



St. Vincent's Way

SUMMER 2013

This issue:

President's Reflection 2
 Get inspired at RetroFittings 2
 Volunteer Opportunities 3
 Thrift Store Donations 4
 New Program Helps Volunteers 4
 Give Prescription Medication 5
 Charity Golf Outing 5
 New Locations to Donate Your Vehicle 6
 Thank You for Striking Out Hunger 6
 Planned Giving 6
 Oklahoma Disaster Relief 7
 Challenge Grant Helps Children 7
 Bob Rahe Mattress Fund 7
 Baby Kortnie 8

You Brought a Child Home from the Hospital

For many of us, an air conditioner is an overlooked luxury that we absentmindedly enjoy during the hot summer months. For Terra, an air conditioner means that her one-year-old daughter, Aya, can come home from the hospital.

Aya was hospitalized six times before she was finally diagnosed with a serious respiratory condition. Despite Aya's new medication, her dangerous condition can still be triggered by almost anything, and the hospital would not let Terra bring Aya home until she had an air conditioner.



Aya's brother, Jordan, accepting the air conditioner that will bring his sister home.

Heartbroken, Terra turned to St. Vincent de Paul for the air conditioner she needed to bring her little girl home. "I just miss her so much," Terra whispered through her tears.

Thanks to your generous donations, Terra received an air conditioner and little Aya can come home with her mom and brother, where she belongs.



Give Summer Heat Relief

You can give relief to sick children, like Aya, and elderly neighbors who are especially at risk in the summer heat. Please join St. Vincent de Paul, Huntington Bank, WCPO, and other partners in helping a neighbor beat the heat through the Summer Fan and Air Conditioner Drive.

- Make a financial gift by visiting SVDPCincinnati.org, calling 513-421-HOPE, or stopping by any Greater Cincinnati Huntington Bank. – \$100 will provide an air conditioner and \$15 will provide a fan.
- Donate a new fan or air conditioner at any St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store or at Coney Island to receive a free rides pass, now through August 16.

inSight

St. Vincent de Paul has seen a steady increase in requests for help in recent years, especially in the suburbs of Cincinnati. The suburban poverty rate has increased by 83 percent since 2000. You can help families who are experiencing poverty for the first time by donating today.

Source: The Brookings Institution



Andrew Curran,
Cincinnati District Council President

President's Reflection

There's nothing quite like summertime here in Cincinnati: Reds baseball, parish festivals, backyard barbecues and plenty of ice cream — from a neighborhood creamy whip to Grater's. We truly love our summer rituals.

As a Church, we are journeying through Ordinary Time, where we are called to pray and reflect on the everyday life of Jesus and continue to bring our faith to life, which is what more than 900 of our members do each week as we serve our neighbors in need.

Meanwhile, summer provides unique challenges for many local families. With school out, childcare and children's lunches can further strain a family budget, leaving no money for an unexpected car repair or medical bill. For other families, the heat provides challenges for the elderly as well as young children with asthma. The situation is compounded, when you live in a Cincinnati neighborhood where you don't feel safe enough to sit out on your porch and enjoy an evening breeze. Or you live in the suburbs and don't have money to run the air conditioner, but are too proud to let down appearances and are lonely, scared and think of yourself as a failure.

In these instances, St. Vincent de Paul is there to offer prayerful encouragement and a helping hand. We are able to make a difference in the lives of Cincinnati families, because of your generosity. *Thank You.*

One of our biggest summer initiatives is the fan and air conditioner drive. From time to time, people will ask, "What

happened to the ones that were donated last year?" It's an honest question, but it assumes poverty is a permanent condition with the same people receiving one year after year, which is not the case.

Families in Cincinnati are constantly moving into and back out of poverty. Consider a young mother who courageously makes the decision to leave an abusive relationship late one night or a house painter who returns to work after his broken ankle heals. Often times, what determines how quickly a family can get back on its feet, is the ability of St. Vincent de Paul to help bridge the gap and prevent a difficult situation from getting worse.

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Please prayerfully consider a financial gift to St. Vincent de Paul. Perhaps your family could intentionally forgo a summer treat and use the money to buy a fan or air-conditioner for a local family in need.

In the meantime, please continue to keep St. Vincent de Paul and the families we serve from Finneytown to Walnut Hills in your prayers.

Peace in Christ,
Andrew Curran



Get inspired at RetroFittings October 10, 2013 at Music Hall

- Tickets go on sale September 3, 2013
- Last year's event sold out fast, so reserve your tickets early at SVDPCincinnati.org/News_and_Events/RetroFittings/

Lights! Camera! Fashion! Fashion design students from the University of Cincinnati's College of Design, Art, Architecture and Planning (DAAP) have once again teamed up with St. Vincent de Paul to bring you the most innovative fashion event of the year, proving that

a good cause never goes out of style! The event will include a chic boutique, live auction, and a New-York-style fashion show, featuring the fashion designs of DAAP students, which were created with materials from our thrift stores.

