



April 2021 NewsFlash

Message from Executive Director, Karen Zengel and President, Casey Guilfoyle



We just made a trip to central Pennsylvania to visit my in-laws for the Easter holiday. My youngest daughter was sandwiched between her brother and sister in the backseat for the 8-hour trip. She was uncomfortable and we heard that old familiar question of “are we there yet?” more times than we could count. At the same time, she realized that at the end of this long trip, she would get to hug her grandparents tight for the first time in over a year. The discomfort was worth the outcome.

This last year has felt like that long, uncomfortable car ride that seemed like it would never end. But, there is something about this time of year that brings feelings of renewal and hope. We know the outcome – Easter does not represent an end. Instead, Jesus’ resurrection signals

a new beginning.

It is a time of new beginnings for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Northern Kentucky. Thanks to your commitment and support, we are expanding our outreach, offering assistance to the homeless that did not exist before and opening a new choice pantry and a new thrift store to allow more accessibility to our neighbors in need of basic necessities. We are improving the way we record assistance that will help us more quickly understand the needs of our neighbors and conferences.

So, are we there yet? Not quite, but we are getting close. We are grateful that you’ve chosen to join us on this ride. We are excited to reach our destination.



The Spring 2021 Newsflash is absolutely bursting with news of what our Society here in the Diocese of Covington has been doing and planning over the last few months! Many of those plans are coming to full blossom even now.

Recently, I received an Easter card that shared a quote from Bernard Williams: “The day the *Lord* created *Hope* was probably the same day He created *Spring*.” The spring season is indeed filled with God’s creative expressions in nature – expressions of hope, of growth, of pure joy and beauty and vibrant renewal. These compliment so well the graces of Easter which fill us all with renewed energy and commitment.

With this burst of energy, we will actively find ways to bring the risen Christ into our lives and the lives of our families, our friends and our neighbors that may still be struggling with the chaos brought on by the pandemic. We will also actively find ways to revitalize our membership and expand our network of friends, as soon as we are given a green light to return to in-person home visits and in-person Conference and Council meetings.

Please enjoy the news and the stories that follow. With all of us working together, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul here in Northern Kentucky will continue to blossom and flourish!

Vincentian Spotlight

George Everett, St. Joseph Conference

As we celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Week this month, we would like to highlight Vincentian volunteer, George Everett, a member of the St. Joseph Cold Spring Conference. He has been giving back to our neighbors in need for over 30 years. George gained interest in becoming a Vincentian after receiving help from St. Vincent de Paul back in the 80s, when he was raising 5 children and between jobs. SVdPNKY assisted his family with food by dropping off frozen pizzas on his front doorstep. George knew from that

moment that he wanted to find out more about St. Vincent de Paul and how he could be involved.

George is very committed in all that SVdPNKY does and goes above and beyond to answer the call to serve those in need. He answers calls at all hours of the day, on weekends, or holidays, and he doesn't stop giving back to the community. George and his wife, Sharon, help keep the St. Joseph food pantry stocked and deliver food to the homebound, and make sure that those in need have bus passes, clothing and furniture vouchers.

When not volunteering with St. Vincent de Paul, George also volunteers with Parish Kitchen and Rose Garden Mission. He is like the "Energizer Bunny" and runs on faith, hope, and love by serving those in need. George says his passion is "feeding others and making sure no one goes without food." He is excited about the opening of the new Cold Spring food pantry where he and his wife plan to volunteer every week during the evening pantry hours. This location gives George another opportunity to continue to live out his passion of feeding those in need.

St. Vincent de Paul is blessed to have such dedicated volunteers, like George, to help serve and be the face of hope for others. When George isn't volunteering his time, he spends time with his wife, who he refers to as "his rock," and enjoys going to Marriage Encounters with other couples who have the same passion for giving back to others and strengthening their marriages. George's passion for St. Vincent is evident in his service to others and he believes that "the Lord gives him peace through volunteering." We believe that the Lord gave us George and for that we are very thankful!



