

VINCENTIAN *NewsFlash*



Special Features

DONOR SPOTLIGHT
Haile Foundation

CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT
St. Thomas

NEW JOINT CONFERENCE
St. Augustine and St. James

HOLIDAY OUTREACH





MESSAGE

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KAREN ZENGEL
AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT CASEY GUILFOYLE



Where would we be without our friends? At St. Vincent de Paul, we often talk about that essential element of friendship. The context of “friendship” in the last two years has been very focused on being friends of those in need. This is so important. Our ministry calls us to be and to see the face of Christ for those whom we serve. In fact, Frederic Ozanam said that our visits to the poor are “at least equally for them as for ourselves, so as to become progressively better friends.”

The other side of friendship within the Society is serving in friendship together – providing support and encouragement to one another. Blessed Frédéric Ozanam once observed that we become closer to friends after sharing an activity with them, such as going for a walk or eating dinner. “But if purely human acts have this power,” he explained, “moral acts have it even more, and if two or three come together to do good, their union will be perfect.”

Since that dreaded COVID-19 virus came onto the scene in March 2020, we’ve been laser focused on doing whatever it took to meet the needs of our struggling neighbors. The depth and breadth of need increased. We became more creative to meet the need given the circumstances. We experienced with awe the miracles God performed for us and through us.

We are now at a point where we would like to encourage “the other side of friendship.” A key priority of our strategic plan is to expand and strengthen our network of friends. The work of

St. Vincent de Paul could not be done if it were not for this network of friends who serve together – our Vincentians. We continue to see not only the tangible need within our community, but also the spiritual need that exists among our members. The intense and deep needs our Vincentians have shouldered requires a resilience and hardiness that in turn requires another kind of ministry—a “Ministry of Encouragement” in the words of Thomas F. McKenna, C.M.

We hope to provide many opportunities over the course of this year for our Vincentians to deepen our bonds of friendship and nurture and renew each other in our common Vincentian spirituality. We will also strive to bring in new friends to our Society. If you are currently a Vincentian, have you considered inviting a friend to learn more about our ministry? Can you imagine if all 554 Vincentians asked just one person to join them on this journey of friendship, spirituality and service? If you are not a Vincentian but would like to learn more about the Society, we are always happy to share our story and ways that you can also be part of this wonderful vocation. There are so many ways new friends can become involved – home visits, call center, food pantries, and homeless assistance just to name a few. What is the end result for those involved? An opportunity to share kindness and compassion with the less fortunate while experiencing that living message of gratitude, joy and optimism that we all need in this imperfect world.

IN THE NEWS

Our **Adopt A Family Christmas** program allows families to have a joyful Christmas morning with the help of generous individuals, families, and businesses. We receive calls from families in need who are seeking assistance with Christmas gifts. Our assistance team gathers details like the children’s ages and interests. We then are able to match the family in need with a generous donor who will “adopt” the family and shop from their Christmas wish list. This program provides a tremendous amount of joy for neighbors in need and we are thankful to all of our donors. **This year 79 children’s Christmas wish lists were adopted!** A special thank you to Target of Newport, iHerb, Newport Healthpoint and the 3rd shift team from DHL for providing gifts. **Thank you for being neighbors we can count on this Christmas season.**



Vincent’s Angels is a supplemental Christmas Program that we provide to neighbors who have not been “adopted” by a family or company. This program ensures that all moms, dads, grandparents and guardians are able to provide Christmas gifts to their children and grandchildren. We are able to alleviate stress for many deserving families and provide them with a memorable Christmas morning.

This year we were back for an in-person distribution at Life Learning Center where neighbors hand-picked gifts that they thought their children and grandchildren would enjoy. We had volunteers onsite to help wrap the gifts too. **We provided over 500 children with gifts this year thanks to our generous donors and dedicated volunteers!**



We now have an opportunity for current Vincentians to participate in the advocacy and awareness arm of St. Vincent de Paul. It is called **Voice of the Poor** where Vincentians dive into issues that neighbors in need face. Issues range from lack of transportation to affordable housing. **Voice of the Poor is about bringing attention to these issues and presenting them to the community and local and state officials, in the hope of bringing about policy change.** Vincentians know firsthand what neighbors face through home visits and can advocate for neighbors facing poverty. If you are interested in joining, the next meeting will take place on January 20. Please contact Aaron-Wolfe Bertling at aaronjwb@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

Our 14th annual **Turkeyfoot Trot** on November 20 was a HUGE success with over 500 participants running and walking for a great cause! We were happy to be back in person at Thomas More University with Commonwealth Bank & Trust Company and Payroll Partners as the presenting sponsors. **Over \$30,000 in proceeds were distributed to the Conferences that participated to help with outreach in their communities.** THANK YOU to everyone who participated, sponsored or volunteered this year! We could not do this without your support.



