



St. Vincent de Paul

Serving God by Serving Others...
One Person at a Time

NEXT WEEKEND, DECEMBER 11TH AND 12TH, IS OUR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Our local SVDP Conference members from St. Clare, St. Nicholas and Corpus Christi parishes have volunteered over 3,100 hours this year to help 478 families (an increase of 61 families over last year) with rent, mortgages, utilities, food, medicine, clothes, furniture, transportation, household and car repairs, budget counseling, job referrals, and spiritual and emotional support. We are expecting an increase in requests for financial help again this year due to the state stopping rental assistance. \$136,047 was needed and spent for financial support to our neighbors this past year as we tried to solve every plea for help that came in. We also connect them to additional resources that can help them in other ways.

SVDP continually works to teach neighbors to make positive changes in their lives through budget counseling, encouragement, mentoring, and following up with their situations. The smallest positive change that improves their lives is a big step.

A mother of six who found the strength to leave an abusive husband after 15 years saved a portion of her food stamp allotment each month to buy food for her children's Thanksgiving feast. She was so proud to provide for her children.

Mr. & Mrs. B constantly struggled to keep their bills paid even though Mr. B was steadily employed. Mrs. B said she has not been able to work due to their 8 year old son's ADHD. They were facing a power disconnect and while seeking help from SVDP the power was actually turned off leaving them and their two children in the dark. Enough money was gathered from SVDP and other churches and charities to turn the power back on and a predatory PayDay loan they had applied for was also stopped through our efforts. A later follow-up call by SVDP, checking on their well-being, and a heartfelt, tearful conversation with Mrs. B helped her admit that she has dyslexia and reading comprehension issues that prevents her from holding a job. SVDP found a volunteer tutor through the St. Clair Literacy Council who would help with her reading comprehension issues. This past week, Mrs. B called to let us know she is starting a fulltime job stocking shelves at night when her husband can be at home with the children. We are praying they will be open to budget counseling to help them get out of debt.

HOW TO HELP

Please return the attached envelope next weekend - **DECEMBER 11/12** - with your contribution. Credit card donations can be made online at stclarechurch.weshareonline.org/svdp





A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE OFFERED IN A SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP AND CHARITY

Our O'Fallon conference needs your time and talent. If you are interested, call the St. Clare Parish office at 618-632-3562. Many of our local Vincentians also volunteer their time and talents at the SVDP-Help Center. Please take the time to read about those services below and see where your time and talent can be used to serve God and our neighbors. To help there, call 618-394-0126.

COSGROVES SOUP KITCHEN - Feeds 200-300 people 6 days a week.

THE OUTREACH MINISTRY CENTER - Offers services including a coffee bar, laundry center, showers and clothing.

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THRIFT STORE - Offers very low-cost quality merchandise for personal and household needs, especially for the poor.

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOUP BUS - ~~Two renovated school buses go out into the community to feed the needy an evening meal.~~ Temporarily discontinued due to Covid.

THE HELP CENTER - Assists individuals with obtaining needed documents for personal identification and state IDs -- and helps:

- With solutions for emergent crises
- With homeless prevention and intervention
- With welcome baskets for those moving out of homelessness
- With health screening and community agencies, etc.
- With "jobskills" classes and support
- With transportation assistance
- With budgeting and resume classes
- With needed items through the "Clothes Closet" every Thursday
- With Bible Study and prayer services

GEAR UP AND CAREER GEAR - Provides free clothing for men and women looking for employment and also gives free clothes to prisoners who are reentering society.

LILLI - LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR LOW INCOME - A loan up to \$300 for crises situations with minimal interest.

POP - PHARMACY OUTREACH PROGRAM - Provides assistance for prescription medications.

BURIAL PROGRAM - Provides burial assistance for low income households.

THE NIGHT DROP IN CENTER - Open from 7:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. to provide homeless people with a safe place to spend the night. It is equipped with lavatories, TV's, computer center, a coffee bar that will offer evening sack lunches and comfortable 3-position chairs for resting during the night. It is not a shelter but will be a safe temporary haven. The NIGHT DROP IN CENTER is a bridge to existing services already provided by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.