

IN Charity AND TRUTH

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3 FALL 2015



DEAR FELLOW VINCENTIANS AND FRIENDS,

G. K. Chesterton once wrote, “We make our friends; we make our enemies; but God makes our next-door neighbor.” I believe God truly blessed me in 1995 when I moved in across the street from Jeanne.

Jeanne took the role of neighbor to a whole new level; in fact, she turned “neighbor” into a verb: She brought me and others on our street delicious meals and kept a fully-stocked refrigerator out back just so she could invite neighbors over for a drink. Every night at least one person dropped by to visit because Jeanne opened her heart and her home.

She bestowed the same blessings upon another man who lived alone down the street and was paralyzed. Home healthcare aides monitored his general care, but his really good meals came from Jeanne.

Did my generous neighbor ask to have two disabled people move into her neighborhood and her life? No. God brought us within shouting distance of Jeanne’s kitchen, and she chose to bless us in the way she knew how.

Like Jeanne, our Vincentian volunteers open their eyes and hearts to those who God has brought into their lives, neighboring with those in need, like Orlando and his family.

When Orlando lost his job and the utilities in their home needed major repairs, Vincentian neighbors helped the family avoid the cycle of poverty with aid from the **Bridges Program** (page 2).

These beautiful stories of neighbors helping neighbors would not be possible without your help. Thank you for joining with us in our mission.

Most humbly and gratefully yours,



John P. Foppe, Ph.D. (h.c.)
Executive Director



After Orlando lost his job, he and his family were amazed that a neighbor they had never met before could provide the life-saving help they needed to get back on their feet through SVDP’s new Bridges Program.

Neighboring from the Heart Program Provides Bridge to Stability

AS AN EXECUTIVE CHEF, Orlando never had trouble supporting his family of four. But when his congestive heart disease began to progress, it set off a chain of extenuating circumstances that put his whole family at risk.

It began when he started passing out at work and was forced to give up the job he loved. That same month, the family’s air conditioner and water heater broke down, and the furnace needed replacing. Orlando’s wife Mary found a job as a caretaker, but that income combined only with disability payments was not enough to keep the family afloat.

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Neighboring From the Heart from page 1

The family tried to save up and make do as best they could, boiling their drinking water every day for a year. But rising temperatures put Orlando's health in serious jeopardy due to his heart condition, and soon the family fell behind on their water bill.

Without help, the downward cycle would have continued: They would have likely continued to fall behind on other bills, potentially having their other utilities shut off, making their home even more unsafe for Orlando's heart condition, or they could have lost their home altogether.

Thankfully, this past spring, the Society created a program that empowers Vincentians to aid their neighbors in need who, like Orlando, struggle with a single basic need that threatens to throw them into the cycle of poverty.

John Edmiston, Vincentian volunteer at St. Norbert's conference, gave the family the first good news they had



Without life-saving aid from the Bridges Program, Orlando's home would not be a safe place for him to await his heart transplant.

received in quite some time. The Bridges Program could pay \$5,000 to cover the cost of the new air conditioner, furnace and water heater, putting their family back on track.

But the best news of all came the week their new equipment was installed: Orlando received the call that he would receive a new heart after waiting on the transplant list for a year.

New Bridges Program: Neighboring for Hope

THE SOCIETY'S VINCENTIAN VOLUNTEERS are on the streets every day answering Christ's call to neighbor with those He has placed in their lives. Sometimes they do this by helping with day-to-day needs such as utilities, food, medicine, transportation and more.



The Bridges Program can provide a lifeline to individuals and families who would otherwise be thrown into the cycle of poverty.

However, sometimes our neighbors have needs that run deeper. Extenuating circumstances can keep people in need trapped in or teetering on the edge of poverty.

For those larger costs and more complicated cases, SVDP's new Bridges Program is there to empower Vincentians to alleviate their neighbors in need of a significant expense, such as large emergency repairs or hospital bills. The goal of the program is to help our neighbors in need avoid a downward spiral into poverty by bringing about a pivotal solution that will move them from despair to hope.

The need for this type of assistance is great. In the last seven months, Vincentians have changed the lives of 48 households through the Bridges Program, providing more than \$100,000 in direct aid. But the need continues.

Will you join us in neighboring with those who need it most? To learn more about supporting the Bridges Program, contact Anne Kirwan, Development Officer, at 314.881.6024 or annek@svdpstl.org.

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Donor Spotlight “What We Have Belongs to God:”

Dave and Diane Snively Neighbor with Time, Talents and Treasures

FOR DAVE AND DIANE SNIVELY,

longtime friends of the Society, being a good neighbor is summed up in one phrase from the Gospel of John: “Go forth and bear fruit... and love one another” (John 15:16-17).

“We have been blessed, and God asks us to share with all of our brothers and sisters in Him,” Diane said. “Whether we are tithing financially or giving of our time and talents, all of what we have belongs to God.”

As longtime friends of the Society, the Snivelys are committed to serving their neighbors in need throughout the St. Louis area.

“There are people all over St. Louis who need help—in the city, in the county, everywhere,” Diane said. “We know our support will go to whoever needs it most. Also, the Society is made up of volunteers, so our donations don’t go into maintaining a lot of offices. Our donations go directly to the people.”

In addition to raising three children and Dave’s work as General Counsel for Monsanto Company, the Snivelys also give of themselves through volunteering at a variety of other Catholic and education organizations, grounded by their conviction that their time and talents are not their own.

