

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2017

FACES *of* HOPE

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

HEART
ATTACK AT 47
And How You Help
Jim Heal



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

... HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME ...

You Help Us Help Others



I am part of the sandwich generation.

The sandwich generation are those of us in our thirties or forties who are responsible for bringing up our own children and caring for our aging parents. A big part of that care, at least for me and others I know, involves doctors' appointments and managing medications.

Can you imagine thinking you pulled a muscle at age 47, only to discover it was a heart attack? It happened to Jim Tinker. Read his story on page 4.

The cost of medication and other health care expenses can be overwhelming, even for the insured. Often, the cost after an accident or an unexpected illness or injury can be the catalyst to propel a financially stable family into the depths of poverty. According to the Missouri Community Action Network, health is one of the five key elements of poverty. In fact, of the more than half-million Missourians who don't have health insurance, most are working.

That's why we are so grateful to people like you and Dennis Jones, who has been the foundation of our SVdP prescription program (see page 3). His help, and the help from the Jones Foundation, have kept families

healthy, both physically and financially.

I am also thankful when you who donate to our seven Thrift Stores. On the back page of *Faces of Hope*, we have featured a gift basket to give to someone who is on the mend, put together by Laney Lazier, the manager of our Thrift Store in St. Charles. When you buy, you also help our neighbors in need.

We are so thankful for your intense desire to help others. When I am in the middle of caring for my young daughter or my older mother-in-law, I will draw strength from your commitment to help those whom you have never met, but have helped in so many ways!

John P. Foppe
Executive Director

Prescription Assistance: How it Works

Many struggle daily to maintain housing and buy food. There is often little or no money left for necessary prescriptions. Despite the increase in government provided health insurance, our volunteers have seen a spike in demand for help with prescription costs, making our program important for the neighbors we serve.

The pharmacy program is simple with no red tape. The Vincentian volunteer, after determining need, provides a voucher for the neighbor to take to their physician. The physician sends the voucher and the prescription to LDI who then sends the neighbor a six month supply of the drug(s). The Society covers all cost.

PRESCRIPTION STATS

3029		Prescriptions dispensed
\$765,747		Over the counter cost
\$68,430		SVdP's cost

LDI
integrated pharmacy services
Health Solutions Made Personal.

Why We Give and Encourage You to Join Us

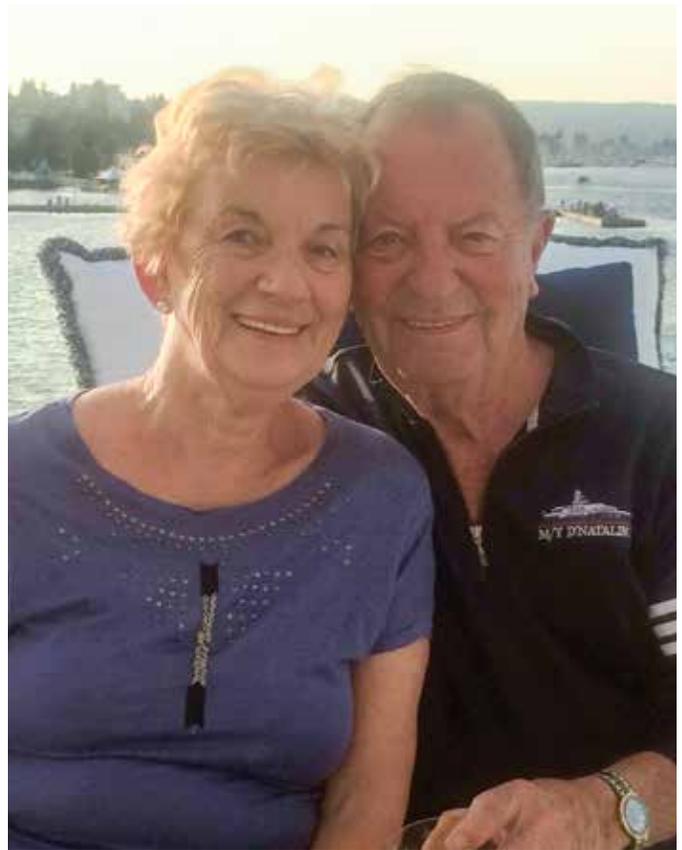


Dennis Jones starting tithing as a young child attending the United Brethren Church. “In the 40’s the church was the center of society and the congregation took care of its members. Dad has always felt a strong responsibility to help others,” recalled his daughter, Denise Franz.