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VOLUNTEER
APPRECIATION
WEEK

APRIL 18-24



New Assistance for the Homeless

In the last couple of months of 2020, we saw an increase in the number of calls from individuals looking for help in finding a temporary place to live or for help in extending their stay at a local hotel. We believe that rising evictions, lack of affordable housing, and decreases in income due to COVID-19 led to the need for more temporary housing assistance. From October 2020 to December 2020, \$6,000 in funding was provided to help with costs of hotel stays. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, SVPD Council was able to set aside some funding specific to helping the homeless. This new program provides up to 3 nights in a hotel, food, bus passes and clothing vouchers to a person experiencing homelessness. This program also strives to connect these neighbors to one of our partners who specialize in helping individuals and families find stable and permanent housing.



Recently, Jane requested assistance for a hotel stay when she became homeless after leaving an abusive relationship. She left with nothing but a small bag of her personal belongings. Jane tried to stay at shelters when she could, but the shelters filled up quickly, especially with the ongoing pandemic. Jane had trouble finding a job because of lack of transportation, housing, and resources. Unfortunately, Jane had a bad encounter while in an alleyway and was brutally beaten. She was found by police officers and was taken to the hospital. After being discharged from the hospital, she was given a sheet of resources to call for help. Jane reached out to St. Vincent de Paul and we were able to help her with a hotel stay as well as set up an appointment to meet with our partnering agency, Welcome House, to help Jane find a job and affordable housing. Jane was so thankful that she was able to sleep in a bed in a room all by herself, shower, eat three meals a day, and wash her clothes all while staying at the hotel. We also provided Jane with food and toiletry items.

IMPACT YEAR TO DATE

OCTOBER 2020 THROUGH MARCH 2021

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

\$337,000

1,230 HOUSEHOLDS HELPED



RENT ASSISTANCE

\$215,000



ENERGY BILL ASSISTANCE

\$86,000



WATER AND SANITATION

\$36,000

News and Events

Blessing and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for NEW Cold Spring Thrift Store

We invite you to join us on **Wednesday, April 14th at 9 a.m.**, for our Blessing and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for our NEW Campbell County Thrift Store location! Our Food Pantry is up and running already and we invite you after the ceremony to take a tour of the new Food Pantry and Thrift Store. The thrift store will open to the public the following day.



Pack The Pantry Bourbon Raffle is LIVE!

Watch out our Bourbon Raffle promotional video by [clicking here!](#)

All proceeds from the raffle benefit our new Cold Spring Food Pantry. **As a special incentive, the first 5 conferences to sell 25 raffle tickets will receive a \$500 stipend prize.** Raffle tickets can be purchased online at <https://go.rallyup.com/bourbonraffle/YELQM>.

Or if you would like to sell the tickets in person to friends and family, you can email Rachael Victoria at rachael.victoria@svdpnky.org with your first and last name and home address and we can mail tickets to you!



Raffle tickets are \$20 per ticket with first and second prize winnings! Only 500 tickets will be sold. **The Raffle runs until April 30th at 11:30 a.m. EST.** Drawing will take place at 12 p.m. EST on April 30, 2021 at 2655 Crescent Springs Rd., Erlanger, KY 41017. You need not be present to win. Must be 21 years of age to enter. Winners will be contacted via email or phone and will be announced on all SVdPNKY social media pages. Questions? Contact Lou Settle at lou.settle@svdpnky.org.

Kentucky Gives Day 2021

St. Vincent de Paul is participating in Kentucky Gives Day again this year! "KY Gives Day is an opportunity for Kentuckians (near and far) to come together to make donations to Kentucky charities. On May 11, from 12 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. EST, supporters of Kentucky nonprofits will go online, connect with causes they care about and make tax-deductible donations. Supporters will search for participating nonprofits and simply click to donate." **KY Gives Day is done completely online and will be held on May 11, 2021 this year. Be on the lookout for an email from us to participate!**



Summer Breeze Starts May 1st

Many of our neighbors struggle with the summer heat and humidity with no comfort of a fan or air conditioner to provide relief. Our Summer Breeze Program allows neighbors who have been diagnosed with medical conditions such as COPD, asthma, or lung cancer, to receive a free air conditioner and/or fan. Last year we distributed 200 air conditioners and fans valued at \$13,000. This program begins May 1st and ends August 31st. Those looking to receive a fan or AC should call our assistance phone line for more information.



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