

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3 FALL 2017

# FACES *of* HOPE

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

YOU HELPED  
JIM GAIN  
INDEPENDENCE



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

... HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME ...

# You Have Become a Friend to the Stranger



Sharing the enclosed stories with you is one of the best ways we at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul can say “Thank you” for everything you do for those in our care.

Maybe you’ve been a volunteer, donor, Vincentian, or friend. Maybe

you’ve offered financial support or the support of your prayers. Whatever it is, know that our aim is to be the hands, feet and heart of Christ *for you* — taking your gifts of time, prayer, talents or treasures and transforming them into spiritual and material assistance for our neighbors in greatest need.

In this issue of *Faces of Hope*, we feature the difference donors like you are making in areas of Lincoln County, just north and west of the St. Louis region. Across Winfield, Foley, Elsberry, Troy and other towns, more than 10,000 households are not able to meet their basic living expenses. Our conferences in Troy and Old Monroe are actively reaching out with assistance ranging from food to clothing to transportation,

home and vehicle repairs...and much more.

Many hear of SVdP, providentially, at a time when they don’t know where else to turn.

I remember hearing someone say that gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns a meal into a feast, a house into a home, and a stranger into a friend.

Because of you – because your gratitude for your own blessings moves you to share with others – houses are turned into homes and strangers become friends.

John P. Foppe  
Executive Director

## Bridge to Stability Program: A Neighbor’s Journey

### Local SVdP Conference

- 3,400 trained volunteers
- 142 Parish Conferences
- Growing spiritually by serving neighbors

### SVdP Council Office

- Strategic Direction
- Program Design
- Volunteer Training
- Funding

### Home Visit:

Can SVdP with its resources move this family to stability? If yes, journey begins.

### Basic and Emergency Needs Met:

- Utilities
- Food
- Clothing
- Furniture

**Extraordinary Needs Identified:** Needs fall outside the ability of the conference

### Request is Sent to the Council Office:

For review and implementation

### Extraordinary Needs Met:

- Housing/home repair
- Beds
- Prescription drugs
- Transportation
- Legal Services

Neighbor in Need of Help Calls 2-1-1 or SVdP Conference





# Moved to Make a Difference



**“In Foley, in Winfield, in Elsberry, I pass by  
abject poverty. I drive up Highway 79 to and  
from my home and I see it every day.”**

David Orthwein says it’s his Catholic faith that inspires him to try to do good things in the face of great need. “I want to fulfill what the Bible tells us – to resist following the desires of our own heart, to keep trying, even if we fall short.”

Recently, Mr. Orthwein entrusted a significant gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s Bridge to Stability Program in Lincoln County. Bridges is providing life-changing assistance for neighbors facing a particular hardship that is blocking their pathway to a better life. Bridges helps fill the gap when urgent requests fall beyond that which a single parish conference can meet.

According to a study recently commissioned by United Way of Greater St. Louis, 58% of the households in Lincoln County do not make enough to meet their basic living needs including housing, food and transportation.

For Orthwein, who lives in nearby Pike County, the gift is one he feels can make a difference beyond just the material help.

Many charities are helping the poor. But David says that for him, there is an important difference with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. “It’s very much a parish-based outreach, driven by the time, talent, and treasure

we can give to it. With a major grant, I know I am empowering Catholics in local parishes to help the people right there in the communities and neighborhoods where they live.”

“It is a very different thing to donate to a cause than to donate to people,” Orthwein says. “The society of St. Vincent de Paul is about the people. It’s one-on-one. And I think that’s incredibly powerful.”

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# You Helped Jim Gain INDEPENDENCE

**“I’m just not used to having good things happen to me,”** Jim Lampson admits. “What you all have allowed me to have ... it is a life saver.”

Born with clubbed feet, Jim didn’t walk until he was nearly eight years old. He endured dozens of surgeries growing up and even served as a “poster child” for Shriner’s Hospital in St. Louis.

As a teen, Lampson was injured in two separate motor vehicle accidents. In the past decade, he has dealt with a worsening back condition. The chronic disabilities have left him with very limited mobility. Most days, he says, he sits at his window and looks out. “That’s my life,” he says.

This 62-year-old former lawn mower repairman offers his grateful thanks to everyone whose donations



**"I'M JUST NOT USED TO HAVING GOOD THINGS HAPPEN TO ME. WHAT YOU ALL HAVE ALLOWED ME TO HAVE ... IT IS A LIFE SAVER."**

to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul allowed for the construction of a much-needed accessible bathroom.

Before the renovation, he and his wife Donna had a conventional bathtub and shower head. "But it was horrible," Jim says. "And it would take two people to help me get in and out of the thing. I'll tell you what. I was ready to take a power saw and just try to cut the thing up so I could get in it."

Donna heard about possible help from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, through the St. Vincent de Paul Conference at Immaculate Conception in Old Monroe. She called and explained the need.

Thanks to the Society's Bridge to Stability Program in Lincoln County, the Council office was able to help the Conference pay for the walk-in shower, grab bars, vanity and commode...essentially a new bathroom that would allow Jim Lampson to get by much more independently.

The Lampson's log home was built in 1983 and its settling over the years has left some structural changes that made for extra challenges in completing the renovation. "We moved here in 1991; a few years later, some windows wouldn't open and close. There was snow coming in. You wonder what the heck is happening here. You learn in life."