Volunteer Opportunities

You can help families in need by giving your time. The personal touch of our volunteers gives families the hope they need to continue through a difficult situation. Contact Matt Flege at mflege@SVDPCincinnati.org or 513-562-8841 ext. 234 to learn more about volunteering.

There is a place for everyone to get involved at St. Vincent de Paul with our wide variety of volunteer opportunities, including:

Office Assistance We are in great need of volunteers to help answer the calls we receive from families that have nowhere else to turn.

Home Visits Volunteers are needed to visit the homes of neighbors in need of furniture and other basic necessities.

Group Volunteer Opportunities

Gather a group from your business, church, school, family, or circle of friends and volunteer together to help your neighbors in need.

Organize a Drive Summer is one of the slowest times for donations of food, clothing, and personal care items. You can lend a hand by organizing a drive or event at your school, office, or church. Please contact us if you're interested, we are happy to help you organize.

Share Your Talents Whether you're a student, a retiree, a professional who wants to share an expertise, or a person with a hobby, you can use your individual talents to make a difference in the lives of your neighbors in need! Contact us to for more information on how you can get involved.

St. Vincent de Paul's volunteers have a myriad of motivations for volunteering. For two of our volunteers, their experiences are part of their formation as they are preparing for the priesthood.



Ambrose and Godfrey, St. Vincent de Paul Volunteers

Ambrose, from Kenya, and Godfrey, from Uganda, joined the St. Vincent de Paul volunteer team in the Spring of 2012 as part of their field placement for Glenmary Home Missioners. Their goal was to interact and serve people in poverty as they prepared for their future Glenmary assignment.

It didn't take long for the staff and clients to recognize the spirit both of these men have. They have shared their love for Christ and desire to help the poor, often a great welcoming smile or encouraging words. When they first began volunteering, their motto was, "We'll do anything you need us to do."

When asked what volunteering for St. Vincent de Paul meant to them, Godfrey replied, "For me, volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul is one way of being in solidarity with the poor. Our Church calls us to show concern for the poor in our communities and I try to do that whenever I volunteer knowing that the Society works for the well-being of the poor.... Volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul humbles me and I realize that we are in the same boat and we depend

on one another, for better, for worse. Therefore as human beings, we are to help our neighbors who are in need in any way we can."

Ambrose and Godfrey were able to take their volunteer experiences with them over the summer when they went to their Glenmary assignments in the rural south. St. Paul says there are different gifts and the greatest is love. Showing charity toward others, we cause a new spiritual wind to blow for the whole Church, which will then appear as a sign lifted up among the nations, "the light of the world" and "salt of the earth" (Mt. 5: 13-14)."

Both of these volunteers have shown great charity and love during their volunteer time at St. Vincent de Paul. Though now they joke with us and say, "We'll do almost anything."

You can help families in need by giving your time. The personal touch of our volunteers gives families the hope they need to continue through a difficult situation. Contact Matt Flege at mflege@SVDPCincinnati.org or 513-562-8841 ext. 234 to learn more.

Your Thrift Store Donations Support Your Neighbors in Need



Our volunteers visit the homes of families in every neighborhood of Cincinnati who do not have pots or pans to cook with, clothes for school or work, or a bed to sleep on night. These families are given vouchers to

our thrift stores to receive furniture, clothing, and household items, free of charge.

Our thrift stores are also a low-cost option for low-income families and a great place for any bargain hunter to find a great deal on unique items. All proceeds support programs such as the Charitable Pharmacy and our food pantries. Whether you are shopping or donating, you are supporting your neighbors in need.

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Our Thrift Store/Donation Center locations across Cincinnati:

Colerain

6900 Colerain Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45239 (513) 741-1641

Este Superstore

4530 Este Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45232 (513) 681-9838

Evendale

9864 Reading Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241 (513) 563-2949

Mason

1065 Reading Rd., Mason, OH 45040 (513) 492-7940

Milford

813 Main St., Milford, OH 45150 (513) 248-2664

Mt. Washington

2300 Beechmont Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45230 (513) 231-1239

Western Hills

5555 Glenway Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45238 (513) 347-0342

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New Program Helps Volunteers Better Serve Neighbors in Need

When our volunteers meet with neighbors who have fallen on hard times, they not only provide material assistance, they provide spiritual and emotional assistance. Experiencing a personal tragedy such as the loss of a job, or the death of a family member can feel stressful and lonely. Our new mental health service is a resource for our volunteers to consult on client mental health issues and a safe environment for clients who are referred to talk through their problems with our Counseling Services Coordinator.

