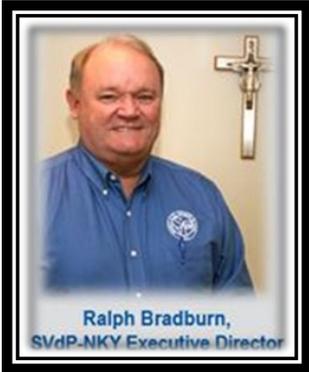




**Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Council of Northern Kentucky, Diocese of Covington**

Vincentian Newsflash

Volume VII Issue I March, 2016



**Ralph Bradburn,
SVdP-NKY Executive Director**

Coming Together for a Better Community

Our mission of helping our Northern Kentucky neighbors in need works so much better when our community works together. One of our 2016 goals is to increase the partnerships we have with other community agencies to make better use of all of our limited resources.

A great example happened just before the holidays. I received a call from the **Butler Foundation** who has been a true friend of St. Vincent de Paul and those we serve. They had been contacted by a neighbor who needed a wheelchair ramp built at their home to help his wife maintain her mobility and independence. I put a call out to all of our conferences and Larry Sendelbach of St. Joseph Cold Spring, as he

often does, responded to the need.

Larry and his Knights of Columbus brethren brought their skills and muscle while the Butler Foundation provided the financial resources to build the ramp. The end result was another family being able to maintain their independence and continue leading their productive life.

This brings us to our **'Faith in Family Togetherness Program.'** Through this very ambitious program, SVdP Northern Kentucky will look to expand on providing emergency services as we always have and start to work with families to move them from being in need to being more independent and self-sufficient, the definition of our SVdP National goal of systemic change.

Our plan is to hire a social worker and support staff and work with families trying to stay together while overcoming a financial set back, medical issue or perhaps not knowing the first step they need to take to move out of poverty. The goal is very ambitious but the need for this level of service continues to grow. We will need a great deal of help putting this program together and I am very confident that our Vincentian family and community partners will respond to the call and continue to make Northern Kentucky a very special place to call home.

May the blessings of our upcoming Easter celebration be with you throughout the year.



Ralph Bradburn, Executive Director



We are so grateful to **The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./US Bank Foundation** and the **Speedway Children's Charities -Kentucky Chapter** that generously invested \$35,000 in our **'Sweet Dreams' Bed Program** for children. These funds account for 300 new beds for those children now sleeping on the floor or in a chair. Last year, we provided 550 beds to children and adults so that they too could have a good night's sleep.





Vincentians share their expertise, love and compassion ...

St. William conference has embarked on a systemic change project called Project Turn the Corner. We were one of 20 recipients of a national grant for this purpose. Project Turn the Corner is designed to select two families with children to help them over the course of the next year to move from poverty to independence. We

engaged all the family resource coordina-

tors in the schools in the county as well as ministers from other churches to provide us with applicants for this project. We reviewed the applications and narrowed the field to five families we interviewed to select two families from. Those interviews and the selection took place in early February. Here is a brief synopsis of the five families:

- ◆ A single grandmother (husband died after long illness) with her disabled 36 year old daughter who just had a kidney transplant, and three teenage children from a son who has been in jail for 8 years and daughter in law who disappeared.
- ◆ A grandmother who lost her husband this past year and a son in 2010. She was hospitalized this past year as well. She has two teenage grandchildren. They live on \$1000 a month with a \$650 rent payment.
- ◆ A mother who has two children ages 5 and 4. Her 4 year old son has a pace maker and has had 4 open heart surgeries. Every day she worries for his life. She cannot work because her time is fully invested in his care. They have \$1100 in SSI and food stamps. The father has been in jail and now comes and goes.
- ◆ A single mother with two young children ages 8 and 4. The 8 year old has disabilities & epilepsy, asthma and ADHD. She has significant college education and wants to find work helping others. They currently live on \$1400 a month.
- ◆ A single Hispanic woman with four children ages 10 down to 2. Their father passed away two years ago. She wants her GED, her citizenship (she is legal) and to find work caring for others.

At the end of the day, one of the interviewers said "I wish we could choose all five! How do we pick?" We were all struck by the resilience of the human spirit. In these five women we saw an amazing strength, an amazing determination to improve, an amazing love for their children

and a sense of great gratitude and compassion. They shared and verbalized the common thought; "I hope I am chosen, but I don't want to take it from someone who needs it more." They also all share a tremendous desire to see their children or grandchildren find a better life. They will not give up, even though many nights after they have put the children to bed finds them in tears at their inability to do more. They need help, but most of all they



need love and compassion. They need someone to walk with them. This is what our Lord does for each of us and He calls us to do for others.

