him feeling hopeless. "I think he was close to giving up," Shana remembers. "But we started talking and started taking steps to get Nate the benefits he needs, and I saw him open up. I saw the hope in his eyes."



Shana Burnley sits in the Computer Lab where veterans and other clients come to work on job applications and more.

Nate now has a job, and he is working with Shana to find a home of his own. For the first time in a long time, Nate feels like he has a chance. Because of the VA program and our work at St. Vincent de Paul, Nate is on the road home.

*Since the writing of this article, Shana has been promoted to program manager at our youth transitional housing program.

Veterans Day, November 11

On this day to honor veterans, let us remember those veterans who are unhoused and in need.



St. Vincent
de Paul

LOUISVILLE

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St. Vincent de Paul Louisville

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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
make a donation, visit our website.

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Success Story from Ozanam Inn

John was an overnight client at Ozanam Inn who became homeless after the loss of his home from a fire. John, who suffered from medical issues and chronic severe mental illness, was transferred to The Sanctuary Beds Program after an exacerbation of symptoms stemming from an inability to secure his medications. He had increased anxiety, depression, paranoia, severe nightmares and a marked increase in blood pressure. John was referred to the mental health/substance use (MH/SU) program where he was advised to seek a higher level of care via Our Lady of Peace out-patient treatment followed by 1:1 therapy from the MH/SU staff at SVDP and medications management from a Psych Nurse APRN at Phoenix Health Care. John, through hard work and utilization of resources via Ozanam Inn Shelter, the MH/SU staff, and our partner agencies, was able to secure housing and was successfully discharged on April 29, 2022.

You're Invited to Give from the Heart

Companies and individuals throughout the Louisville community are invited to "Give from the Heart." You can help low-income families by adopting a St. Vincent de Paul Louisville (SVDP) giving tree in their offices. These trees hold hearts identifying items a child needs to have a merry Christmas. We invite all of you to shop for these items, which will be used to create a mini mall in which parents can select gifts perfect for their children.

Trees and hearts are available beginning November 1, 2022, and unwrapped gifts need to be returned to SVDP no later than December 2. Parents are allowed to shop by invitation only on December 11.

"We couldn't provide this service to our families without the compassion and generosity of businesses and people in our community," says Donna Young, SVDP Director of Volunteer Services and Conference Affairs. "We have much to be grateful for."

Would you like to help? Contact Donna Young at 502-301-8688 or dyoung@svdplou.org.



YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'LL FIND, I

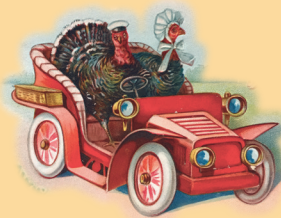
Three Convenient Locations • Bargains Found Everyday • Easy D

Help Feed Someone in Need for the Holidays

Everyone deserves a hot meal on Thanksgiving and Christmas, and at the Open Hand Kitchen, our staff and volunteers work hard to ensure that everyone receives a turkey or ham dinner with all the fixings. We will be providing both sit-down and to-go options for the meal, and we are certain we'll serve just as many people as we always do.

Won't you help a person in need know the comfort and safe feeling a delicious hot meal can provide? Consider donating a turkey or ham to the Open Hand Kitchen this holiday season. We gratefully accept donations 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.

Turkeys and hams may be delivered to the Open Hand Kitchen at 1026 South Jackson St. Call or email Angela Leavell at (502) 794-1843 or aleavell@svdplou.org for more information or to schedule a donation. Thank you! With your help, we will make these the best holidays possible.



Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS AT
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LOUISVILLE



Tour de Change

November 8th

Veterans Day

November 11th

Thanksgiving

November 24th

Santa Shop

December 11th

Christmas

December 25th

Our thanks to Louisville Metro
Government for their support



Our Thanks to Louisville Metro Government for Their Support

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 and our domestic violence program. 2022-2023 awarded grants include:

- External Agency Fund (EAF) grant in the amount of \$14,500 for our Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing Program for those impacted by domestic violence.
- Homeless Initiative grant in the amount of \$250,000. With this grant, we have been able to open our emergency men's shelter, Ozanam Inn, 24/7.
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant in the amount of \$191,600 for our men's emergency shelter, Ozanam Inn, which allowed us, in conjunction with the Homeless Initiative grant, to open Ozanam Inn 24/7 and increase the number of support staff who can provide services to those in need at the shelter.



OR WHO YOU'LL HELP, WHEN YOU SHOP OUR THRIFT STORES

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Focus on Conferences: St. Gabriel the Archangel

The St. Gabriel the Archangel Vincentian conference has 19 members. They work in conjunction with Fern Creek Highview Ministries to manage calls and home visits. Conference President Les Allen has been a Vincentian for 15 years. “I knew about the Vincentians because of my wife’s father, who was a Vincentian in Owensboro,” he explains. “One day at church folks were invited to join the conference, and I decided to join.”

Les describes the work of the conference as a balancing act between being a good steward of the resources the conference receives and be compassionate to those in need. “We need to give those

in need a hand up rather than a hand-out,” he shares. “We want those who can to play an active role in the help that is given to them.”

When asked about the success of the conference, Les points to an extremely supportive pastor. “We are very grateful to Father Harris, who came to the parish interested in knowing what the church could do to support the Vincentians,” explains Les.

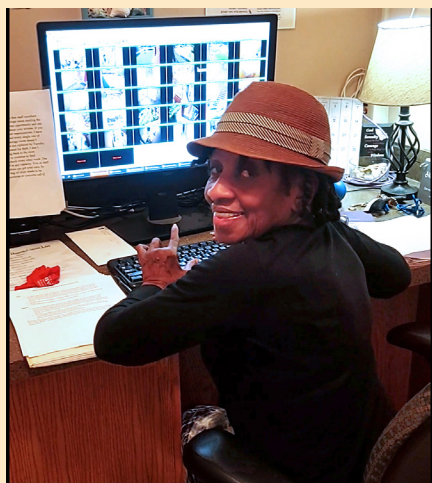
Whether you have a few hours every week or can only attend a home visit once or twice a year, Les explains that there’s a place for you with the Vincentians. “If you have a lot of time to dedicate or only

a little time available, the Vincentians can use your help,” he says.

We are so grateful to the Vincentians at St. Gabriel the Archangel for their compassion and the encouragement they give to those in need.



Employee Profile: Joyce Johnson



Ms. Joyce Johnson, monitoring the Waypoint household.

Ms. Joyce is the Lead Program Aide at Waypoint, our Youth Transitional Housing Program. According to her supervisor, Quentin Childers, Ms. Joyce “is always going above and beyond to help our clients and to make them feel comfortable. She makes sure their basic needs are met and will do what it takes to make sure a client has clothes, food, hygiene products, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and more.”

Ms. Joyce sees the value in celebrations, so she convinced the program manager to celebrate the major holidays to develop a sense of family at Waypoint

and to give the clients something to look forward to. She is a sympathetic ear to the clients when they need it. She also clearly explains the program’s expectations for the young adults living at Waypoint, and she expects these expectations to be followed. She is loved and respected by her clients and the staff.

When summing up Ms. Joyce, her supervisor explains, “Words can’t describe all of the things Ms. Joyce has done behind the scenes to ensure things run smoothly for the clients, and the staff. She is truly an asset to this program.”

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.



community
rewards

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