

The Good Samaritan

Family Success Center Partners with Engelhard Elementary School



Shantaz Williams, known as “man-man” to his friends, said he “feels happy” when he comes to St. Vincent de Paul Louisville’s Family Success Center. A third grader, Williams is one of 10 Engelhard Elementary School students who attend the FSC’s after school program Monday through Thursday.

Most of the Engelhard students are McKinney-Vento eligible, and thankfully, Williams is no longer eligible. McKinney-Vento eligible students are considered homeless—meaning those who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and could be sharing housing with others or living in shelters, motels, trailer parks, abandoned buildings, parks, and train stations. The McKinney-Vento federal law was created to support the education of homeless students by removing as many barriers to learning as possible.

Regina Jackson-Willis, the Family Resource and Youth Services Centers Coordinator (FRYSC) at Engelhard Elementary, has been on the frontlines of this for 12 years.

“My task is to remove non-academic barriers that prevent students from being successful,” Jackson-Willis said. “So those are basic needs—food, shelter, clothing, school supplies. Think about us as adults, if you’re hungry, you don’t do well ... We comb hair. We have a washer and dryer for kids who come in with dirty clothes.”

During her interview with us, Jackson-Willis was continually interrupted by kids who needed something as simple as deodorant. Her office isn’t really an office, instead it’s stocked

full of personal hygiene items, shoes, coats, clothing, and school supplies that take up the majority of her space.

“We have a very high need, transient population of students,” Jackson-Willis added. “We have kids come and go weekly. We have a lot of absences. That’s the plight of being homeless though. I always have to make sure people understand when you see homeless adults, there’s a high percentage of children attached to that person on the street.”

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville has partnered with Engelhard for almost a decade. The school is right down the street—only half a mile—from SVDP.

“They’re excited about going to St. Vincent when they see Mr. Julio (Anthony) pulling up in the van. They love Mr. Julio,” she said.

“I’m grateful that our students have the opportunity to do something outside of the school day,” Jackson-Willis added. “They’re safe, fed and their needs are taken care of after school hours. A lot of stuff happens after school hours. We know our kids are safe at St. Vincent. I think they care about them as much as we do. It takes a village.”

The Family Success Center’s after-school program is Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. The FSC’s main goal, especially for its elementary students, is to shrink the educational gap and get each child on grade level for reading, math, science, and other school subjects. To volunteer at the FSC, please visit <https://www.svdplou.org/get-involved/>.





ST. VINCENT
de PAUL
LOUISVILLE

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Roses & Rosé April 29



We are so excited to celebrate the fifth year anniversary of Roses & Rosé. This event has become a tradition for many women and mothers in our community. We would love for you to be a part again or for the first time, as our upscale-casual brunch is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Olmsted.

Abigail Costello, a mom of three boys, has attended every year. "I've been a mom for five years now, so this event is important on two levels. We're celebrating each

other and the women in our lives and then also serving a greater purpose for the women who have benefited from St. Vincent de Paul services," she said.

All of the proceeds from Roses & Rosé will benefit our Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Program, which has 18-units for survivors and their families who need housing and services that meet their immediate need for safety and help them exit to stable, permanent housing in the community.

If you're interested in purchasing a table, becoming a sponsor, or would like to purchase an individual ticket, check out <https://one.bidpal.net/rosesandrose2023/> welcome. You may also purchase a nice meal for one of the many women we serve, which will be delivered the day before the event. For any questions, contact Makenzie Smith at (502) 272-2134 or msmith@svdplou.org.

University of Louisville Art Therapy Student Sketches St. Paul's Church

UofL Art Therapy student Caroline Ketron designed this sketch of St. Paul's Church, now known as St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's Open Hand Kitchen. In 2022, Ketron was a practicum student at SVDP who worked with Clinical Services Coordinator Pam Scott to serve clients. She also facilitated a weekly Art Therapy group at Roberts Hall, which is a Section 8 permanent housing complex with 24 Single Room Occupancy units for women where residents have a private bedroom and share common spaces and facilities.

"My time at St. Vincent was awesome and I loved it there. The longer I was there, the more I got to know the staff that worked in the office," Ketron said.



She did some sketches of a few of the staff members' dogs, which then led to her being requested to do a sketch of St. Paul's Church as a farewell gift for those stepping off of the SVDP Board of Directors in December.

The digital sketch of the church took her about four hours. Ketron graduates this May with a Masters in Art Therapy.

Donor Profile: Tom and Ann Bizzell

Tom and Ann Bizzell are generous with their time and money.

"It's a mission we believe in," Tom said. "The reputation St. Vincent de Paul has built over the years."

We have heard it over and over again that people trust St. Vincent de Paul Louisville to use their hard earned money in fiscally responsible ways.

"It takes money to operate," Tom said. "The need is out there."

Their sole motivation to donate money is to help someone in need.

"It just makes us feel so good to help people who are in need," Ann added. "There are so many people who need help out there. I mean really need help. We give to the organizations we know will use the money the way it should be used."

