

The Good Samaritan

One Year Later: How a 24/7 shelter is helping the homeless

LaCurtis Bland is moving into his own apartment this month. Bland has sought success and stability across the country in Los Angeles, Dallas, Detroit, and Chicago, before finally finding it at St. Vincent de Paul Louisville.

Bland credits the experience at Ozanam Inn Men's Homeless Shelter with being able to find safe, affordable housing. This was in large part because our organization made a 180-degree change. Well, more like 24/7.

Though we've been around for 170 years, this September marks the one-year anniversary since Ozanam Inn became the most recent shelter to go 24/7. And that shift is saving lives.

"It caters to my flexibility, so, if I'm working night shift, all I have to do is sign out," said LaCurtis Bland, a former client at Ozanam Inn. "I don't have to change my schedule around when I come here. I think that helped out a lot. When I was staying at another homeless shelter in Louisville, I knew I couldn't take any schedule for the job because I had to be back by 5 or 6 p.m."

Between Sept. 1, 2022 and July 31, 2023, 50 Ozanam Inn clients exited to positive housing destinations.

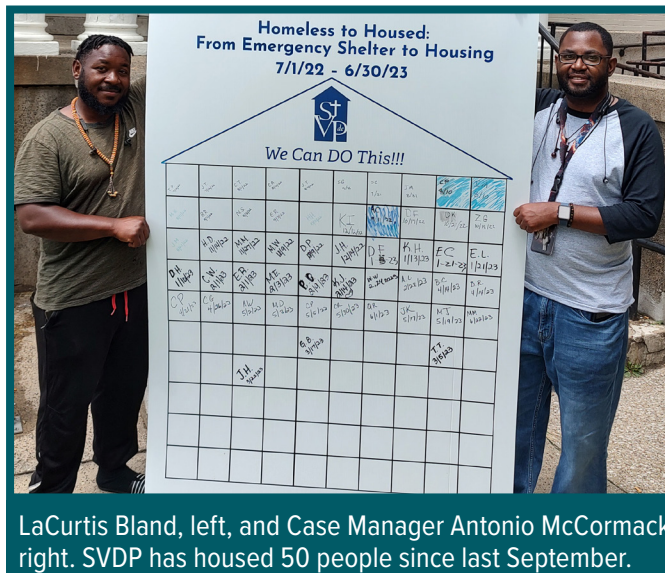
"This city has the best programs for homeless people," Bland added.

It has been a beacon of hope in a city still suffering from the effects of the pandemic, persistent inflation, and a continued need for more shelter space and affordable housing across the city.

Ozanam Inn, which opened in 1984 and has 50 beds including 10 private rooms, has seen the percentage of men going into permanent housing increase from 15% to 32% in the last year. This

exceeds the national benchmark HUD sets at 25%. Though men are staying with us longer, they are accessing more services and obtaining housing at more than two times the previous success rate.

"By removing check-in and check-out, it instantly eliminates a lot of barriers, giving our clients stability and a place where they can reclaim their lives," said Sam Schreier, Ozanam Inn Program Manager.



LaCurtis Bland, left, and Case Manager Antonio McCormack, right. SVDP has housed 50 people since last September.

Most shelters up north are 24/7 because of the cold winters. However, the process at most local shelters is for clients to check-in at 3 p.m. and check-out at 8 a.m.

Prior to going 24/7 at Ozanam Inn, if clients didn't check-in at 3 p.m. every day, they would lose their beds. With 24/7, we've created an environment where it's easier for clients to focus on making progress towards gaining permanent housing, instead of worrying about whether they will have a bed to come back to.

"There's less stress to find a place to stay and try to press forward," said Antonio McCormack, Ozanam Inn Case Manager.

Here are several reasons why 24/7 services have helped our clients:

- At Ozanam Inn, our clients can leave whenever they need and only have to sign-in and sign-out once a day (whenever is most convenient for their schedule) so that they secure their bed.
- Since clients aren't forced to roam the streets for seven hours a day, they are a lot more reachable for our nonprofit partners. Often, social service jobs are first shift, so it's important to be able to connect with clients during the day.
- Clients have a place they can leave their belongings and an address to receive mail. Before, they had to take everything but a tote that could be left on the bed with them each morning—even if they had a job interview. It's easier to find good work if you are well-rested, showered, and you know that your valuables are secured.
- It allows clients who work third shift to sleep during the day. Third shift typically pays higher wages, which is important for clients saving up.
- Even simple things like showering and doing laundry, which we often take for granted in our lives, has become easier in theirs. Now, clients don't have to compete for a shower or the washer and dryer all at once, which reduces conflict.

In short, making this change restores dignity and autonomy for people who experience very little of that on the streets. This shift leads to people securing housing and finding jobs. It has also allowed us to be more true to our life-saving mission.



ST. VINCENT
de PAUL

LOUISVILLE

The Good Samaritan

The monthly newsletter of
St. Vincent de Paul Louisville

Send correspondence to PO Box 17126,
Louisville, KY 40217-0126

Visit us at 1015-C South Preston Street,
Louisville, KY 40203-2733

Dave Calzi
CEO/Executive Director

Pam Evans
Director of Development
pevans@svdplou.org

Donna Young
Director of Conference Affairs
& Volunteer Services

Tony Nochim
Communications & Public Relations
Coordinator

Send comments and change
of address notifications to
tnochim@svdplou.org

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.

svdplou.org



svdplouky



svdplouky



St. Vincent de Paul Louisville

Out of the Ashes

DePaul Apartments renovated one year after the fire



A two-week trip to the hospital quickly took a turn for the worst five months ago.

