

The Good Samaritan

Happy Father's Day from the Family Success Center

Michael Baker walks one block with his two daughters to St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's Family Success Center four days a week during the school year. They also attend summer programming.

His daughters, J'Marie and Yhana-Roe, are incoming fourth and fifth graders, respectively. They've been associated with the FSC for almost six years.

"At this time, I'm a single parent," Baker said. "So, it literally takes a weight off my shoulders ... It's like having a second person there. St. Vincent de Paul is a community that helps me out a lot."

The FSC's goal is to provide educational and social development opportunities for at-risk children who are experiencing extreme poverty and homelessness.

"St. Vincent de Paul is a great pillar of the community," Baker added. "It definitely is something that is needed. A lot of people who live in and around this neighborhood probably couldn't survive without the FSC or St. Vincent de Paul."

The FSC partners with Dare to Care, which provides a Kids Café, and is a JCPS and Evolve502 Learning Hub, providing tutoring on trauma-informed reading. The FSC's after-school program is Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m.

"At the after-school program, they get to enjoy a meal," he said. "They get help with their homework, and then after that, it's free time. So they enjoy having free time with the other kids. It's well-rounded for a nice after-school activity."

Programs include tutoring, athletic programs, and enrichment workshops such as art classes, interpersonal communication, robotics, and cooking classes.

"It's cool because we get free time," added Yhana-Roe. "How much free time you get is in proportion to how much homework you do. They help you with your homework."

We are proud of our outcomes from the 2022-23 school year.

- 75% of K-3rd grade participants were reading on grade level
- 100% of participants demonstrated increased STEM knowledge
- 83% of students showed improvements in their grades

In Kentucky, less than half of 4th graders are proficient in reading. It drops to 36% in Jefferson County. Through our after-school program, 80% of our 4th and 5th grade students are reading on grade level.

Baker says SVDP has helped his family with more than getting good grades, but all the way around.

"The FSC offers the Food Pantry. They help us with food if we need it. They also have a clothes closet for kids if your kids need a coat, some clothes, or something like that. They have a lot of different resources, so St. Vincent de Paul helps out all across the board," Baker said.

Most importantly, Baker says he feels safe leaving his daughters in the hands of the SVDP staff, and that they genuinely care about each student.

"All the staff in general, do a great job. (SVDP's Associate Director of Community Support) Mr. Julio Anthony,

he's been here the whole time," Baker added. "He is definitely somebody who is a light not only to me, but my daughters also. They look up to him."

The FSC has helped Baker and other families living on campus and in the surrounding neighborhoods since it opened in Sept. 2014.

"I'm always coming to get an application for a niece, nephew, or neighbor. I highly recommend it," he said.





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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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Family Success Center Partners with Evolve502 and JCPS for its Summer Programming

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's Family Success Center is hosting the "Backpack League" summer camp from June 21 to July 14 for incoming 1st-8th graders.

It's in partnership with Evolve502 and JCPS.

"The FSC and its staff are excited to begin their collaboration with Evolve502 and JCPS in the 'Backpack League' summer camp," said Julio Anthony, SVDP's Associate Director of Community Support. "This alliance will bring forth more opportunity and resources for our children who live on campus and within our scattered site programs. We are also inviting children who are eager to learn during the summer months and enjoy fun, fellowship, and structure, even if they are not a part of the after-school programming at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville."

This is the first year the Backpack League will take place on the SVDP campus. It's open to all students, with the SVDP site having 50 participants signed up.



Michael Baker is grateful to keep his two daughters active and engaged during the summer months.

"With the summertime program, they like to be able to come year-round and meet the same friends and also meet new friends," Baker said. "It really helps out a lot as far as giving them some type of structure in the summer ... because I look for something during the summertime that's not just full of activities and running around, but also incorporates enrichment ... But they love it. The kids love it."

The four-week summer camp will host elementary school students from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and middle school students from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday at the FSC.

success STORIES ×

Success Story-Mr. J Housed because of Ozanam Inn's 24/7 shift

Since last September, St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's Ozanam Inn Men's Homeless Shelter has been operating 24/7. This is a huge shift in programming, but ultimately it has served those in this community in a powerful way, one client at a time. "With 24/7, it just wiped out a lot of problems instantly," said Sam Schreier, SVDP's Ozanam Inn Program Manager. "This gives our clients stability and a place where they can figure their life out." For example, Mr J. is someone who secured permanent housing this spring because of the change to a 24/7 access site. During his stay, Mr J. worked third shift and returned to Ozanam Inn so he could sleep during the day. Third shift typically pays higher wages, which is important for clients trying to save up. There are about five men currently benefiting from being able to work at night and sleep during the day.

Clubs & Cocktails Celebrates 20th Anniversary



St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's largest annual fundraiser, ISCO Industries Clubs & Cocktails, celebrates its 20th anniversary. This two-day event features a dinner and auction on Sunday, Aug. 6, at The Olmsted, and a golf scramble on Monday, Aug. 7, at Hurstbourne Country Club. Proceeds directly benefit several of our programs.

