

# VINCENTIAN *NewsFlash*

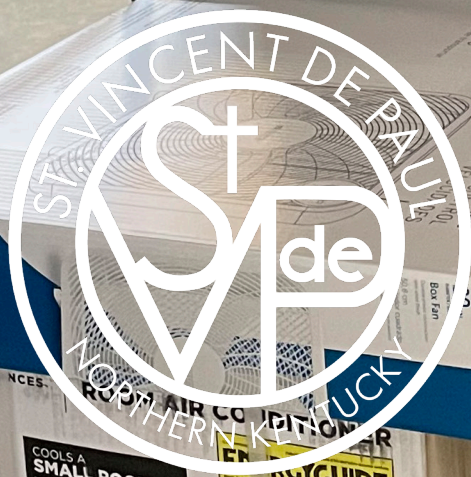


## *Special Features*

DONOR SPOTLIGHT  
The R.C. Durr Foundation, Inc.

CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT  
St. Cecilia

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



★ COWBOYS ★





# MESSAGE

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KAREN ZENGEL  
AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT CASEY GUILFOYLE



Independence Day can be a special time for many – a time to gather with family and friends to enjoy good food and better company and stand in awe admiring the magic of fireworks in celebration of our nation's birthday. Right now, we pray that this special day has even more meaning as we celebrate during a time when the people of this great nation find themselves divided, torn by the political landscape, exacerbated by the instability of our world and economic hardship. On this Independence Day, the words, one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all, carry so much meaning for us all.

As we reflect on our Vincentian ministry, these words also carry special meaning for our Society. Vincentian volunteers from around the world come together – united, under God – **with the vision that everyone deserves dignity and justice, regardless of circumstances.**

Like the situation our forefathers faced in the early days of our country, the problems we tackle in our Vincentian ministry are large and complicated, admittedly in a much different context. These problems cannot be solved by one person alone.

In fact, they cannot be solved by a person at all, forcing a reliance on faith and the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us in our work.

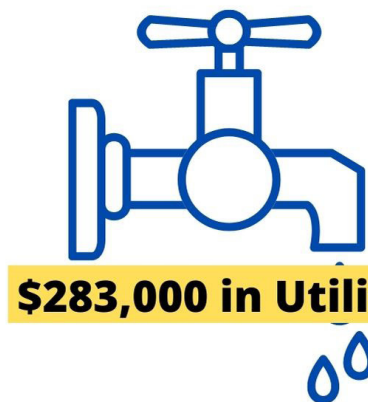
Vincentians are aware of their own brokenness and need for God's grace. They seek his glory, not their own. Their ideal is to help relieve suffering for love alone, without thinking of any reward or advantage for themselves. Our Rule states that we do this together, united by a spirit of poverty, humility and sharing, nourished by mutually supportive gatherings, prayer and reflection.

The problems of our world are large and complicated. We are in a time when we need to recognize the ideals of the Society. Thankfully, this ideal of working together to provide basic needs, dignity and justice to the poor and suffering is alive and well. We stand in awe, seeing our Vincentian brothers and sisters in action together, serving those in need. The result, the visible evidence of Christ's love in our world, is felt by all those who encounter our ministry. Like 4th of July fireworks, thank you, Vincentians, for being on fire with the Holy Spirit, creating beauty through your faith and working with the less fortunate.

## ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OCTOBER 2021 TO JUNE 2022



**\$285,000 in Rent**



**\$283,000 in Utilities**



**\$414,300 in Food**

## IN THE NEWS



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**We are in need of volunteers** at our Erlanger, Cold Spring and Florence locations! Consider donating **3 hours of your time** per week to help us sort donations. You choose the day! If you are interested in volunteering with us, please **contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Mark Bradley, at [mark.bradley@svdpnky.org](mailto:mark.bradley@svdpnky.org) or 859-426-2649.**

### SAVE THE DATE

Save the date! The annual Turkeyfoot Trot 5k Run/Walk is back for its 15th year and will take place beginning at noon on **Saturday, November 5** at Thomas More University. "Super Value" Early Bird Registration is available July 19 and 20. During these two days, race registration fees will be \$10. Don't miss out on this special deal! **Sign up through our website: [www.svdpnky.org](http://www.svdpnky.org).**



### FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

This year's **Feast Day Celebration** will be held on **Saturday, October 1** at St. Therese in Southgate, Ky. Be on the lookout for an official invitation to R.S.V.P. later this summer. This special day **celebrates our dedicated Vincentian volunteers and leadership givers** with a mass, special recognitions and a tasty brunch. Our celebration takes place 4 days after the official feast day of Saint Vincent de Paul, whose own approach helps guide us in all we do in our modern ministry. **We hope you'll join us!**

**THANK YOU** to everyone who supported us on our social media pages this past Kentucky Gives Day. The 24-hour online event took place on May 10 and brought charities and Kentuckians together for a powerful day of action. This year was the 10-year-anniversary for the event in Kentucky. We are happy to share that **we raised over \$2,000 in one day!** We appreciate your support. On behalf of the neighbors we serve, **THANK YOU** for providing HOPE and being a neighbor we can count on.



The **19th Annual Hunger Walk & 5k Run** took place on Memorial Day. Employees and supporters of SVdPNKY raised \$805 in support of our two choice food pantries in Erlanger and Cold Spring. **THANK YOU to those who signed up and donated.** Every person who signed up as part of our team also allowed us to receive a credit to

purchase significantly discounted food from Freestore Foodbank. **Free Store Foodbank has become an important partner to ensuring we keep our pantries well stocked.** Special thanks to Becca Gerding, Cold Spring Site Manager, who coordinated our Hunger Walk team this year.





Scan with your camera  
on your phone to give



## HELPING NEIGHBORS FACE THE FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS OF TODAY'S WORLD

A living wage is a struggle to obtain for many of the neighbors we serve. Most live paycheck to paycheck, just one unexpected expense away from falling short of meeting their financial obligations. Some are fortunate to have roofs over their heads, while others arrange short-term stays with family and friends or live in their cars. According to the "Living Wage Calculator," in Kentucky, a family of four (two adults working full-time jobs with two children) should earn an annual income of \$95,516 before taxes to have a living wage. **The breakdown allows for \$991 for housing each month, which is almost impossible to find due to inflation and the low inventory of affordable housing.** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Almost daily, our Call Center receives requests from families that have been displaced and are searching for permanent housing. Our short-term solution is our Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) which provides a 3-night stay at a local hotel, and food and laundry facilities to families in need, with priority given to families with children. HAP offers temporary respite for families to regroup their thoughts, clean their clothes and begin working with agencies to obtain long-term housing. The goal of HAP is to provide a safe place where people without a home can establish a connection with local housing providers and lessen their time on the streets.

Recently, we started a partnership with Covington, Newport, Independence, Erlanger, Elsmere and Dayton school districts to help reach more homeless families in these districts in need of temporary shelter. We know that HAP is only a short-term solution to the bigger problem of limited affordable housing, but providing a safe space for families while searching for permanent housing is important. Our Voice of the Poor (VOP) committee is a group of Vincentian

volunteers dedicated to addressing the bigger issues impacting our neighbors in need. Lack of affordable housing is a key issue for them. The group meets to determine how to advocate for change to local and state policies to build more resources in our community.

As mentioned earlier, inflation impacts the lack of low-cost housing and other basic needs of those we serve. The cost of food and other household essentials has risen sharply and is expected to continue to increase. The summer months are especially hard for low-income families with school-aged children who typically would be eligible for free breakfast and lunch through school. During the summer months, many of these children forego nutritious meals because families prioritize paying rent and utilities over purchasing food with the limited funds they have. Our choice food pantries help these families by offering two visits per month to obtain food for the entire family.

Unfortunately, our pantries tend to be understocked during the summer since food drives take place primarily in the fall and winter months. **We are asking for food donations throughout the summer.** Donations can be dropped off at our Erlanger location, 2655 Crescent Springs Road. A full list of food donations we are requesting can be found on our website, at [www.svdpnky.org](http://www.svdpnky.org), or scan the QR code above.

The struggles our neighbors in need face daily are challenging but we are here to help them move toward stability. With your help, we continue to provide emergency financial assistance to those struggling to make ends meet. Everyone deserves shelter, food, clothing and basic necessities. Through our dedicated Vincentian volunteers, we are able to help meet the need. We appreciate your continued support in our efforts to keep families safe.

# ST. CECILIA CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT



St. Cecilia is one of the 29 SVdPNKY Conferences located in Independence, Ky. This group of devoted Vincentians has made significant progress in the last few years. Their new food pantry, only a year old, allows them to stock more food to better serve neighbors in need. They keep their pantry stocked with the help of the Knights of Columbus and their dedicated parishioners.

