

The Good Samaritan

Shirley Jett attended school and married at St. Vincent de Paul



Shirley is in the second desk on the left at St. Paul School, now Ozanam Inn.

St. Vincent de Paul Louisville was, and still is, Shirley Jett's home away from home.

"I just feel so at home here," Jett said. "I always tell people that I went to school here and got married here."

Now 87-years-old, Jett recalls growing up right down the street from our Shelby Park campus and has fond moments and celebrated milestones here.

Her uncle was a janitor at St. Paul Catholic Church and rang the church bells for Sunday services.

After her mom passed away when Jett was in first grade, she attended St. Paul School from first through eighth grade. She had to iron her own uniform at the age of six. The Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph taught her class. Her graduating class was 12 students.

Though she didn't have "good memories" of her childhood at home, this place was a safe haven for her.

On Dec. 29, 1956, she married Frank at the altar of St. Paul Catholic Church two years after graduating high school.

"I chose that because it was my second home. I was close here," Jett said. "The



Frank and Shirley Jett married at the St. Paul Catholic Church altar on Dec. 29, 1956.

altar was still here and it was all decorated with poinsettias."

The Jetts had seven children in eight years—three boys, four girls—and times were tough to make ends meet. SVDP conferences—groups of volunteers scattered throughout Louisville serving those in need—stepped up to help.

"It was hard, very hard. I guess my first time at St. Vincent de Paul was around 1960 and they gave me a \$10 food order for groceries," Jett added. "They helped me many times with food. I remember one Christmas two men came over to my house and they gave me a \$100 food order. I never will forget that and I cried ... and I went across the street to get my oldest son, Tony, a winter coat."

These simple acts of kindness are why Jett calls SVDP her "second home."

"That's why I'm so devoted to St. Vincent de Paul now," Jett said. "Every month, I give them money and I'm trying to pay back for how they helped me. It was such a blessing back then."

In 1982, the Archdiocese of Louisville donated the St. Paul School building, St. Paul Catholic Church, and the rectory—all of which are adjacent buildings—to



Shirley serves at the Open Hand Kitchen, formerly St. Paul Catholic Church.

us. St. Paul School was renovated into the Ozanam Inn Men's Emergency Shelter, which now houses 70 single men, and St. Paul Catholic Church was converted into the Open Hand Kitchen, which now feeds almost 10,000 people per month.

Jett, who is a member of the Mary Queen of Peace parish, has volunteered at the Open Hand Kitchen for nearly four decades. Today, she serves lunch twice a month with two of her daughters.

"To me, she's a saint. Truly," said her daughter Mary.

When the children were young, they saw how their mom persevered while Frank was an alcoholic. However, he became sober for the last 18 years of his life until he passed away in 2005. None of Jett's seven children struggled with drugs or alcohol, to which she is wholly grateful.

"God's blessed me my whole life. He's gotten me this far," Jett said. "My guardian angel has watched over me since I was a little girl."

Jett has 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She still walks two miles every day.



ST. VINCENT
de PAUL

LOUISVILLE

The Good Samaritan

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
make a donation, visit our website.

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St. Vincent de Paul Louisville

New Affordable Housing for Homeless Veterans



James B., a Veteran who served in
Iraq and Afghanistan, has been in our
Veterans Transitional Housing Program
since April.

He found himself struggling with the
transition back to civilian life. He battled
with homelessness and poverty and was
in need of assistance. One in 10 homeless
people are Veterans, and like James, 89%
are honorably discharged.

"It was different because the military
gives you a regimen. You're told what to
do and you follow orders. It's easy, but
when you get out, you sort of have to fend
for yourself and that's the challenge,"
James said. "There's nothing for combat
Veterans once they get out to have a
reintegration process back into civilian
lifestyle ... but the PTSD issues don't
come until later."