Dennis grew up in humble surroundings and married his high school sweetheart, Judy, with whom he created Jones Pharma, Inc. a multi-billion-dollar company that produced and distributed pharmaceuticals. When he met SVdP St. Louis Council Executive Director John Foppe in 2013, they talked about the need to help those who couldn’t afford needed medication. “Very few charities help with prescriptions,” said Denise. “Those who need help are sent running around in circles. They’re told to contact manufacturers directly. Maybe they are offered a coupon. Then they’re told to contact their doctor, who tells them to contact the manufacturer. It’s a vicious cycle with paperwork, paperwork, paperwork. And if the person doesn’t have constant access to a computer or phone, there is no help for them at all.”

Given his life’s work with pharmaceuticals, Dennis offered to work with SVdP to help fund the pharmaceutical program, which helps people like Jim Tinker (see page 4) pay for medications.

“Giving to others is one of the reasons we were put on this earth by God,” said Denise. “We believe every person has a responsibility to give of their time, talent and/or treasure. Every gift is important to the person



who receives and the person who gives. It is incumbent upon our generation to promote and encourage philanthropy of all kinds in the next generation.”

The Jones Foundation funds nearly two-thirds of the program. Dennis Jones died in 2016, but the effect of his giving continues through your help and the commitment of his family to honor his legacy.



HEART ATTACK AT 47

And How You Help Jim Heal

If you have driven by a Parkway School District school sometime during the last 15 years, and you liked how it looked, chances are Jim Tinker had something to do with it.

“I worked in maintenance for the school district and was responsible for caring for the outside of many of the schools,” Jim said. “I loved what I did and took a lot of pride in it. We mowed the grass, did the landscaping, trimmed the trees and took care of the cement and bricks and mortar of the school.”

And he felt just as part of the education team as the teachers and staff. “No matter what’s going on inside the walls,” remembered Jim, “a parent or student’s first impression of the school was made outside of the walls.”

He was at work, mulching the land in front of one of the schools, when he felt a severe pain. He thought he had pulled a muscle. Even though he hurt, he continued working. It was when he was back into the shop area at the end of the day that both the pain, and a realization, hit him hard. At 47 years old, he was having a heart attack.

Doctors put a stint in his heart but, two years later, he had another heart attack. At 49, he was having quadruple bypass surgery.

“You can’t work after something like that,” Jim says. “I go stir crazy because I want to be working outside but I can’t. They sewed me back up using wires, and the wires broke, so it feels like something is trying to poke me from the inside out. I take 19 pills a day, not including pain pills. I can’t stand for long periods of time, I can’t sit for long periods of time, and it’s hard not to get depressed.”

Jim’s wife, Barb, works for the state of Missouri and, while their four children are grown and they now have grandchildren, it’s hard for the couple to live on one income and still pay all the bills.

“We have to choose between paying for the mortgage, insurance, food and my medication,” said Jim. “Without you, I would have to choose to keep a roof over my head, make sure we have food on the table, and to make sure we have insurance. I would have to go without the medication. But because of your generosity, I don’t have to make that choice, and my wife and I are so grateful.”

“Without you, I would have to choose to keep a roof over my head, make sure we have food on the table, and to make sure we have insurance. I would have to go without the medication. But because of your generosity, I don’t have to make that choice.”

Jim and Barb have three grandsons and are expecting their first granddaughter in April. He loves seeing his grandchildren, but he misses seeing the thousands of students who would play on the grass he so carefully cut, or walk on the winter sidewalks he had cleared of snow and ice. Without your support, Jim would be missing more than that, including the medication he so desperately needs.





How can I just walk away?

“If you know someone who is hungry or who has no place to live, why wouldn’t you feel compelled to help?” she asked. “How could you just walk away?”

Dr. Barb Lutey practices what she preaches in her medical work. She recalled, “As an intern, I remember a patient I will call Ms. Smith. When I asked her if she had enough to eat, she looked me in the eye and said, ‘I’m hungry!’” The only food she had at home was some bacon, walnuts, and a half-bottle of soda.

Now, as a faculty physician at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, she provides medical care to the underserved on the medical campus and at Affinia Healthcare, a Federally Qualified Health Center located in North St. Louis, one of the poorest areas in St. Louis. She says that her conversation with Ms. Smith still influences what she does today. “At that moment, I was really shocked to learn that she could not afford to buy food. Later, I wondered how long it took for her to feel brave enough to tell me.” As a result, if patients seem to be struggling with financial issues such as rent, food, utilities or other essentials, Dr. Lutey invites them to describe their situation and directs them to resources for assistance. “It can be uncomfortable to discuss these things, but I think it is important to do it. Avoiding the subject can make people feel ashamed of being in need.”



