

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2022

FACES *of* HOPE

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED



...
YOU HELPED
MONICA
AVERT
CRISIS
...



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

... NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ...



"IT MAKES ME FEEL PROUD," says Pete Fusz after learning his great-great grandfather, Louis Phillipe Fusz, was a Council President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the late 1800's. "My siblings and I only knew that he was a very prominent St. Louis businessman," says Pete Fusz. "I feel very honored that Louis was involved in the beginning of such a wonderful organization. This is just more proof of the type of person he was."



LOUIS FUSZ,
PRES. BRUNNEN FLOUR MILL CO.,
DIRECTOR, GERMAN SAVING INSTITUTION.

Photo from *Notable St. Louisans* in 1900, by James Cox

With humble beginnings, Louis Phillipe Fusz (1839 - 1924) was a revered St. Louisan and a pioneer in the flour mill industry. It is reported in newspapers in his obituary that he attended the 5 p.m. daily mass at his church for more than 60 years. With a devotion to his Catholic faith, he left money in his will for Catholic charitable organizations.

Following in the footsteps of their generous great-great grandfather, the Fusz family, now a renowned family in the automobile industry, presented a \$25,000 check to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. "We are so grateful for the generosity of the Fusz family," says John Foppe, Executive Director of the Society. "This gift will bless so many families in our area and give help when it's needed the most."

"What stands out to me the most is that all of the money donated to St. Vincent de Paul stays right here in St. Louis," Pete Fusz shares.



Shown in the photo (from left to right) are Lou Fusz, III, Pete Fusz, John Foppe, Executive Director of Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Julie Komanetsky, Director of Programs & Strategic Partnerships at St. Vincent de Paul, Patrick Fusz and Randy Fusz.

Letter from the Executive Director



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT how long you would be able to make ends meet if you were to lose a paycheck or two? Research by the advocacy group Prosperity Now shows that millions of Americans are just one missed paycheck away from poverty, or without enough money saved to cope with a sudden income disruption. The study found that about one-third of households lack basic savings accounts. Fewer than 60 percent say they are putting money away for an emergency.

Thankfully, when people encounter an unexpected crisis, they have a place to turn. Because of you and your generosity, St. Vincent de Paul stands ready to assist our Neighbors in Need.

In some cases, they require help with rent, utilities, car repairs or even food. The network of 3,500 Vincentian volunteers works with our Neighbors to help them bridge the gaps and regain their stability.

Of course, all that we do is dependent upon the kindness of our benefactors. The gifts you share make it possible for us to respond when our Neighbors need help. Thank you for all you do for others.

With gratitude,

John Foppe

Executive Director

You Can Make a Difference Every Single Month

**BECOME A
SUSTAINER**



\$10/MONTH

Fills a prescription



\$25/MONTH

Provides a child with school clothes



\$50/MONTH

Helps a food pantry feed a family for a week



\$100/MONTH

Pays a utility bill



\$200/MONTH

Provides a child with a bed

To become a Monthly Sustainer, contact Nicole Paden at nicolep@svdpstl.org or 314-881-6035.



...
YOU HELPED
MONICA
AVERT
CRISIS
...

**Name has been changed to protect the privacy of the Neighbor.*

LIFE WAS GOOD for Monica Conway. She was working a job she enjoyed, paying off the mortgage on her home, and making payments on her car. Then tragedy struck not once, but twice. While driving for Uber, Monica was hit by a drunk driver, causing significant damage to her car. Just weeks after

the accident, she was pistol-whipped and carjacked while working. Although her car was recovered by police, it sustained further damage from the carjackers. Suddenly Monica was facing two \$500 insurance deductibles for the accidents. In addition, her mortgage was past due, bills were piling up, and she was unable to work because of the damage to her automobile.

That's when Monica turned to St. Vincent de Paul to ask for help paying her electric bill. Monica connected with a Vincentian who helped her get the support she needed. St. Vincent de Paul not only paid Monica's electric bill but also three months of her mortgage and both deductibles.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Monica is back on her feet and behind the wheel of her car doing the job she loves.

"If they hadn't helped me, everything I worked for would be gone. Without St. Vincent de Paul, I would have lost my car, my home ... everything. I would have been homeless," says Monica.

After her recent setbacks she was grateful for the agency's support once again. When Monica first moved to St. Louis, she attended St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church on the south side of the city. She visited St. Vincent de Paul food pantries when she was in need and helped those less fortunate when she was able.

Monica prides herself on her independence and willingness to work hard. But as she continues to find ways to make her goals a reality, she realizes that everyone sometimes needs a helping hand. She tells others in her position never to give up and not to be too proud to ask for help.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Monica is back on her feet and behind the wheel of her car doing the job she loves, driving for Uber. She is making payments on her house and car and her goal this year is to reduce her interest rate so she can pay off the mortgage quickly. She also is taking advantage of a program from Uber that allows her take online courses at Arizona State University.