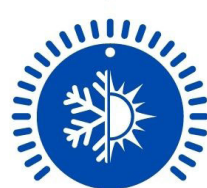
This year we provided **Thanksgiving meals** to families in need. We provided turkeys and all the sides to **37 families**, distributed through our two choice food pantries in Erlanger and Cold Spring. Our hearts are warmed knowing that these families were able to gather around the table and enjoy a hearty Thanksgiving meal. Thank you to those who donated. We appreciate your generosity.

Emergency Assistance Provided October 2021 to December 2021

Nights of Shelter for
Families Facing Homelessness



Utilities
\$69,364



Rent
\$66,200



IN THE NEWS

FOOD, TOY & COAT DRIVES

We would like to thank the many schools that hosted food, toy and coat drives this winter. Thank you for being neighbors we can count on!



St. Paul



Notre Dame Academy



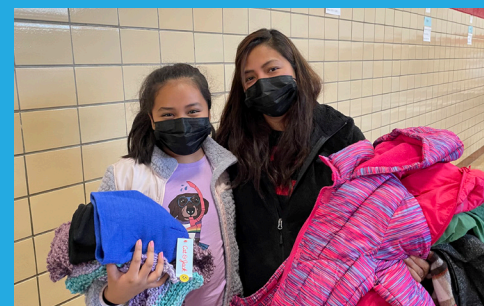
St. Xavier



Villa Madonna



St. Catherine of Siena



Our **Annual Coat Drive** hit the ground running this year with VonLehman as a sponsor and two special coat drives at New Riff Distillery and Crestview Hills Town Center hosted by St. Elizabeth Healthcare. All coats collected were distributed at our three coat distributions at Newport Primary School, Life Learning Center and Cristo Rey Church. **We were able to distribute 1,054 coats to neighbors in need.**



We would like to thank those who helped us purchase new coats, donated coats at city buildings or fire stations in the community and volunteered at the distributions. **Your generosity will help keep many neighbors warm this winter season.**

For the past several years, an anonymous donor has purchased **Christmas meals** for families in need. This year **400 meals** were distributed to neighbors in need in the community. A special thanks to this generous donor and to our dedicated Vincentian volunteers who delivered these meals to neighbors' homes.

This act of kindness certainly shows what the Christmas season is all about: GIVING.



Newly installed **Bishop Iffert**, Diocese of Covington, came to visit our Erlanger location to learn about how we serve. We appreciate his visit and look forward to more opportunities to partner with the Diocese in the new year. We are happy to have his blessing especially because our parish conferences are how we provide help to so many in need.

ST. THOMAS CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT



Friendship, Fellowship and Faith are why St. Thomas Conference Vincentians love to be a part of St. Vincent de Paul. Their conference, located in Ft. Thomas, has served the community for over 12 years. The conference has significantly grown since its inception. Now there are over 20 members and they have their own food pantry. The members of St. Thomas Conference enjoy getting together twice a month to pray and share ways to better assist their neighbors in need. This year they gathered together for an annual Christmas party where they socialized and laughed while enjoying delicious food. St. Vincent de Paul's mission is a "network of friends growing in holiness" and St. Thomas does a wonderful job of living out this mission.

This conference has the generous support of parishioners and Father Ross Kelsch, pastor at St. Thomas. This holiday season St. Thomas had a "Jesse Tree", where parishioners could take a star and shop for neighbors in need. Items they collected included: new sheet and bath towel sets, pots and pans, soap, Christmas cookie baking items and gift cards to Target for parents and grandparents to shop for gifts. All items were arranged in baskets valued from \$150 to \$375 and will help families and individuals moving into their first apartment. St. Thomas Conference finds that basic necessities like towels and soap are really what families want and need. They also like the baskets to be festive so they included gift cards and treats. The Vincentians delivered the baskets along with all the fixings for Christmas dinner to neighbors in Ft. Thomas and parts of Newport. The Christmas baskets bring joy to the neighbors served, and the personal touch that

St. Vincent de Paul Vincentians provide is unmatched. The need in this community is consistent. The neighbors they serve include working low-income families and people with disabilities, especially elderly men and women. They primarily help with food and paper, cleaning and hygiene products. Many neighbors they serve live on a fixed income. Some receive government assistance but that doesn't include paper, cleaning and hygiene products, which are necessities. One neighbor they visit each month is an elderly man who is unable to drive and can barely get around his own apartment. He has no family help, so St. Thomas steps up and delivers groceries to him twice a month. This is the sad reality for many elderly neighbors in Northern Kentucky.

