

The Good Samaritan

JCPS Work Transition Program Partners with Food Pantry

Malcolm calls himself the “hype man.”

Rightly so. He brings a ton of energy while serving clients at the produce window of St. Vincent de Paul Louisville’s Food Pantry.

He is one of a handful of students in the JCPS Ahrens Work Transition Program that volunteers at the Food Pantry every Thursday. The program’s goal is to prepare students, 18- to 21-years-old, for independent, paid employment after high school. Students are placed in this program if they are eligible for services in the Functional Mental Disability and Multiple Disability Programs. There are currently 32 students enrolled in the program.

“St. Vincent de Paul has been fantastic,” said JCPS Instructional Assistant Anita Pelle, who brings students on Thursdays. “They are very supportive of our kiddos and their abilities. They treat them like one of the regular volunteer crew.”

It’s a beautiful thing when students with various disabilities, who are working through some of their own challenges, serve clients who have some challenges of their own as well.

“To them, this is my work. This is my job. This is what we’re going to do on Thursday. They work hard,” Pelle added.



While at SVDP, the group fills Dare to Care bags, and some work customer service at the Food Pantry windows.

“Kamaree, who used to volunteer here, you could watch her blossom from being super quiet to jumping around,” Pelle added. “She would tell stories when she got done about ... the whole customer service experience.”

Kamaree has since been able to find paid employment.

After the pandemic, the JCPS Work Transition Program began looking for different worksites its students could gain on-the-job training and social skills

for their future jobs. SVDP was one of the several businesses this program has partnered with, and it has been a great match ever since.

“It’s been good,” said Ronniesha, 19, who is in the program. “I like the people here. I enjoy making friends in this program.”

SVDP’s Food Pantry is open from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is fully staffed by volunteers and offers canned goods, proteins, pasta, shelf-stable beverages as well as frozen foods including meat, poultry, and fish. Fresh produce is also available year-round.

In 2022, with the price of groceries largely increasing, the Food Pantry served an average of more than 650 households monthly.

Volunteer Steve Hennessy says having the extra hands has helped.

“Those kids are great,” Hennessy said. “I really think it provides training for them. Anita’s had several that have worked here that have now gone onto jobs. They’re perfectly capable ... The sense of self-worth that provides, you can see it in their faces.”

If you would like more information about volunteering or donating to the Food Pantry, visit www.svdplou.org/.





St. Vincent
de Paul

LOUISVILLE

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The monthly newsletter of
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
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By the Numbers Jan. 2022 - Dec. 2022

Housing

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

- 508 people were served, 110 families and 138 individuals.
- 228 of these people were children.
- 83% of the exits were positive.

Ozanam Inn Shelter

- 348 men served in 2022.
- 56 men exited to stable housing.

VA Program

- 43 men have been served.
- 64% of men served have exited to permanent housing.

Feeding

Open Hand Kitchen

- Our Open Hand Kitchen served meals two times a day for a monthly average of more than 8,400 meals.

Food Pantry

- Our volunteer-run Food Pantry averaged more than 650 households monthly.

Supporting

Family Success Center

- 39 students registered for the after school program. The average attendance was 16.
- 48% of students have improved their site word skills in reading.
- 75% of students are now reading at grade level. (Our goal is to be at 90% by the end of the 2022-23 school year.)
- 100% of students have demonstrated increased STEM skills and knowledge.
- 71% of students have shown improvements in their grades. (Our goal is to be at 75% by the end of the 2022-23 school year.)



Frigid Temps

In extreme weather over Christmas weekend, St. Vincent de Paul Louisville was grateful to open its doors to serve those in the community so they could stay safe and warm.

A couple of our clients helped inflate 22 emergency air mattresses in our Open Hand Kitchen. Photo credit goes to Sam Upshaw Jr. of *The Courier-Journal*.

Donor Profile: Patrick Crowe

Patrick Crowe, who worked with Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance for 28 years and is currently a consulting actuary, enjoys being a generous person.

"I'm very blessed with the assets I've accumulated over the years," Crowe said.

At 78-years-old, Crowe says his financial focus has shifted from accumulating assets to properly allocating them.

"I'm 78 and I'm in excellent health, but how many more years am I going to live? ... So, I'm trying to make practical decisions with our assets," Crowe added. "Given my stage in life, it's the right thing to do ... It just makes me feel good that I can give money to charities and deduct it from my income taxes."