As I look at the courage and strength of these women, I am reminded of the Pope's challenge to us this Lenten season – to give up indifference to those in need. We all do wonderful acts of charity for those who we minister to. We have all seen the families we feel great sadness for. But I believe the Pope's message challenges us to move from sympathy to compassion. What is the difference? In sympathy, we feel sorry or sad for someone else's plight. We may even try to help them with it. But it remains their plight. Compassion calls us to own their pain as our pain. It calls us to embrace their struggles that we might lift the yoke of burden by helping carry the load. It calls us to invest not only financially but emotionally and spiritually as well. In compassion, we move beyond the struggles that are evident on the surface and move to heal the wounds that are underneath through loving care.

Pope Francis is challenging us to be the face of God in the world by seeing the face of God in the person we least expect to see it, including the person in the mirror.

Regina Brett

As I informed the two families selected for Project Turn the Corner, both broke down in tears – tears of joy that someone cared. They do not know what solutions we might offer – and we don't yet either. But they know that for the next year – and likely beyond, every week and likely every day, one of their partner team members (four Vincentians assigned to them as their surrogate family) will be offering hope, encouragement and love. They will cry with them, rejoice with them and embrace their pain in compassionate love. Lila Watson – an Australian woman said to those who came to help, "If you have come to help me, you can go home again. But if you see my struggles as part of your struggles, perhaps we can talk." We hope to reach out and embrace the struggles of these two families as our struggles as well – that we might journey with them the difficult road to independence from government assistance.

We are encouraged in this project not only by the prospect of transforming the lives of these two families, but also by the response from the community at large. Ministers from other churches, family resource coordinators in the schools, business men and women have all stepped forward and embraced the challenge of helping others in a positive and significant way. We will make mistakes along the way – and we will learn from those mistakes. But over time, one family at a time, we hope to change lives for those in Grant County.

Deacon Mike



In remembrance of our late president, Marilyn Hicks, we are honored to host the 2016 celebration of the Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul on Saturday September 24, 2016 at All Saints Church in Walton, KY. Bishop Roger Foys will celebrate Mass at 10:00 AM with a reception to follow. All are welcome.

*Tom Schulte, President
All Saints Conference*

Case Management System is Underway!

As a new member of the Assistance Office I am grateful to be part of the team organizing to bring the new 'case management system' (CMS) to the Society of St Vincent de Paul. CMS was specifically designed to support the work of Vincentians and is tried and proven; it is installed in five SVdP Councils in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Texas and Louisiana. The benefits experienced by the Vincentians include ease of record organization and maintenance, ease of daily and monthly accounting tasks, simplification of monthly and year end reports, and consistency in maintaining records of client history and the assistance provided.

This consistency will be carried throughout the Diocese. Instead of multiple and different accounting methods used at the conferences, there will be one common system which will more simply tier up the reporting ladder from conference to district, to council, to state, and finally, to national. We will be in sync! This will make annual

We will make the onboarding process gradual by bringing on a few conferences at a time. The first group includes Blessed Sacrament, St Cecelia, St Timothy, St Barbara and All Saints.

The first stage of training is underway at the Office of Assistance which includes the Call Center Volunteers and the staff. In the second stage we will develop a small group of "Vincentian CMS Experts" who will help introduce CMS to the conferences and provide individual support as CMS coaches. The third stage will actually bring on board the first set of five conferences. This is the critical juncture when we actually "flip the switch" and go "live with the five." Lessons learned will be captured and then we will move on to the next small group of conferences. We will proceed, gradually, onboarding small groups of conferences in a stage by stage process. Naturally, we may encounter some bumps along the way of the learning curve. Know that we will respond as needed to make this a system which provides all of the necessary support to the conferences and leverages the good works of the Vincentian Volunteers. I understand that the work of the Vincentians of N KY is held as mission, as a call. I am inspired by the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and all the Vincentians who follow the call to be present with



Margaret Rahn and Volunteer Sue Kendall Training with the Case Management System



Margaret Rahn and Volunteer Bob Kloss

report times simpler and more efficient. The Vincentian Volunteers in the Call Center have been practicing with CMS in a test site for more than two weeks. Their response has been positive with comments like, "It's simple to navigate;" "I can learn this!" and, "It makes sense!"

Margaret Rahn



A Legacy of Service - Looking back.

It is fascinating to look back at our Council's earlier years and see what our Vincentian predecessors accomplished in the Diocese. A 1926 letter to the Right Rev. Francis B. Howard, then Bishop of Covington, reports on some of their activities 90 years ago.