St. Thomas Conference goes above and beyond to meet the needs in their community. From providing emergency assistance to sending out birthday cards to neighbors they serve, they are making a difference each day. Their goal in the new year is to educate the parishioners about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and what it means to be a Vincentian. Many know that they help people in need, but the scope of help is unknown. The conference wants the parish to know that they hand-deliver food, provide rent and utility assistance and most importantly provide HOPE in times of despair. We are grateful for St. Thomas SVdP Conference and all that they do. Without our Vincentians we wouldn't have been able to serve so many neighbors in need in the past year. **Thank you St. Thomas Conference for being neighbors we can count on!**

NEW CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT

We would like to welcome our new joint St. Vincent de Paul conference **St. Augustine in Augusta** and **St. James in Brooksville**. As a result, we are now able to serve neighbors in need in Bracken County. The new conference is off to a strong start having hosted their very own coat and food distribution to

neighbors in need. We look forward to supporting the conference to support the needs of our neighbors in Bracken County. If you are looking to join the new conference, contact our Conference Relations Coordinator, Sister Judith Neiwahner at smjudith.neiwahner@svdpnk.org.

REMEMBERING & HONORING

Donations received June 2021 through November 2021

IN HONOR

Mark Babey
Lawrence Brennan
& Karen Enzweiler
Patricia Boyd
Danita Rouse

Bobbie Goodwin
Carl Goodin & Jennifer Neal
John & Beatrice Lux
Jerry & Carol Lux
Peter & Teresa Mancyk
Anthony & Beth Mastriani

Loreen Ranshaw
Howard Ranshaw
Tom Tiernan
Mark Tiernan

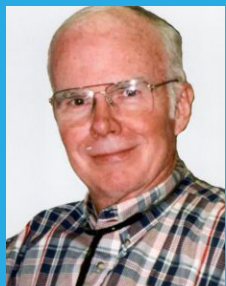
IN MEMORY

George Alig
Diana Smith
Greg Boh
Dennis & Angela Boh
Christopher Callahan
Michael & Cecelia Callahan
Clyde & Maribeth Corken
Betty Corken
Dr. George Thomas (Tom) Donovan
Lee Poore
Jamie Albany
Barbara Berringer
Helen Daly
Lara Derryberry
Mary Diebold
Timothy & Marilyn Donovan
Thomas Glenn
Patricia Imhoff
Mike & Rachel Kurczeski
John & Kathie Loughrey
John & Margaret McCarthy
Wayne & Deborah Onkst
Lauren Piscitelli
Daniel & Rosemary Shea
Mark Striker
William & Margaret Tenkman
Lisa Warnick

Alex Futscher
Margaret Lindsay
Ervin Geiman
Mary Ann Stulz
Ernie Gillman
Joseph Schwab
David Holzderber
Edward & Ann Fay
Hartmut & Linda Geisselbrecht
Karen Gibson
William & Katy Buente
Gary & Louise Roselle
Jerry & Marsha Spears
Ralph Kaelin
Charles Hardebeck
Brenda Lee
Patricia Lee
Mary Lemker
Stephen & Dianne Allen
Joan Buckley
Barry Kirby
Margie Martin
Craig & Norma Tyree
Clara Betty McMannon
Ken, Mary Ann & Jackie Mueller
Sr. Pat Murphy
Sr. Kathleen Terlau

Rosalia O'Brien
Susan O'Brien
Wilbert (Will) Ritter
Ellie Ritter
Sue Roderick
Candice Kirchheimer
Patricia Schraer
Pete & Teresa Manczyk
Angie Singleton
Mark & Casey Guilfoyle
Bruce & Patty Jones
Lou Smith
Mary Smith
Pamela Taylor
William & Diane Davis
Fr. Mario Tizziani
Jeffrey & Susan Schultz
Ed Vogel
Barbara Vogel
Joseph, Helen & Roger Wagner
Margaret Riley
Jeannie Wendling
Donald Wendling
Truman & Agnes Zilliox
Jim Zilliox

We remember and honor these Vincentians that have recently passed away.
May their souls rest in heavenly peace.