Meet our Counseling Service Coordinator

Mike came to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as an AmeriCorps volunteer, where he coordinated the Edith and Carl Lindner Choice Food Pantry for the past three years. Witnessing the struggles faced by many pantry clients and having a strong desire to address underlying causes, Mike completed

a Master of Social Work in June 2012 at the University of Cincinnati. His studies included a clinical focus in mental health and an internship in which he maintained a caseload of 15 individual therapy clients for over a year and a half.



Mike Voegelé,
Counseling Services Coordinator

Now, as a licensed social worker, Mike will start a new chapter as the Counseling Services Coordinator. Mike says, "I am excited about the very real possibility this position holds for further enhancing both member resources and the services offered to the clients of St. Vincent de Paul."

You Can Give Prescription Medication to a Neighbor in Need

Join Us for the 2013 Prescription Fore Fun Charity Golf Outing

Jackie raised five children while working two jobs. She was a private duty nurse and a secretary for more than 20 years, until her congestive heart failure and hypertension forced her to retire. A minor stroke and two extended hospital stays have stretched her retirement funds beyond her ability to buy the medication she needs to prevent a more serious stroke.

With free prescription medication, advice and support from the St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy, Jackie is able to manage her blood pressure and enjoy a healthy retirement. "I just couldn't keep up with the bills and medication." Jackie said. "The people at St. Vincent de Paul have been wonderful and they literally saved my life."

You can give health and hope to neighbors like Jackie by joining us for the Prescription Fore Fun Charitable Golf Outing. Your registration fee will provide \$810 worth of medication for neighbors in need.



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6TH ANNUAL



Thursday, August 1, 2013

1 p.m. – 9-hole shotgun start (*18 holes optional)

Beckett Ridge Country Club

West Chester, OH 45069 • (513) 874-2710

**PRESCRIPTION
FORE FUN
9-HOLE**



**CHARITY
GOLF OUTING**

Benefitting:

St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy, providing free medication to our local neighbors in need.

Hole Sponsorship with a Foursome (\$500)

- Will provide a month's supply of OTC insulin for 10 patients.

Hole Sponsorship (\$125)

- Will give rescue inhalers to 3 people suffering from asthma.

Individual Golfer (\$90)

- Will give almost two months of relief to a patient with hypertension.

Your Entry Includes:

- A chance to beat the pro! Special guest **Artrell Hawkins**, co-host of Fox Sports Radio's national morning show and former Bengals and University of Cincinnati defensive back.
- 9 Holes of Golf
- Golf Cart
- Dinner
- Contest Holes
- Prizes
- Silent Auction

To register or learn more contact Karen Williams at (513) 562-8841 ext. 225 or kwilliams@SVDPCincinnati.org.

Can't join us? You can still give health and hope to neighbors in need. A donation of \$5,000 will allow the Charitable Pharmacy to fill 500 prescriptions. Please make a donation by mailing in the enclosed envelope, visiting www.SVDPCincinnati.org, or calling 513-421-HOPE (4673).





New Locations to Donate Your Vehicle and Help Neighbors in Need



We are excited to share that we have partnered with Joseph Auto Group to make donating a vehicle to the St. Vincent de Paul Vehicle Donation Program more convenient than ever. When you donate a used car, truck, RV, boat or motorcycle to St. Vincent de Paul, you can now drop off your vehicle at the following new drop-off locations:

- **Joseph Buick/GMC**
8700 Colerain Ave., 45251
- **Columbia Chevrolet**
9750 Montgomery Rd., 45242

In addition to the two new drop-off locations, vehicles may be dropped off at any of the seven St. Vincent de Paul-Cincin-

nati Thrift Stores (see page 4 for locations). Free pick-up is also always available by calling 513-421-CARE (2273) or by visiting www.SVDPcincinnati.org.

Giving is easy and tax deductible. We will fill out the paperwork and provide a tax receipt for the donation. The proceeds from your vehicle will provide local families in need with basic necessities such as shelter, utilities, food, prescription medication and beds.

Thank You for Striking Out Hunger

Thank you for donating food at the 2013 Reds Food Drive. You helped to strike out hunger by donating 15,600 pounds of food! That's more than 12,000 meals for local families in need. Thank you also to our partners, WLWT News 5 and the Cincinnati Reds for making the drive possible.

Summer is one of the slowest times of the year for food donations, but one of the busiest times for our food pantries. During the summer, local children do not get a school provided lunch, so parents use our food pantries to fill the gap. You can feed a local family this summer. A donation of \$60 will feed three families for one week. To make a donation, please use the enclosed envelope, visit www.SVDPcincinnati.org, or call 513-421-HOPE. You can also help by hosting a summer food drive. Please call 513-421-HOPE for more details.