Your Lordship: Herewith we beg to submit some of the activities reported by six Conferences (Mother of God, St. Joseph, St. Aloysius, Blessed Sacrament, Holy Cross, Corpus Christi) of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul during the past year (1925) as follows:

Active members, 50; Average attendance at weekly meetings, 39; Families relieved, 44; Persons in families, 189; Visits made to their homes, 310; Visits made to hospitals, 84; Situations secured, 4; Marriages rectified, 1; Transportation furnished, 4; Baptisms, 3; Children induced to attend Parochial Schools, 3; Persons induced to return to the sacraments, 5; Pieces of Catholic literature distributed, 1,600; Contributed by active members at weekly meetings, \$692.60; Total receipts, \$2,930.58; Total relief distributed, \$2,581.66.

The above however, does not include the value of clothing, etc., gathered for distribution to those in need. Several new conferences have been formed of late, and we hope to be able to show much greater results in our work among our Lord's poor next year. The aim of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is Intended chiefly to assist in the salvation of souls, and with God's aid we hope to bring back at least "one sinner".

The Particular Council of Covington has been instituted to preserve and extend the society in this diocese and we kindly ask Your Lordship to act as our Spiritual Director and to co-operate with us in extending this organization of humble Christian charity.

Respectfully submitted by Your Lordship's obedient servants,

Interesting.... Maybe ninety years from now someone else might be interested in the acts of charity performed today by our parish conference Vincentians for those in need:

<u>All NKY Conferences:</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Vincentian volunteers	429	503	508	534	562
Neighbors served	26,233	28,678	29,018	30,960	31,674
Home visits made	7,796	8,651	9,922	9,896	8,980
Volunteer hours	20,546	28,530	21,352	32,439	31,441
Miles driven - home visits	96,570	80,064	89,362	86,886	89,098
Client assistance & aid	\$404,394	\$530,853	\$525,650	\$570,494	\$441,676
In-kind goods provided	\$336,023	\$296,276	\$383,279	\$286,468	\$430,855

The in-kind figures do not include the cost of beds (\$66,000), fans and air conditioners (\$28,000); food distributed from the Council pantry (\$48,000); and redeemed thrift store clothing and furniture vouchers (\$137,000) given to the needy by Conference members.

This year will be the final year for my serving as President of the SVDP Council of NKY. The Society's Rule and Bylaws limit is six years of service (two 3-year terms) for a Council or Conference President. I will tell you truthfully that these past few years have been a pleasure for me to serve you. I salute the many works of charity you as Vincentians do every day in response to the cries of the needy for help. Our Council is successful in what it does, and only because of you and your fellow Vincentians. Thank you for your support of the Vincentian Mission. You are truly making a difference in the lives of many in need, and you are an important asset in your community.

Norb DeJaco, President

"Why do we have Ozanam Training?"

.....And why do we make such a big deal of it? I just want to help the poor." That actually is a good and fair question for someone to ask. After all, what does one have to do with the other? The answer resides in the understanding of what Saint Vincent de Paul is all about. It isn't just about helping the poor. It isn't even first and foremost about helping the poor. It is first and foremost about growing in holiness. Helping the poor becomes an outcome of the formation we receive as Vincentians. Let me pose a different question. Would you sign up a group of people off the street who just want to teach children to be your CCD teachers? Or would you first make sure they have formation in and understanding of the Catholic faith before putting them to work? This is the only way they would know what to teach and how to teach it. It is the same with the work of the Society. Only through the Ozanam training and orientation do we effectively come to know what SVdP is about and how we look to interact with those in need. This is what makes us a Vincentian and unique in our approach to those we minister to.

So what do you learn in Ozanam training? We begin with prayer and spiritual reflection which helps to remind us of how we begin all things SVdP. Then we learn some about the history of the Society and how it has formed us into who we are and what we do. Much like learning about the saints and reading scripture helps us to know who we are as Catholics. Next we come to understand what Vincentian spirituality is all about and how it helps to shape our lives. What sets it apart from other forms of spirituality? You will learn how the organization is structured and functions. What are our "rules and guidelines" (called "The Rule") that guide our actions and keep us focused on our purpose. How are we held to account? We also spend a good deal of time learning about poverty – what are the dynamics and hidden rules of poverty; how widespread and insidious is poverty in our country; how do we relate to those who are suffering? We will spend time role playing a home visit to help the participants feel more comfortable with this aspect of our ministry. Finally, we will look at the vision for the future of SVdP. How are we changing and adapting to meet the needs of today's society while staying true to our roots?