"With a humble heart, I am truly grateful for the help I received. It's easy to fall down, and you don't even have to do anything wrong. I'm glad there are people out

there like the donors and volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul who help others out of the kindness of their hearts."

Your generosity allows St. Vincent de Paul to make a difference in the lives of those in need. Please donate using the enclosed envelope, through online giving at www.svdpstlouis.org or by calling 314-881-6035.



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**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF ST. LOUIS**

... NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ...

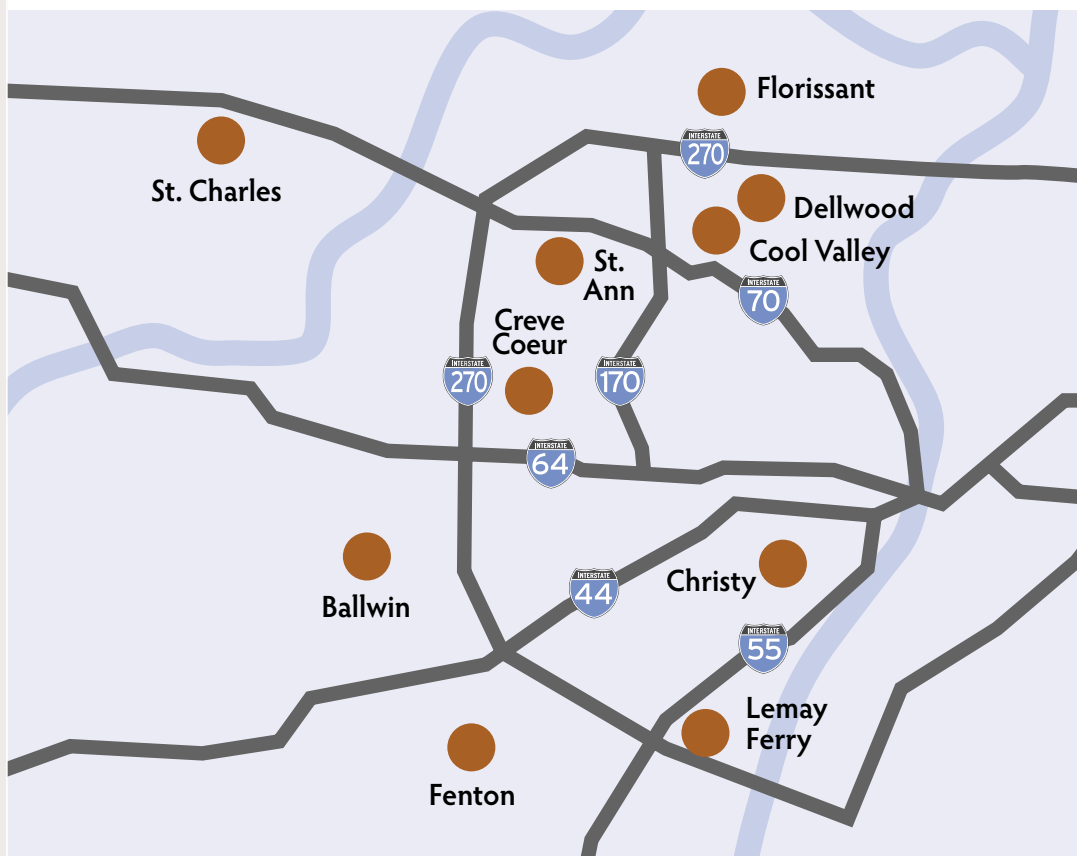
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis
1310 Papin Street
Saint Louis, MO 63103
(314) 881-6000
svdpstl.org

Our Mission

A network of friends, inspired by
Gospel values, growing in holiness
and building a more just world
through personal relationships with
and service
to people in need.



Your generosity can change lives
right here in St. Louis. Please donate
using the QR code above, online at
www.svdpstlouis.org or by
calling 314-881-6035.



Your Purchases at SVdP Thrift Stores Help Neighbors in Need

Thrift Store Locations

Ballwin

13986 Manchester Rd.
Ballwin, MO 63011

Cool Valley Thrift Outlet

1225 South Florissant
St. Louis, MO 63121

Creve Coeur

11015 Olive Boulevard
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Christy

4928 Christy Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116

Dellwood

10052 W. Florissant Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63136

Fenton

625 Gravois Rd.
Fenton, MO 63026

Florissant

1 Paddock Hills Shopping Ctr.
Florissant, MO 63033

Lemay Ferry

3924 Lemay Ferry Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63125

St. Ann

10585 St. Charles Rock Rd.
St. Ann, MO 63074

St. Charles

1069 Regency Parkway
St. Charles, MO 63303