With two children and five grandchildren, Crowe believes it's important to invest in the next generation in terms of education and helping others get out of poverty.

He focuses his financial generosity to local charities—with St. Vincent de Paul Louisville holding a prominent spot in his heart. Crowe is a Vincentian who is a past president of the Holy Trinity Conference and has been a member for 26 years.

"There are so many wonderful organizations out there, but you never know whether they're legitimate or not, so I try to focus on what I know locally," he said. "I know St. Vincent de Paul and I think it's incredible the work they do there."

Another reason Crowe donates financially is that he feels it's his responsibility to empower organizations to serve others.

"I don't have any skills in those areas. Why shouldn't I donate to professional organizations who have the skills to help these people? I don't, all I do is have some assets to help you guys do your work," Crowe said.



Patrick Crowe, middle, is pictured with his children, Elizabeth and Timothy.

Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS AT
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LOUISVILLE



Roses & Rosé

April 29th

Clubs & Cocktails

August 6th and 7th

Our thanks to Louisville Metro
Government for their support



Success Story from Ozanam Inn 'H' goes from Homeless to Housed

Case Manager Latoya Webb-Elliott says one of her Ozanam Inn clients, 'H', is "a model client." A couple of years ago, he "fell on hard times." 'H' lost his son, ex-wife and her dad in a car accident. "He fell into depression," Webb-Elliott said. 'H' lost his job at MSD and then housing. Last March, he came to Ozanam Inn, and shortly thereafter, got a job for two months with St. Vincent de Paul's Warehouse. He wanted a car, but didn't have enough money to purchase one.

In June, Webb-Elliott helped 'H' update his resume and he was able to get a good job. Then, he prioritized several areas of his life. 'H' bought a car to get to and from work, became active in church, paid off his debt, saved money and increased his credit score. While at SVDP, he volunteered in the Open Hand Kitchen. 'H' was able to land back on his feet, and in November, he became a homeowner.

"I was just always an encourager because I've been in that situation before too, so encouragement goes a long way," Webb-Elliott said. Case Manager Stephen Jones added, "He definitely kept the faith as far as that there was light at the end of the tunnel ... He's the definition of what you're supposed to do when you come here. If you want something, you're going to go do it. He took initiative."

Family Drops off 1,000 Items

In December, the Lanman family donated roughly 1,000 items to St. Vincent de Paul Louisville. This is the second year in a row they've given around the holidays to SVDP, but this time they wanted to do "bigger and better."

Will Lanman says his mother, Florence, led the charge.

"Mom is that lady. She is that Catholic. Literally, when people talk about her, they call her 'saint,'" Will said. "She lives modestly and doesn't have much, but she doesn't want much either."

Though a stroke suffered about a decade ago has limited Florence's physical capabilities, she has volunteered in a variety of areas at SVDP over the years.

Last year, Will said it was his wife's idea to donate items as a Christmas gift for Florence.



"This is what we get my mom for Christmas. It's us getting together, shopping and giving. My mom also contributed about as much as we did," Will added.

Along with his mom, brother and one of his sons, they shopped and purchased miscellaneous items like blankets, socks, gloves, nonperishable foods, and personal items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and soap.

The Lanmans desire to do more and more each year, even considering to start a foundation whose purpose is to donate to SVDP.

Help Wanted

St Vincent de Paul seeks a Pick-up & Delivery Driver to perform a variety of tasks related to the pick-up of donated goods and merchandise, the delivery of those goods and the distribution of processed and unprocessed merchandise to the warehouse and our two Thrift Stores. Some warehouse duties are assigned as well. [Learn more at svdplou.org/jobs](https://svdplou.org/jobs)

Church Group Volunteers at Open Hand Kitchen

On Dec. 29, 2022, a group from Hesler Assembly of God in Owenton, Kentucky, handed out a trailer full of clothing, hats, hygiene products, toys, coats and blankets to clients during lunch at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's Open Hand Kitchen.

This ministry started 11 years ago because an elementary-age student from their church, Carsyn, decided she wanted to do some sort of service to those in need. Since, its church members have donated various items each year, driving more than an hour to give them out personally.

Carsyn's grandmother used to play the piano for some of the SVDP clients who came on campus.



Save the Date

April 29th, 2023
11am-1pm
The Olmsted



Mark your calendars and come enjoy a wonderful afternoon of brunch, rosé, celebration, and more. Tickets on sale now at the QR code!