"I joined SVdP to help people and give to them, but after a few months I realized they were helping me."

There is great wisdom in insisting that all Vincentians must go through Ozanam training and that the best time to do that is when they are first joining the society. April 30 at St. Barb's from 8am to 3pm provides an excellent opportunity for you to join us in this formation. Encourage your new members to attend. For those who have been around awhile and haven't yet made it – perhaps it is time. There is no cost – only your time! We invite you to come, learn and grow.

Registration for the Ozanam training is as easy as it gets. Simply send an email to Deacon Mike Lyman at deaconmikelyman1@gmail.com and let me know your name, email address, phone number, and conference. I will send you a confirmation note. You don't have email you say. Not a problem – just send me a text or give me a call at 1-859-806-4440. Don't miss out. Register today as space will be limited.

Ozanam Training and Orientation Registration

TO REGISTER: Please send an email to Deacon Mike Lyman (Ozanam Coordinator) at deaconmikelyman1@gmail.com

For more information, contact Deacon Mike Lyman at 859-806-4440 or your Conference President.

Please provide the following in your email:

Name

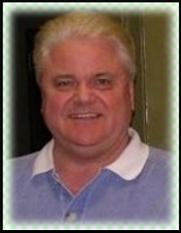
Phone

Your Conference

Position - if you are an officer in the Conference, please state your title.

SPACE LIMITED TO 42 PARTICIPANTS

RESERVATIONS DUE - April 23, 2016



Dale Ashcraft

Some treasurers donated are priceless

We are so grateful for the donors in the community who are dedicated to supporting the underserved in our neighborhoods. Without the support of these donors, we couldn't fulfill the mission of the Society. Last year, over 32,000 donations of goods were received at our Erlanger Donation Center and Florence thrift store. Among the clothing and other donated items we discover many treasures from fine china, clothing with original tags, and unique collectibles. Occasionally we come across a treasure that is priceless.

We experienced one of those days last fall when a truck dropped off several boxes of items in Erlanger. Among the items were the ashes of John Rankin who had passed away several years ago in Highland Heights. After a search in our records and the internet and several phone calls, we were unable to locate Mr. Rankin's family. However, Carolyn Ashcraft contacted her brother-in-law, Dale Ashcraft, who routinely researches his family history on Ancestry.com. Dale was able to locate Mr. Rankin's family through a database search and then emailed his daughter, Debral Megers, in Knoxville, TN. Mrs. Megers replied immediately and was so very thankful to learn that Mr. Ashcraft and the Society had taken the time to track down the family. Mrs. Megers explained that a company had been hired to clean out the Rankin family home as she and her siblings no longer live in Kentucky. Inadvertently, the ashes were donated along with household items. Within a short time, Mr. Rankin's ashes were delivered to his daughter in Knoxville.

"Gearing up for another warm and productive summer"

Its spring time and we are gearing up to plant Vincent's garden. Last year, over 3,000 pounds of vegetables were harvested and made available to food pantry clients. We are so pleased to be able to provide home-grown vegetables during the summer months since many of our food vulnerable clients have limited resources and lack of access to healthy, affordable foods. Soon we will be planting tomatoes, green beans, onions and cucumbers.

A group has volunteered to seed and plant Vincent's garden; however, we will be in need of volunteers from May through September to help weed and harvest vegetables. In addition, we will be scheduling classes in late April with the Kenton County Cooperation Extension to give us tips on vegetable gardening. If you would like more information regarding volunteering or attending the informative classes, please call me at 859-446-7721 or e-mail me Victoria.peterson@svdpnky.org



"By their fruits you shall know them" Matthew 7:16

♦ Summer Breeze Program returns!

Summer will be here before you know it. At St. Vincent we are already planning for the heat and humidity of summer. The Summer Breeze program operates from May 1st through September. During this time, we find many in our community at risk from the heat and humidity. Many that fall into this risk category are the those who have life-threatening medical conditions such as COPD, asthma

and lung cancer. Each year, we hear so many heartbreaking stories. Through the Summer Breeze Program, we provide fans to our neighbors needing help to cope with the Northern Kentucky summer heat and humidity. We also provide room air conditioner units to those with a documented medical condition requiring them to have air conditioning.

In 2015, St. Vincent de Paul distributed 112 air conditioners to the medically fragile in Northern Kentucky and 220 fans to our neighbors in need. We are the only organization in Northern Kentucky offering a heat relief program and many times the need is greater than our available resources. We could not offer this program without the financial assistance of donors and foundations.

You can help give relief to those suffering with terminal and acute pulmonary illnesses by donating to the Summer Breeze program. St. Vincent is in need of donations of fans, air conditioners and/or financial assistance to help purchase them.



