



St. Vincent de Paul

Serving God by Serving Others...
One Person at a Time

NEXT WEEKEND, DECEMBER 10TH AND 11TH, IS OUR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Our local SVDP Conference members from St. Clare, St. Nicholas, and Corpus Christi parishes have volunteered over 3,600 hours during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, to assist 551 local families (an increase of 73 families over last year) with rental and mortgage assistance, utility assistance, food, medicine, clothes, furniture, transportation, household and car repairs, budget counseling, job referrals, and spiritual and emotional support. Our financial assistance to "neighbors in need" of the O'Fallon/Shiloh communities exceeded \$155,000. An additional \$27,000 was sent to assist the poorest SVDP conferences within our diocese, to support the operations of the OverNite Center in East St. Louis, and to help with disaster relief efforts.

SVDP continually works to help neighbors make positive changes in their lives through budget counseling, encouragement, mentoring, and following up with their situations. The smallest positive change that improves a neighbor's life is a big step. Below are two recent examples of the type of assistance O'Fallon/Shiloh Vincentians provided to our local neighbors:

One neighbor, a single mother of four children, contacted SVDP for assistance with her electric bill. One of her children had a medical condition which required the neighbor to make regular trips to St. Louis for treatment, and the neighbor herself had a medical condition which prevented her from working a regular fulltime job, as well as the struggles of finding childcare for her children. In the words of the Vincentian who assisted the neighbor, the mother felt overwhelmed and had "given up." The neighbor was provided guidance, given a "listening ear," referral assistance, and financial help so her electric service would not be shut off. The neighbor eventually found a job where she can work from home and was able to leverage the assistance of family to help with childcare. SVDP covered a portion of her electricity bill and assisted the mother with being placed on a payment plan. The neighbor is now on a path to self-sufficiency.

In another recent example SVDP was contacted by an unaccompanied neighbor with a drug problem who had relapsed and was sent to a local hospital for treatment. The neighbor was released from the hospital and placed in an O'Fallon hotel for several nights until he could find permanent housing. The neighbor had no food and no access to his clothes. A Vincentian obtained food for the gentlemen and provided him clothes, and then worked with the hospital social worker to arrange transportation for the neighbor to return to East St. Louis, where he was provided help by the SVDP Outreach Center with finding permanent housing and job referral assistance.

While inflation has affected everyone, our neighbors-in-need are greatly impacted as the cost of food, gas, utilities, and housing continue to increase.

With the generosity of our parishioners and guidance from our shepherds, the conference has flourished (we currently have 23 active Vincentians) and is well respected within the community. As our patron, St. Vincent de Paul, stated, "Charity is the cement which binds communities to God and persons to one another..."

How to Help: Please return the attached envelope next weekend
DECEMBER 10/11
with your contribution. Credit card donations can be made online at
www.stclarechurch.org/SVDP





A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE OFFERED IN A SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP AND CHARITY

Thank you for your continued support and please pray for us as we help our fellow neighbors. If you have any questions or a desire to learn more about becoming involved in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, please call us at 618-632-4270 (O'Fallon/Shiloh Conference Help Line) or send an email to our conference email address, Svdp.for.62269@gmail.com.

Below are services provided by the Metro East SVDP Council and supported by area Vincen-tians:

COSGROVE'S SOUP KITCHEN - Feeds 200-300 people daily 7 days a week.

THE OUTREACH MINISTRY & HELP CENTER - Offers services including a coffee bar, laundry center, showers, and clothing. Assists individuals with obtaining documents for personal identification and state IDs, and provides help with:

- Solutions for emergent crises
- Homeless prevention and intervention
- Welcome baskets for those moving out of homelessness
- Health screening and referral to community agencies, etc.
- Job skills classes and support
- Transportation assistance
- Budgeting and resumé classes
- Bible study and prayer services

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THRIFT STORE - Offers at very low cost quality merchandise for personal and household needs, especially for the poor; work clothing for men and women seeking employment and don't have the means to pay for suitable clothing, and free clothes to prisoners who are reentering society.

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MOBILE SOUP BUS - Two renovated buses that frequent impoverished Metro East neighborhoods to feed the needy an evening meal.

BURIAL PROGRAM - Provides burial assistance for low-income households.

THE "OverNite" CENTER - Located in East St. Louis, the Center is open 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and is a "safe haven" for homeless people to spend the night. The Center is equipped with lavatories, TV's, a computer center, a coffee bar that offers evening sack meals, a light breakfast in the morning, and comfortable 3-position chairs for resting during the night. It is not a shelter but is a safe temporary haven to provide refuge from the heat and cold. The OverNite Center is a bridge to existing services already provided by SVDP.