"It's one thing after another," Scotty Cantrell said.

Cantrell had a long battle with COVID and flulike symptoms that eventually caused his kidneys to decline, so doctors told him he would have to start dialysis.

"In that process, I missed work and I was late paying rent. I was two weeks to a month behind. The landlord decided to kick us out," Cantrell added. "It was either pay my rent and my LG&E gets shut off, or I pay my LG&E bill and get behind on my rent."

Cantrell and his 7-year-old daughter, Jazzy, were evicted from his Louisville apartment. He paid \$900 in application fees searching for another place to live, but no one would accept his Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher with an eviction on his record.

"Nobody would work with me ... and they didn't care how I got the eviction," he said.

He and his daughter had to stay at Wayside Christian Mission and Volunteers of America for the next four months.

During that time, Cantrell had four kidney-related procedures and now goes to dialysis on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. He has additional appointments on Tuesdays and Thursdays and also works part-time as a security guard at Securitas, where he's been for seven years. Thankfully, as

a single father, Cantrell's mother watches Jazzy when she's out of school.

During their time at the VOA, they were referred to St. Vincent de Paul Louisville.



Coming Home

In late June, Cantrell and his daughter moved into DePaul Apartments, which offers 12 fully furnished, two-bedroom apartments to families who are homeless and in need of permanent supportive housing.

"I pretty much fell in love with the apartment when I first moved in here," Cantrell said.

There's a reason for that. We don't just want to house people; we want to give them a place they can call home.

The apartment that Cantrell and his daughter moved into happened to be

"I wouldn't have been able to guess there was a fire"

completely refurbished because of a fire at DePaul Apartments on the evening of Aug. 3, 2022.



"Mr. Cantrell has been looking forward to having this apartment," said Douglas Vasquez, Cantrell's Case Manager. "He can tell the care that was placed in restoring the unit. He told me, 'I wouldn't have been able to guess that there was a fire in this room.'"

The restoration work was not easy, nor fast, but it is done. And it was done above and beyond expectations.

"(Director of Facilities and Maintenance) Michael Smith and the rest of the team, in collaboration with our partners at SERVPRO and our insurance companies, worked hard to restore that apartment," said Jennifer Clark, SVDP's Chief Operating Officer. "It looks amazing. The bar has been raised. We want to gradually update all of our apartments to look modern and fresh."

Finding Stability

Author Matthew Desmond writes, "The home is the center of life ... When people have a place to live, they become better parents, workers, and citizens."

We want everyone—single parents, children, veterans, seniors, volunteer groups, or high school students—to feel

like they're at home when they step foot on our campus.

"Mr. Cantrell's desire to have a stable location for his daughter was something that he prided himself in, and, after joining us, he couldn't be happier," Vasquez added.

Jazzy says her stay at SVDP has been "good." She loves to play outside at the playground next to the apartments and is excited to join in the Family Success Center's after-school programming.

"Everybody here is nice ... Jazzy has friends here. She knows one of the girls from her school at Engelhard Elementary. It's convenient," Cantrell said.

Jazzy, who also has kidney issues, has doctor appointments downtown that are all within walking distance.

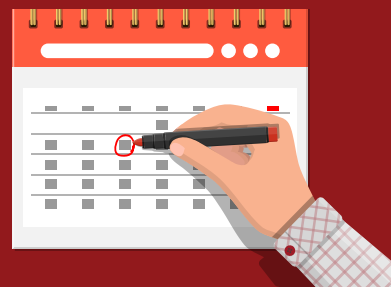
DePaul Apartments, which opened in 1988, is located on South Preston St. The apartments are specifically for parents with one or two children. Clients pay up to 30% of their income towards rent. SVDP covers utilities, furniture, and pest control for these units. Each family is provided with case management services.

Cantrell sees a transplant team this month to get on the kidney transplant waiting list. If you're interested in helping, visit <https://uoflhealth.org/services/living-kidney-donor-transplant-program/>.



Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS AT
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LOUISVILLE



Come Join Us!

Give for Good

September 14

Tour de Change

September 14

For event information, please contact
Makenzie Smith at (502) 272-2134 or
msmith@svdplou.org.

Our thanks to Louisville Metro
Government for their support



20th Annual Clubs & Cocktails a Hole-in-One

We want to thank the 250 guests who attended the 20th annual Isco Industries Clubs & Cocktails on Aug. 6 and 7. This two-day event featured a dinner and auction at The Olmsted on Sunday and a golf scramble at Hurstbourne Country Club on Monday. With your support, we were able to raise more than \$115,000.

All of the proceeds from Clubs & Cocktails will further our mission to house, feed, and support those in need with compassion and dignity.

We are so grateful for all who attended this event, and we would like to highlight the following sponsors for making this possible:

Title Sponsor:



Corporate Sponsors:



Signature Sponsors:



Foursome Sponsors:



Carl &
Carleen Herde
John Higgins



Mike & Michelle
Spurlock

Doug Francke Larry Blandford Steve Woeste



Get ready for the 10th Annual Give for Good Louisville on Sept. 14

This year we are fundraising for feeding those in need, which will go towards those we serve at our Open Hand Kitchen and Food Pantry. Our goal is \$60,000. Your donations must be made on Sept. 14, not before or after, so that it counts towards the Give for Good day total. If you have any questions, reach out to Makenzie Smith at msmith@svdplou.org or (502) 272-2134.