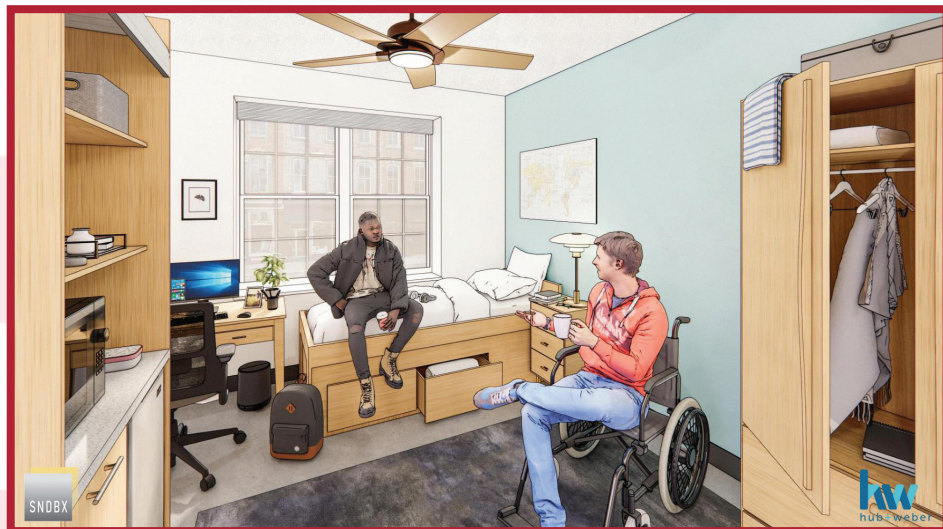
Kentucky loses 118 Veterans to suicide
per year, and homeless Veterans are at a
higher risk to attempt suicide, sometimes
because of eviction or a lack of housing.
However, with critical support from our
Veterans Program, James is heading in the
right direction.

"This place has given me a second
chance," James added. "It's a nice stepping
stone to get grounded, continue on my
path, and move forward."

We are excited to give more Veterans,
like James, a second chance. At Waypoint
House on our Shelby Park campus, we
are expanding services to our Veterans
Program by adding 24 single room
apartments for male and female Veterans
who are homeless, at risk of homelessness,
or who have experienced homelessness in
the past.

Several have already filled out applica-
tions, and we accept housing vouchers or
other forms of rental assistance, as well as
Veterans who are low-income but can pay
their own rent.

"We will continue our Veterans
Transitional Housing Program, which
started two decades ago and provides 20
private rooms to homeless Veterans in our
Ozanam Inn Men's Emergency Shelter,"
said Dave Calzi, St. Vincent de Paul
Louisville's Executive Director. "Now
we have the opportunity to increase our
commitment to Veterans by providing
additional support for our current clients
and those in the community to find
permanent housing."



"This place has given me a second chance."

OUR COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

SINGLE ROOM
OCCUPANCY



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES



MEALS OFFERED DAILY



TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING BEDS



We can help Veterans like James and many more go from homeless to being housed by providing both transitional and permanent affordable housing, including support and services.

"Having these permanent housing units on our campus is a wonderful compliment to the transitional housing program we have at Ozanam Inn," said Sam Schreier, Ozanam Inn's Senior Program Manager. "We have a good amount of participants who become acclimated to the community and available resources on campus."

Veterans will receive resources from the Veteran's Administration (VA) and access to lunch and dinner seven days a week at our Open Hand Kitchen and groceries from our Food Pantry.

"This is another safe and stable housing option for our Veterans," said Gloria Mucker, the VA's Grant & Per Diem Liaison. "Some of our Veterans want to live in a shared community environment in which they are familiar. They want to continue to strengthen the bonds they created during their transitional housing stay at the Ozanam Inn. The addition of a permanent affordable housing option can also be a way to combat loneliness and isolation for many of our Veterans who otherwise would move into unfamiliar and less desired communities."