Tom and Ann have been Vincentians since 1987 and 1979, respectively.

"Tom and Ann Bizzell, better known as the Santa Shop Punch and Cookie Team, are members of the St. Edward Conference. They live the mission of St. Vincent de Paul with their many in-kind gifts as well as supporting all programs on campus. Their service is greatly appreciated," said Donna Young, Director of Volunteer Services and Conference Affairs.

The Bizzells drive three times a week to drop-off groceries at the SVDP Food Pantry or clothes and snacks at Paul's Garage, which is for our on-campus clients.

"One time we picked up all these new men's suits, shirts and everything to match," Ann said. "As we were getting them out of the car to drop them off, there was a man walking down the alley. He said, 'Can I have that? I really need a suit?' ... He put that jacket on. He walked down that alley. He thought he had a million dollars."



Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS AT
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LOUISVILLE



Come Join Us!

Roses & Rosé

April 29th

Clubs & Cocktails

August 6th and 7th

For event information, to be a sponsor, or make a donation, please contact Makenzie Smith at (502) 272-2134 or msmith@svdplou.org.

Our thanks to Louisville Metro Government for their support



Board of Directors Welcomes 9 New Board Members

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville officially welcomed nine new Board Members on January 24th for their first three-year term. As we move into our 170th year of service, these new Board Members bring their gifts to help us fulfill the mission

to house, feed, and support those in need. Most importantly, we will have unique perspectives and diversity, including the voice of lived experience that reflects the challenges of the people who come to us for support. CEO Dave Calzi said, "St. Vincent de Paul Louisville has a dedicated Board of Directors that bring a generosity of spirit, expertise, and most importantly a passion for our mission of housing, feeding, and supporting those in need with compassion and dignity. Our Board is an integral part of our success and future growth."

SVDP recognizes the following nine new Board Members:

- Amy Corbett
- Jeannie Donovan
- John Higgins
- Frederick Moore
- Yolanda Pritchard
- Jerri Quillman
- Donna Russell
- Tyler Ward
- Sister Jean Anne Zappa



About our Conferences: St. Edward

Debbie Bates felt called to get out of her comfort zone.

"I feel that I get a calling to do more than just go to church," Bates said. "At the beginning, it wasn't in my comfort zone, but it's become in my comfort zone to do what Pope Francis told us to, which is 'go out and smell the sheep.' When you go do a home visit, that's what you're doing. You're seeing where they live, what they do, and trying to help people where they are instead of just being in an office and coldly answering the phone."

In 2012, Bates began serving on the St. Edward Vincentian Conference and is now its president. She is suffering from stage 4 cancer, but continues to serve.

"We find out what their need is and if we can meet their need or assist with their need," Bates added. "We try to give them a lot of direction and education about where they can go for assistance."

St. Edward Vincentians help about 3,000 people per year, whether they support a client directly or outsource to another organization or conference that can help with rent, mortgage payments, or car insurance among other needs.

There are 10 active members who field 20-30 calls a week "if it's a calm month."

Treasurer Carol Jenkins was a stay-at-home mom of a one-year-old when she started volunteering with the St. Edward Vincentian Conference 34 years ago.

"I felt like there were so many people who had so little and I've never experienced that," Jenkins said. "I'm at the age where it's like, 'I ought to retire,' but I can't. There's a concern that these people need the immediate assistance that St. Vincent de Paul provides."

We are incredibly grateful to the St. Edward Vincentian Conference for seeing and meeting the needs of those around them.



FSC Success Story-Jeremiah

Jeremiah is a 14-year-old teenager with a bright future ahead. He began coming to St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's Family Resource Center when he was in elementary school with his mother and two twin siblings.

When the family arrived, the twin siblings were low functioning due to experienced trauma, but they have come consistently to the FSC for about six years, always eager to learn and ready to have fun.

Julio Anthony, SVDP's Associate Director of Community Support, has worked alongside this family and has seen them grow leaps and bounds over the years.

He is excited to see Jeremiah live up to his potential.

"Jeremiah is a very intelligent young man," Anthony said. "I tell him every day that he's very special and that he needs to continue doing what he needs to do and not fall by the wayside. I really believe he's going to be a great man when he's older."

Pam Evans joins SVDP Team as Director of Development

We are so excited to announce Pam Evans as the new Director of Development for St. Vincent de Paul Louisville. Evans said, "I'm excited to be a part of an organization dedicated to solving homelessness in our community and the issues people face while homeless." She comes to us from the American Red Cross where she was a Regional Philanthropy Officer working with individual, corporate, and foundation partners across Kentucky during some of the most devastating disasters our Commonwealth has ever experienced. CEO Dave Calzi said, "We are very fortunate to be adding Pam to our team. Pam's passion is to be of service and her experience at the Red Cross and at GE Appliances will be invaluable as we continue to focus on garnering the resources to enable us to carry out our mission of housing, feeding, and supporting those in need with compassion and dignity." You may contact Evans at (502) 301-8672.