“We are created for eternity and this time on earth is just a minute part of that eternity,” Dave said. “Whatever time we have here we are responsible to give back to God.”



Guided by their passion for Catholic education, Diane and Dave Snively serve their neighbors throughout the archdiocese.

Remembering Our Roots

SVDP Celebrates 170-Year Legacy of Charity

IN 1845, the Society's first conference in the U.S. started right here in St. Louis with fewer than 30 Catholic laymen who were inspired to respond to the great need they saw in their community. On September 13, 170 years later, approximately 400 Vincentian volunteers and friends of the Society gathered to celebrate this humble beginning and growing legacy of charity.

"I am proud that the Society calls our city home," said Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, who celebrated the Mass. "As one of the oldest charities in our city, the Society plays a unique role in our history, and from here, the Society has spread its network of mercy and compassion across the country."

In his homily at the Mass commemorating the anniversary of the establishment of the first conference, Archbishop Carlson recognized the descendants of the founding members, as well as current Vincentians, for carrying on the Vincentian spirit for 170 years.



Archbishop Robert J. Carlson says the Eucharistic prayer during the Society's anniversary Mass.

Archbishop Carlson concluded the Mass by blessing a restored statue of St. Vincent de Paul given as a gift to the Old Cathedral by the Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis. Guests then toured the Old Cathedral museum to see historical artifacts from the Society's history in St. Louis.

Society Celebrates Mission Across Archdiocese

OFTEN, MUCH OF THE WORK Vincentians volunteers do—operating food pantries, arranging utility assistance, helping with transportation needs and more—happens behind the scenes. But on Sunday, Nov. 8, Vincentians at parishes across the Archdiocese will share their stories.

At 112 parish-based SVDP conferences across the Archdiocese, Vincentians will make presentations highlighting what they do out in their communities every day—offering life-saving hope to their neighbors in need. It is all part of a year-long celebration of the 170th anniversary of the establishment of the Society in the U.S.



The first conference was established at the Old Cathedral in St. Louis when several Catholic laymen were moved to respond to the great need they saw in their community. Since then, the Society in St. Louis has grown to 142 conferences and more than 3,000 Vincentians offering person-to-person services to those in need all across the St. Louis area.

In addition to raising awareness about the Society's work and mission, this special Sunday will also be a great opportunity for parishioners to learn how they can support their local conference by donating, volunteering and shopping.

Each of these conferences collaborated with the St. Louis Council office to plan presentations and events that fit with their parish and conference. The St. Louis Council office has provided a variety of new tools for conferences, including a new video, bulletin inserts, yard signs, pamphlets and more.

"We operate a huge amount of ministries, from setting up housing to making blankets and so many more, and we owe all of it to our supporters at the parish," said Tom Knese, Vincentian at Queen of All Saints. "It is hard to express what you feel when you're able to help someone, and all that credit goes back to our supporters at the parish."

To learn more the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at your parish, stay tuned for Sunday, Nov. 8.

Memorial and Honor Gifts

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY in remembrance and honor of your friends and family. The following gifts were received between May 1, 2015 and August 30, 2015.

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

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.

Please Remember Us

We pray that you remember the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis in your estate planning. Your legacy will continue and strengthen one of the first charitable missions in St. Louis... since 1845.



Thrift Store Locations

Dellwood
10052 W. Florissant Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63136
(314) 881-6000

Fenton NEW STORE
625 Gravois Rd.
Fenton, MO 63026
(314) 881-6000

Lemay Ferry
3924 Lemay Ferry Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63125
(314) 881-6000

St. Charles
1069 Regency Parkway
St. Charles, MO 63303
(314) 881-6000

South City
4928 Christy Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116
(314) 881-6000

West County NEW LOCATION
13986 Manchester Rd.
Ballwin, MO 63011
(314) 881-6000



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
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IN *Charity*
AND **TRUTH**

More Deals for Shoppers, More Hope for the Community

SVDP Opens New Store, Moves Another

EVERYBODY LOVES A GREAT DEAL, and Fenton residents can now find plenty of them at the Society's newest thrift store at 625 Gravois Rd. in Fenton.

The store, which opened last month, offers a variety of new and gently used household goods, furniture, clothing and mattresses for value-conscious shoppers in a 18,000 square-foot facility.

In addition, to better serve customers in West County, SVDP is in the process of moving its Ballwin store to 13986 Manchester Rd. The space boasts increased square footage and better visibility from Manchester Road. The new location will be open by mid-November.

SVDP's thrift stores are different than other area thrift stores in that local parish conferences provide store vouchers to neighbors in need so they can obtain goods at no charge. Each of SVDP's stores provides a low-cost option for a wide variety of quality donated clothing, furniture and household items for people in need. Stores are also open to the general public, and everyone can find bargains and treasures to reuse and upcycle.

All proceeds stay in the community and support SVDP's person-to-person services for St. Louisans in need,



Fenton residents, volunteers and SVDP staff gathered for the ribbon-cutting and blessing of the new thrift store on Oct. 8.

including utility and transportation assistance, prescription medications, food and more. Moreover, the stores operate with significant volunteer labor, allowing additional savings to be passed on to those in need.

To find a thrift store location near you or learn more about volunteering at a thrift store, visit www.svdpstl.org/thrift-stores. To schedule a free pick-up of furniture and household goods, call 314.881.6006.