Before COVID, the community's most significant need was food for families but now they are finding many neighbors are in need of food, rent and utility assistance. St. Cecilia's Vincentians go on home visits every week, often finding themselves on dirt roads and narrow, rocky hills where they find homes in poor conditions. They were unaware that these streets existed and surprised that they were within a mile of their own homes.

Pam reached out to us through our Call Center and was assigned to St. Cecilia Conference. She shared that she and her son, both disabled due to car accidents, were living in a trailer with no power. They applied for social security disability but the wait time is several months. During the home visit, St. Cecilia members discovered Pam and her son cooked on a grill outside and used old two-by-four wood pieces because they

couldn't afford charcoal. Members were able to deliver food and propane to fuel their grill. St. Cecilia continues to work with Pam to help with the disability process to secure funds and maintain their basic expenses moving forward. They are also helping them search for a car for transportation. St. Cecilia Vincentians are touched by many heartbreaking stories such as this one.

This Conference also hosts an annual Christmas Giving Tree program. Judy, an elderly lady who lives alone with no family, contacted them for help with food around Christmas. Vincentians delivered food to her home and asked if she wanted anything for Christmas, maybe something small like slippers. Judy politely refused, stating she was simply grateful for the help with groceries. St. Cecilia decided she deserved a small gift so they added her name to their Giving Tree. They gathered items for Judy and made a small gift basket that they delivered during a visit to her a few days before Christmas. She was overwhelmed, and through tears of joy, explained that she had not received a gift in years. She was so appreciative of St. Cecilia and their kindness. These small moments are how our Vincentians find the face of Christ in those they serve.

**St. Cecilia will be hosting an Invitation to Serve in September to invite parishioners to join St. Vincent de Paul.** This Conference is very involved in their parish and helps with the annual Labor Day Festival held the weekend of September 3 this year. When you are a member of a conference you gain lifelong friends and feel a sense of belonging. We are grateful to all of our Vincentians who answer the call to serve our neighbors in need and invite others to join their local parish conference.





# REMEMBERING & HONORING

Donations received December 2021 through May 2022

## IN HONOR

**Fr. Ryan Mayer**  
Jeffrey & Erin Greelish

## IN MEMORY

**Trent Bridley**  
Bob & Charlotte Wohlwender  
**Charles Denny**  
Art & Shirley Grimme  
**Mom & Dad Foster**  
Steve Foster

**Jeffrey Glenn**  
Villa Madonna Academy  
Alumni Association

**Lois Glindmeyer**  
John Abraham  
Robert & Victoria Ciancilolo  
Ellen Halsey  
Janice Kennedy  
Jim & Ruth Kevill  
Thomas & Patricia Kissel  
Jerry & Deborah Reinstatler  
Tom & Irene Richardson  
Dave & Susan Wald  
Charlene Zembrodt

**Mary Hartman**  
Jim & Ruth Kevill  
Robin, Karen & Rodney Nehus  
Rose Neiser  
Eileen Rust

**David Holzderber**  
Kathy Hahn Thomas  
**Mary Jeanne Kleier**  
Nancy Hedgespeth

**Lawrence (Larry) McClanahan**  
Gerald & Jeanne Dunn  
Becky Jones  
**JoAnn Metzger**  
Patricia Burke  
Jean Durkin  
Terri Durkin  
Mary Dyas  
Karen Elfers  
Sue Francis  
Terry & Ruth Grimm  
Jack & Joann Holtzapfel  
Linda Hostetter  
Vanessa Jones  
Bob & Jody McKinney  
Michael & Adrienne Meade  
Martha Haynes  
Paul Sartori  
Robert Schlachter  
Lois Rolfsen  
Janet Wilson  
Cassie Yost  
**Richard Middendorf**  
Pete & Teresa Manczyk  
**Dolores Pieper**  
Jeff & Leah Fossitt  
**Mary Ann Thistleton**  
Gillman & Donna Charles  
Carl Gillman  
New Friends of Northern Kentucky  
Michael & Anne Thistleton

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



**Bill Biery**  
St. Mary  
SVdP Conference



**Joan Marie Halfhill**  
St. Barbara  
SVdP Conference



**Jon (Tom) McKinley**  
Blessed Sacrament  
SVdP Conference



**Robert (Bob) Maze**  
St. Timothy  
SVdP Conference



**Lawrence (Larry) McClanahan**  
Blessed Sacrament  
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.**

# SUMMER BREEZE PROGRAM

*"It's important that individuals who struggle to thrive during hotter weather have access to cool, clean air."*