Support Homeless Veterans

Renovations to Waypoint House are currently underway and expected to last four to six months. The updated facility will include two self-service kitchens, laundry room facilities, and common spaces for connection and recreation. Private rooms will come fully furnished.

Scan me



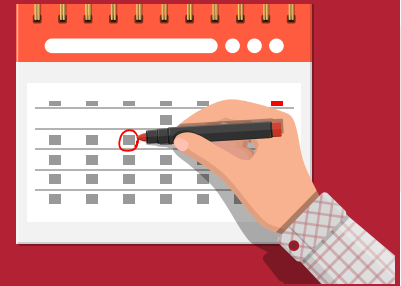
Thanks to the generosity of two lead donors, any donations will be matched up to \$250,000. A gift of \$10,000 will help cover the cost of renovating a private, single room.

This includes furnishings, an accessible wash room, and appliances with needed electrical upgrades, all having access to on-site laundry and common area kitchens.

Please consider donating to provide transitional and permanent housing and lifesaving services to unhoused Veterans. Any amount will help those who have faithfully served our country. They deserve nothing less! Give by scanning the QR code.

Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS AT
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL LOUISVILLE



Come Join Us!

Veterans Day

Saturday, November 11

Thanksgiving Meal

Thursday, November 23

Santa Shop

Sunday, December 10

For event information, please contact
Donna Young at (502) 301-8688 or
dyoung@svdplou.org.

Our thanks to
Louisville Metro
Government for
their support



DID YOU KNOW?

**1 IN 10 HOMELESS PEOPLE
ARE VETERANS**

**89% ARE HONORABLY
DISCHARGED**



**KENTUCKY LOSES 118 VETERANS
TO SUICIDE PER YEAR AND
HOMELESS VETERANS ARE
AT A HIGHER RISK TO
ATTEMPT SUICIDE**



CONSIDER DONATING A HAM OR TURKEY

It's that time of year again. As the leaves start changing colors, the temperatures drop, and Thanksgiving plans are made, think of those in need. There's nothing like sitting with your family around the dinner table and enjoying a Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings.

We want the same for those who will spend Thanksgiving at our Open Hand Kitchen. Every Thanksgiving, we feed roughly 250-300 people. We don't just want to feed them, but give them a memorable meal. We're asking when you go to the grocery store and purchase a turkey or ham for you and your family or friends, that you would consider picking up another one to donate to us.

Please deliver turkeys and hams to the Open Hand Kitchen at 1026 South Jackson St. by Thursday, Nov. 23. If you have any questions, reach out to Program Manager Rayce Payton at (502) 301-8691 or rpayton@svdplou.org. We accept donations 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week. We appreciate your generosity towards our mission to feed those in need!



27TH ANNUAL SANTA SHOP HOLIDAY DRIVE

Join us this holiday season to bring joy to those we serve by participating in the 27th annual Santa Shop! Last year, we provided 742 children with gifts thanks to generous individual and group donations.

Now until Dec. 7, donations can be dropped off from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at our Admin Building, 1015-C S. Preston Street, Louisville, KY 40203.

Volunteers are also needed. You can help on Dec. 8 (set-up) or 10 (event) for the parent shopping day. Contact Donna Young, Director of Conference Affairs & Volunteer Services, at (502) 301-8688 or dyoung@svdplou.org.

We request new, unwrapped items only.

Shop our Amazon Wish List

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2S4DZ0W0E8F2T?ref=wl_share or pick from the items listed below.

Donation Suggestions:

- Toys: board games, Barbie dolls, baby dolls, Legos, bikes, playsets, superhero toys, books, etc.
- Clothing Items (sizes infant to men's 3X for ages infant to 17 years old): socks, underwear, pants, jeans, tops, sweaters, pajamas, sweatpants, sweatshirts, hoodies, coats, scarves, or gloves.

Other Items:

- Diapers, pull-ups, wallets, gift cards (Target, Walmart, Amazon, or dining options), hair accessories, or stocking stuffers.