Your planned gift will bring hope where there is despair, love where there is loneliness and faith where there is emptiness.

For more information on planned giving please contact Kate Farinacci, at kfarinacci@SVDPcincinnati.org or (513) 562-8841 ext. 259.





Thank You for Providing Disaster Relief to Oklahoma

Through all of the devastation and heartbreak in Oklahoma, we are inspired by the generosity of those who reached out to help. We would like to share some of the details of the disaster relief that you made possible through your generosity and prayers.

St. Vincent de Paul volunteers living near the disaster areas were immediately on the ground, helping families affected by the series of disasters. These volunteers, who are members of the Archdiocesan Council of Oklahoma City (SVDP-OKC), executed a Rapid Response Team (RRT) Model that was created by the St. Vincent de Paul National Office. The plan put volunteers who are trained in disaster relief and recovery in place to handle all logistics, communications, and social services. Members of SVDP-OKC, along with St. Vincent de Paul members from across the country, have set-up 5 Disaster Recovery Centers. At these centers, members are doing intake and case management to assist families with immediate needs such as, hotel stays, gift cards for gas, food, prescription assistance and more. Since the start of the tornados, SVDP-OKC has helped 1,592 families and provided \$50,000 in direct assistance.

In addition to providing immediate assistance, members are working to administer the House in a Box Program. Through this program, families who have lost everything will receive new household items such as a bed, bed linens, a couch, a dresser, kitchen items, a table, and chairs.

The destruction in Oklahoma is massive and recovery will take years. The members of St. Vincent de Paul will continue to serve their neighbors as they begin the long journey of rebuilding their communities and their lives.

If you would like to make a contribution to the ongoing relief, please use the enclosed envelope and write "Oklahoma" next to the donation amount, call 513-421-HOPE, or visit www.SVDPcincinnati.org.

Challenge Grant Helps Children Living in Poverty

Summer can be a difficult time for the families in need, especially families with school aged children. In Greater Cincinnati, one in five children lives in poverty. During the summer, their parents can no longer rely on school provided lunches or a safe place for their children to learn. Many families are forced to choose between buying food for their children, and paying the bills to keep a roof over their heads.

Our volunteers work year-round to help neighbors in need but during the summer months donations are low, and they are forced to turn families away.

Today, your gift can make a difference for twice as many families in need, thanks to a challenge grant from an anonymous donor who will match your gift dollar for dollar. Your gift of \$60 will feed six families for one week; a gift of \$500 will save two families from becoming homeless. A gift of any amount can make twice the impact on the lives of families in need this summer. Give today by calling 513-421-HOPE (4673), visiting www.SVDPcincinnati.org, or completing the enclosed envelope. Please mark your gift, "Challenge Grant."



Bob Rahe Mattress Fund



A gift of just \$100 to St. Vincent de Paul's Bob Rahe Mattress Fund can give someone in need a soft, comfortable place to sleep. Visit www.SVDPcincinnati.org, call (513) 421-HOPE (4673) or use the enclosed envelope to help your neighbors in need.



1125 Bank Street • Cincinnati, OH 45214
www.SVDPcincinnati.org • 513-562-8841

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Permit No. 1106



Help make good things happen through the Car Donation Program. Call (513) 421-CARE (2273) to learn more about donating a car or to schedule a pick-up of gently-used clothing, household items or furniture.

facebook.com/SVDPcincinnati twitter.com/SVDPcincinnati



You Saved Baby Kortnie from Becoming Homeless

After her difficult pregnancy, Racheal was relieved by the safe arrival of her precious little girl, Kortnie. However, her relief was short lived. Despite her good job at UC Health, Racheal does not qualify

for maternity leave, because she has not been at her job for more than a year. Even worse, her pregnancy complications forced her to use all of her sick time before Kortnie was even born. On top of recovering from childbirth and taking care of a newborn, Racheal was worried about losing her home and buying baby supplies.

That's when Rachel and baby Kortnie turned to St. Vincent de Paul. Racheal received the financial help she needed to stay in her home, as well as personal care items, such as diapers, and a voucher to the thrift stores so that she could get blankets and clothes for precious Kortnie.

Thanks to you, Rachel can focus on recovering and her new daughter. Racheal will be returning to work soon, and will then be able to provide baby Kortnie with everything she needs to be safe and healthy.

You can help neighbors like Rachel and baby Kortnie in their time of need by donating to one of our thrift stores, hosting a personal care items drive, or making a financial donation. A gift of \$500 will save a family from becoming homeless. To donate today, please use the enclosed envelope, call 513-421-HOPE (4673) or visit www.SVDPcincinnati.org.