Our Summer Breeze Program, sponsored by **St. Elizabeth Healthcare**, is in its 24th year of providing new AC units and fans to neighbors of all ages suffering from documented medical conditions such as asthma or COPD. ***It is the only annual heat relief program in Northern Kentucky.***

The summer heat and humidity in the tristate can exacerbate medical conditions for those who suffer from respiratory health issues. This partnership with St. Elizabeth Healthcare is important because it benefits those suffering from life-threatening respiratory illnesses but cannot afford to purchase an air conditioning unit. "Every patient responds to the rising summer temperatures and humidity levels differently," said Dr. Chaitanya Mandapakala, a Pulmonologist at St.

Elizabeth Healthcare. "As a clinician, I often see patients negatively impacted from seasonal changes, which can lead to hospitalization or other long-term effects. It's important that individuals who struggle to thrive during hotter weather have access to cool, clean air. Unfortunately, this is a healthcare disparity that is not often considered or addressed. The Summer Breeze initiative is quite literally saving the lives of our friends, family and neighbors."

Within the past year, there has been a substantial increase in the cost of AC units. Due to inflation, we anticipate an even greater need for air conditioners and fans this year among our neighbors who may not be able to absorb the rising prices for these items. We help economically disadvantaged clients with severe medical conditions stay healthy

and cool in their homes all summer long.

**Last summer, we provided 285 AC units and fans, valued at \$17,000, to those in need.** We could not offer this program without the financial support of generous donors and foundations like St. Elizabeth Healthcare and the Agnes Nordloh Charitable Trust. If you would like to support our Summer Breeze Program, you can donate on our website at [www.svdpnky.org](http://www.svdpnky.org).



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: THE R.C. DURR FOUNDATION, INC.

R.C. Durr was a successful entrepreneur and a life-long resident of Northern Kentucky. Rising from humble beginnings, his hard work and perseverance grew the R.C. Durr Company into one of Kentucky's largest, most successful heavy-construction and highway contractors, responsible for some of the state's largest railroad, interstate and parkway projects.

Beyond his business success, Mr. Durr was a genuinely kind man remembered for his generosity to civic and charitable causes and compassion for those less fortunate. Upon his death in 2007, he endowed The R.C. Durr Foundation, Inc. for charitable giving in perpetuity to Northern Kentucky. The Foundation is dedicated to celebrating the life and legacy of its benefactor by providing philanthropic support to improve the quality of life of the larger Northern Kentucky region and its people, with particular emphasis on education, social services and community development.

We are pleased to be entrusted with the Foundation's funding to provide emergency assistance and basic necessities to our neighbors in need. "The Durr Foundation has long supported the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and as a funder, you just can't help but love them," remarked Jean Mize, Assistant to the President. "The Vincentians help people when they desperately need help – fans

and air conditioners in the deadly summer heat, shelter for the homeless, beds for children to ensure a healthy night's sleep, cars for those who cannot keep a job without transportation and thrift stores to help provide everyday life's necessities. St. Vincent de Paul is also a willing partner for many charitable ventures in Northern Kentucky, making them a formidable force for change and for good."

The Foundation's most recent gift funded our Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) which addresses the critical housing crisis in Northern Kentucky. By providing short-term hotel stays, those who are homeless can strategize how to find housing by connecting with local housing providers, lessening their time on the streets. We are grateful for the continued support of The R.C. Durr Foundation to SVdPNKY, as well as other agencies in Northern Kentucky. We commend the Foundation for helping to meet the basic needs of those who live in communities that R.C. Durr called home.

*The R. C. Durr Foundation, Inc.*



*The heart of Northern Kentucky*





**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
COUNCIL OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY**  
2655 CRESCENT SPRINGS ROAD  
COVINGTON, KY 41017  
(859) 341-3212



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Cincinnati, OH  
Permit NO. 6523

We are now on LinkedIn!  
Give us a follow!



[www.svdpnky.org](http://www.svdpnky.org)

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



# WE ARE HIRING!

## Full Time and Part Time Positions

Check out our list of current job opportunities by visiting  
our website at [www.svdpnky.org](http://www.svdpnky.org) or scanning the QR code!