Last summer, Peter received an air conditioner and fan after being diagnosed with COPD. Wilma (right) was very thankful for as she also suffers from COPD.

The "Vincentian Heart" Leads with Love and Compassion.

During the Christmas season, St. Mary's conference distributes food and gifts to families in the Alexandria and West Newport areas.

Amy Hartig, who heads this program, realized that the Daves family needed much more than food and gifts for Christmas this past year. Kelly Daves, a single mother, and her two children Austin (13) and Abagyl (9) had moved to the Alexandria area in August from Clover, South Carolina in order for her daughter to be treated at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Her youngest daughter, Abagyl has a condition called, esophageal atresia/tracheoesophageal fistula, commonly referred to as EA/TEF. Young Abagyl has been receiving treatment from CCHMC with one of the country's leading physicians in the field for the past seven years and has had 120 surgeries to correct the trachea and



the esophagus. Kelly's health insurance carrier through her employer in South Carolina had been covering the costs of CCHMC treatment and travel. However last year, the insurance carrier made the decision they had paid enough and recommended that Abagyl have a permanent feeding tube and trachea completed in a Charlotte hospital rather than more promising treatment proposed by CCHMC that would provide a better quality of life.

Kelly made the difficult decision to leave her job as a finance manager and move to Alexandria so that Abagyl could continue to receive treatment from CCHMC. When she initially moved here she only brought some clothing and a few other things. The rest of her and her children's belongings remained in her trailer in South Carolina including the lift bed for her daughter.

With no family to assist her financially or with the move, Kelly sold some items of value to pay her rent since she, of course, had no job. In December, Amy Hartig made arrangements for St. Mary's Conference to pay the Daves' rent, electric, and heating oil so that they could remain in the home while Kelly searched for a part-time job which would allow her to continue to care for her daughter.

Amy and her husband, Ted, volunteered to rent a truck, drive to South Carolina, load up her belongings and drive everything back to her new home. Fortunately, Kelly's church members in Clover, SC agreed to move everything from the trailer to the truck. Kelly Daves is now settled in this area, her daughter is receiving the medical treatment she requires, her son seems to be doing well in school, Kelly has found a good part-time job and everything is looking up. The Hartigs continue to stay in contact with them to reassure them that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be there for them.

Amy Hartig, St. Mary's Conference



ABOVE: Ted Hartig, Kelly Daves and Amy Hartig
UPPER RIGHT: Church members from Clover, SC

Vincentians make Christ's healing presence felt through their loving presence to those who are needy or are suffering. By their own love for Christ, they bring the hope that Christ brought into the world; namely, that things can be different and that needless suffering can be diminished through person-to-person caring." (Information from Chapter 5 of the Manual of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the U.S.).



Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Northern Kentucky
Diocese of Covington
2655 Crescent Springs Road
Covington, KY 41017
(859) 341-3212

Address Correction Requested

NON-PROFIT
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COVINGTON, KY
PERMIT NO. 134



*"Proceed quietly, pray a great deal,
and act together"*
St. Vincent de Paul

WWW.SVDPNKY.ORG

'Like us' on Facebook!

'Guiding Us In the Future'

Execute Your Right to Vote....Join the Process!

The time is quickly approaching for the Saint Vincent de Paul Northern Kentucky Council to elect a new Council President to lead our growing force of dedicated, caring Vincentians. This position is of utmost importance to our Council as the President serves many functions. They serve not only as an administrative guide to our Vincentians, but must also serve as a spiritual and moral guide. They must be a smart businessperson and embody the spirit of giving and beneficence that characterizes the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

The current President has appointed a **Nominating Committee** whose job it is to identify and select at least two suitable candidates. At our Council Meeting, Norb DeJaco announced that the nomination process for the next Council President had officially begun. Four members were appointed which include the three District Presidents - Bill Biery, Susan Chisenhall, Frank Lewandowski, and Council VP - Dennis Coyne.

Nominees will then be asked to submit a brief biography and platform statement, and the new President will be selected via secret ballot. Each Conference will have one vote for the candidate of their choice. The new Diocesan Council President will serve a three-year term, and may be re-elected to serve one additional three-year term.

How does the nomination process work?

- ◆ A person may self nominate or another person can nominate an individual for President.
- ◆ Nominees must complete the necessary forms, plus submit a picture.
- ◆ If you need a copy of these forms, please see your Conference President.
- ◆ Each Conference has one vote.
- ◆ The Society prohibits campaigning.

Virginia Loughauser, St. William