Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Council of Northern Kentucky

Summer 2022

Vincentian Newsflash

Special Features

Donor Spotlight
The R.C. Durr Foundation, Inc.

Conference Spotlight
St. Cecilia

Volunteers Needed
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, without thinking of any reward or advantage for themselves. On this Independence Day, the words, one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all, carry so much meaning for us all.

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.

Assistant provided
October 2021 to June 2022

- $285,000 in Rent
- $283,000 in Utilities
- $414,300 in Food

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.

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 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.

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 RSVP 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!

Volunteers Needed!

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.

The 19th Annual Hunger Walk & 5k Run took place on Memorial Day. Employees and supporters of SVoPNKY 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.

Thank you to everyone who signed up as part of our team. We appreciate your support. On behalf of the neighbors we serve, thank you for providing HOPE and being a neighbor we can count on.
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 $65,516 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. 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. 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, 2665 Crescent Springs Road. A full list of food donations we are requesting can be found on our website, at www.svdpnky.org, or scan the QR code above.

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.

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.
We could not have done this without your support. Gifts of all sizes are appreciated and enable us to provide AC units and fans to those who need them. We are grateful to The R.C. Durr Foundation, Inc. for their ongoing support of our Summer Breeze Program. Last year, we were able to provide AC units and fans to over 300 households. This year, we anticipate providing even more. Your generosity ensures that we can continue to provide relief to those who need it most.

Thank you for your support and for helping to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. Together, we can make a difference in Northern Kentucky.
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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

Full Time and Part Time Positions

Check out our list of current job opportunities by visiting our website at www.svdpnkky.org or scanning the QR code!