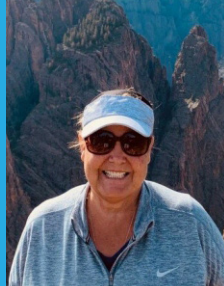
Dr. Tom Donovan
Blessed Sacrament
SVdP Conference



Alex Futscher
St. Mary
SVdP Conference



Chris Groneck
Divine Mercy
SVdP Conference



Donna Prather
St. Cecilia
SVdP Conference



Angela (Angie) Darla Singleton
All Saints
SVdP Conference

We sincerely apologize for any omissions or spelling errors.

**Thank you to all who chose to honor and remember friends,
family and loved ones by gifts to St. Vincent de Paul.**

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The lack of affordable housing is an ongoing crisis across the country and is very visible in our own community.

The volume of families and individuals who call our call center requesting help to find housing has been on the rise since March of 2021. In response to this growing need, we established a new program called the **Homeless Assistance Program (HAP)**. Last fiscal year, we spent just under \$25,000 to provide shelter to those without a place to lay their heads. In just the past 10 weeks, we have provided 116 nights of shelter to 90 people, with half of them being children. We prioritize assistance to those who have children in their care. HAP provides a three night stay to neighbors in need at hotels in the community. These few nights provide a warm, safe place where

people without a home can establish a connection with local housing providers to help them find long term shelter and eventually permanent housing. We also provide individuals and families with laundry money and supplies, hygiene products and food for their stay. Bus tokens are also available for those without transportation so that they can travel to appointments with our housing partners.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition report that **80% of American's use over 30% of their income on rent alone.** When you factor in food, car insurance, medical emergencies or health issues and

basic necessities like soap and toilet paper, many just can't afford to pay rent after all the other expenses. As a result, they have to resort to living in their car, in a shelter or just finding somewhere safe on the streets to lay their head. We find that many individuals who find themselves homeless are the elderly who are unable to work and their Social Security check each month just doesn't cover all their expenses.

Affordable housing in our community is becoming less accessible so many have to resort to hotel or shelter living. **We are able to provide this unique assistance program because of the generosity of our donors as well as a recent \$20,000 grant from The R.C. Durr Foundation.** We believe that HAP has a positive impact that provides some relief so that these neighbors can focus on finding a permanent home.

**“WE MUST LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS BEING MADE
IN THE IMAGE OF GOD AND AS AN OBJECT OF HIS LOVE.”**
-ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: HAILE FOUNDATION

Carol Ann and
Ralph V. Haile, Jr.

FOUNDATION

During their lifetime, Ralph and Carol Haile created a legacy that assisted organizations on both sides of the Ohio River. Since their deaths, their legacy continues as the **Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation**. The Haile Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in our region in the areas about which Carol and Ralph were most passionate: Arts and Culture, Community Development, Education and Human Services. The Haile Foundation has funded St. Vincent de Paul NKY through grants for nearly a decade including several grants for the Sweet Dreams Bed Program under the Human Services umbrella. This program provides beds to youth, the elderly, and those with disabilities, with the majority of beds going to children.

Their gift provided beds for 178 children in NKY last year.

The Foundation's most recent gift of \$30,000 will fund rent and utilities assistance through the SVdP NKY Conferences. “The Haile Foundation is pleased to assist SVdP NKY by funding programs that help those in our community who are struggling to make ends meet. We support them in their effort to dedicate more resources to provide emergency rent and utility assistance to those who need it most,” commented Chris Bochenek, Vice President - Administration and Senior Program Manager. We are grateful for the continued support of the Haile Foundation to SVdP NKY, as well as other agencies in Northern Kentucky. And commend the Haile Foundation for helping to meet the basic needs of those who live in communities that Ralph and Carol Haile cherished.



**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
COUNCIL OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY**
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COVINGTON, KY 41017
(859) 341-3212



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*For name or address changes or if you would like to receive
the NewsFlash please contact Rachael Victoria at rachael.victoria@svdpnky.org*

**SAVE THE
DATE**

CREATIVE COMPASSION

a st. vincent de paul art fundraiser



CREATIVE COMPASSION:

A NIGHT OF ART FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

**Thursday, March 31, 2022
Drees Pavilion in Devou Park**

Save the date! Creative Compassion: A night of Art for our Neighbors in Need will be on Thursday, March 31 at Drees Pavilion in Devou Park. If you know an artist in your life who may be interested in participating in this unique opportunity, please have them visit www.svdpnky.org for more information.

We are still looking for corporate sponsors for this event. Please visit our website or reach out to Lou Settle for more information at lou.settle@svdpnky.org if your business would like to sponsor. We hope you will join us for this fun night out!