"I just think that the event itself is a way to contribute to St. Vincent de Paul's cause and to take the opportunity to get to know some of the programs and services that your contribution supports," said Larry Blandford, an SVDP Board Member. "I think many will find that there are a lot of

elements your contribution supports that you might relate really closely with and find a further passion to support."

If you're interested in sponsoring this event, registering a foursome, purchasing a table or tickets for the dinner, donating auction items or your favorite bottle of bourbon, or volunteering, please reach out to Makenzie Smith, SVDP's Senior Development & Events Coordinator, at (502) 272-2134 or msmith@svdplou.org.

How Art Helps Domestic Violence Survivors Heal

A year and a half ago, Kristina Kleinert started painting everyday as a way to heal from her divorce.

With three boys and more free time on her hands when they weren't with her, Kleinert initially took up art as a hobby and now uses it to help others.

"It's helped because the emotions involved in my divorce were very real," Kleinert said. "They were very fresh and very difficult. I just feel like I got lucky with art as a way to try to heal. To be able to pay it forward is awesome."

Kleinert has worked as an Artist in Residence at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Program since Dec. 2022.

"There's a lot to relate to with these residents," Kleinert added. "I guess for me, it's been a way for me to honestly process feelings and also release them."

The Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Program has 18 units for survivors and their families. The program offers housing and services that meet families' and individuals' immediate needs for safety and help them exit to stable, permanent housing in the community.

Art is one way to help residents heal.

"I really enjoy the residents and staff. I truly feel so lucky and grateful to be with everyone here creating art," she said. "It's hard for me to put it in words—which is kind of the whole thing about art—you don't have to have words."

Kleinert says they primarily do acrylic paint on canvases.

"I don't have any rules," Kleinert said. "It's just like play more than anything. Just experimenting and having fun with the process."

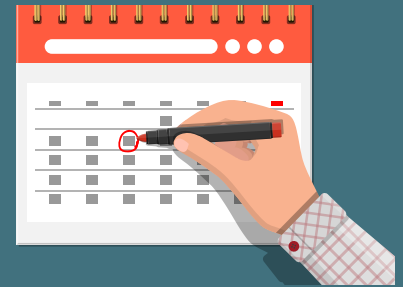


She recalls one evening where every table in the kitchen was full of residents and their kids painting.

"Kristina has done so much wonderful work with helping those we serve through art," said Danielle Bell, SVDP's Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Program Manager.

Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS AT
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LOUISVILLE



Come Join Us!

Garden Group

Mondays & Thursdays this summer at 10 a.m. (9 a.m. if temperature over 90 degrees)

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



As a domestic violence survivor with one child, "L" attends Kleinert's art group and finds it "relaxing."

"You don't think about it as therapy until ... you'd rather do this on a Friday night than go to the bar. That's some type of self-healing," she said.

"I think one of the impacts art has on those who have been the victim of trauma is its ability to help those individuals express their needs and feelings when unable to express them verbally," added Matt Weaver, SVDP's Associate Director of Clinical Services.

Kleinert's Artist in Residence position ends this month.

CLARK brightens up Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Program

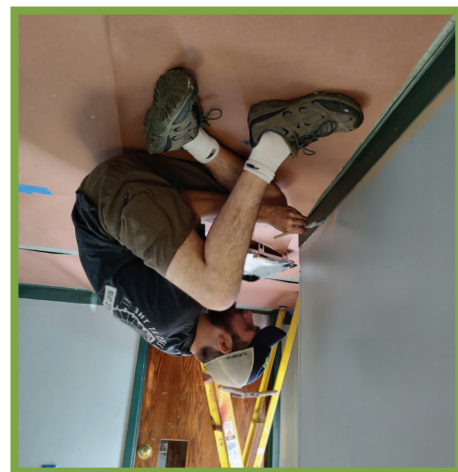
A small but mighty team! We want to thank CLARK Material Handling Company for serving at this year's Mayor's Give a Day Celebration of Service on April 11-12! They gave our Domestic Violence Transitional Housing Program hallway a new look to brighten up the area where our domestic violence survivors stay daily. "CLARK is wholeheartedly committed to giving back to

our community," said Cynthia Barnes, CLARK's Community Relations Manager. "We strive through our values and our mission statement to be a dedicated corporate citizen. This commitment is much more than words and routinely shown through actions. We allow all our employees paid time off to volunteer and we seek out transformational projects that will make a difference in the lives

of others." Thanks to Louisville Mayor Greenberg and Metro United Way for caring about our community!



WITH SUPPORT FROM METRO UNITED WAY



Holy Trinity Parish School Volunteers for Annual Service Day

As a part of their annual service day, 45 eighth graders from Holy Trinity Parish School volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville's campus on April 25. They planted flowers, raked leaves, landscaped around the Administration Building, and also sorted clothes at the Family Success Center's clothes closet. Holy Trinity has partnered with SVDP for many years, and started serving five years ago.

"It allows our students to be the hands and feet of Christ," said Ashley Davenport, Holy Trinity's Director of Student Activities. "Though we believe it's important to collect canned goods or toys at school and drop them off, we want to allow our students to do hands-on service in the community. We want to pay it forward in some small way. One eighth grader told me, 'It's a lot of hard work, but we were able to accomplish it together.'"



HOLY TRINITY PARISH SCHOOL