TOP CONDITIONS TREATED



High Cholesterol



High Blood Pressure



Type 2 Diabetes



Acid Reflux



“THE PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM IS WONDERFUL. THE PROGRAM COVERS MANY OF THE BASIC MEDICATIONS THAT PHYSICIANS USE EVERY DAY.”

Many of Dr. Lutey’s patients rely on Medicaid or similar programs, and some have no medical coverage at all. Patients struggling to pay the costs of clinic visits, treatments, and prescriptions may stop taking their medications in order to save money which can have disastrous consequences, especially if the problem is diabetes or high blood pressure.

That’s why Dr. Lutey supports the SVdP Pharmacy program, which provides financial assistance to pay for medication or medical supplies that insurance doesn’t cover or the patient can’t afford.

She sees its benefits firsthand, not only in her work but in her community, as she is also a Vincentian with the Cathedral Basilica Conference in the Central West End. “The prescription program is wonderful. The program covers many of the basic medications that physicians use every day. I have referred some of my clinic patients,

and our Conference has also referred some of our clients. It is a great service.”

As a Vincentian, she often goes on home visits to neighbors in need, and feels that the lessons she learns from the clients help her to provide better care to her clinic patients. The experience benefit her, also as friendships grow with the Vincentians with whom she volunteers. “Our Conference meets weekly, and I have met with several of my fellow Vincentians every Monday evening for more than 10 years. We have shared experiences that bring us together, and help us to renew our commitment to the mission. We are aware of our role in our community and our place in a worldwide organization.”

Because of your shared commitment to helping our neighbors in need, Dr. Lutey and other Vincentians will continue meeting the needs of the poor where they are and helping them get what they need so they can begin to see the face of Christ more often in their lives.

Thrift Store Locations

Dellwood
10052 W. Florissant Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63136
(314) 881-6045

St. Ann
10585 St. Charles Rock Rd.
St. Ann, MO 63074
(314) 881-6032

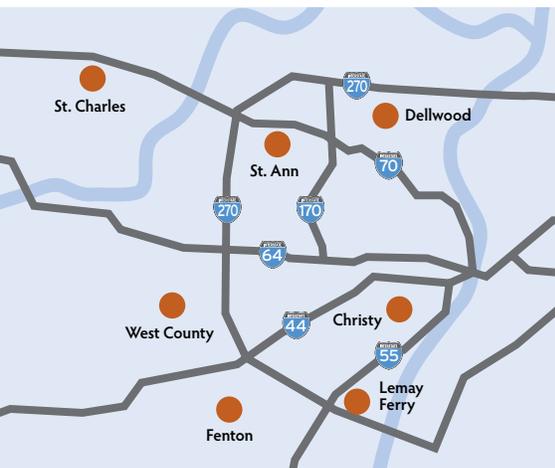
Fenton
625 Gravois Rd.
Fenton, MO 63026
(314) 881-6041

St. Charles
1069 Regency Parkway
St. Charles, MO 63303
(314) 881-6047

Lemay Ferry
3924 Lemay Ferry Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63125
(314) 881-6046

South City
4928 Christy Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116
(314) 881-6043

West County
13986 Manchester Rd.
Ballwin, MO 63011
(314) 881-6034



ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN AREA



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

... HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME ...

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 Catholic lay organization, joining women and men together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering.



Gift for Others... Helping Neighbors

By donating to or shopping at our seven St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores, you are helping us help our neighbors in need keep their utilities on, pay their rent, or buy needed medication. Pictured is a care package for someone who may be feeling under the weather. Laney Lazier, manager of the St. Charles Thrift Store, created this basket with new and gently used items from her Thrift Store. You can create your own gift bag or find the perfect gift on its own. Thank you for shopping at our stores for unique gift items and everyday clothes and housewares!



Did you know you can continue to help neighbors in need long after you are gone?

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of St. Louis presents:

A Charitable Giving Seminar

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017 AT 12 NOON

The Lodge at Des Peres
1050 Des Peres Road, St. Louis, MO 63131

Speaker: Shawn Becker, J.D. LL.M., Rubin Brown
Complimentary lunch

Sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council Office

To RSVP

Contact Kara Amann at 314-881-6035 or karaa@svdpstl.org