The Lampsons have faced other recent losses, too. In the past year, Jim's sister passed away, and they lost their 35-year-old son in a tragic accident.

"Before my son died, I never prayed. Now, I pray every day. I'm working to keep some kind of hope here," says Jim. "We've got food to eat, and we've got a pretty good family. So I'm just trying to stay with it ... What you guys did was the best thing that has happened to me in a long time."



**THE CHRONIC DISABILITIES HAVE LEFT HIM WITH VERY LIMITED MOBILITY. MOST DAYS, JIM SAYS, HE SITS AT HIS WINDOW AND LOOKS OUT. "THAT'S MY LIFE," HE SAYS.**

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**YES**”



“And I really think the Lord is behind us 100% ... because we’ve never run out of food. We’ve never run out of money. We’ve always found a way to say yes when there was a need.”

**Butch Henke helped start his parish's outreach to neighbors in need back in 1984.**

“Two other men and I who belong to Immaculate Conception in Old Monroe saw a need. We felt like there were a lot of hungry people in our area. So, we started a little food pantry in the rectory basement,” Henke says.

Over the years, that effort grew. The group responded by helping pay utility bills, rent and sending volunteer carpenters and plumbers to repair homes. Eventually,

their small parish ministry became a St. Vincent de Paul Conference, one of 142 chapters whose Vincentians meet the needs of those in their local community and are supported by the St. Louis Council.

“It has become a tremendous effort!” Henke exclaimed. “Joining up with the Society has been very rewarding ... to help all these people who just don’t have much. And okay, maybe they made a bad decision here or there, but they need our help. They need food, clothing and a roof over their heads.”

Today, there are conferences at both Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart Parish in Troy. Combined, the two Conferences work to care for people in need across all of Lincoln County with its neighbors sprawled across 640 square miles to the north and west of St. Louis.

Through the funding by the St. Louis Council's Bridge to Stability Program, a Conference is empowered to meet needs that fall beyond its own resources. The Bridge to Stability Program is a unique partnership where the St. Louis Council provides key funding to "bridge the gap" for an individual or family, and the Conference carries out the work itself. Assistance to Jim Lampson (see story, page 4) was made possible by the Bridges Program.

"And I really think the Lord is behind us 100% ... because we've never run out of food. We've never run out of money. We've always found a way to say yes when there was a need," Henke says.

Susan Kallash Bailey and Barb Tucker at the Sacred Heart Conference in Troy agree (see Sacred Heart Food Pantry photo below). "Without the Bridge to Stability Program we would never have the funds to help at the

level we are now helping people get to a better place," they note. "It has allowed a lot of people to get through some very rough times ... We are so grateful."

The beneficiaries of that support are also very grateful. Henke recalls one elderly lady with cancer who had a \$650 unpaid utility bill. The Conference was able to take care of that for which she was extremely appreciative. "Many people just break down and cry when they see what we're going to be able to do," he says.

Another Elsberry family of seven was scraping by with space heaters because they couldn't afford a furnace repair. Through the Bridge to Stability Program, the Immaculate Conception Conference replaced the furnace for \$2,000. "They were so excited that their kitchen wasn't 50 degrees anymore," Henke recalls. "We also helped with some hospital bills to get them in a little better position and able to catch up." Now, that family is self-sufficient once again.

"People we help are very thankful for all we do," Henke says. "The hugs go on and on ... they just can't believe at times that people are going to help them like this."



## 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

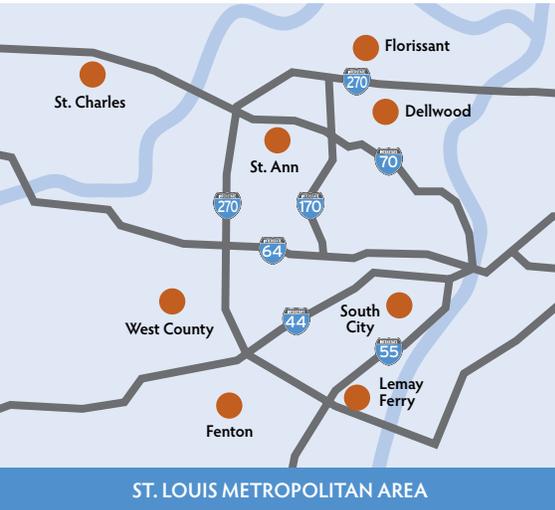
**St. Charles**  
1069 Regency Parkway  
St. Charles, MO 63303  
(314) 881-6047

**Florissant**  
1 Paddock Hills Shopping Ctr.  
Florissant, MO 63033  
(314) 881-6097

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

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

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



## Eighth SVdP Thrift Store Opens in Florissant

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul welcomed its eighth thrift store location in Florissant this summer. Located in North St. Louis County, Florissant is a vibrant area and Store Manager Debbie Stanza says she is so happy to be part of such a welcoming and caring community that takes pride in its history and traditions.

SVdP features a unique thrift store concept . . . SVdP Conferences provide store vouchers for neighbors in need who can obtain clothing, housewares, furniture and bedding at no cost. Plus, the stores are a great place for the general public to find bargains and treasures to reuse and upcycle.

**STOP BY TO VISIT!**



**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  
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### 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.

