

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2019

FACES *of* HOPE

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

YOU PROVIDED

Hope

WHEN SO MUCH
ELSE WAS LOST



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

... HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME ...

Is God Really Good *All the Time*?



It's one thing to praise Jesus when life is going well, but when burdened with one problem after another, proclaiming God's goodness is more challenging.

But for Dorothy, whom you'll meet in this issue of Faces of Hope, her face beams as she speaks of God's ever-present blessings shining through her family's trials and tragedies. She's a spiritual inspiration to many, including our Vincentian volunteers caring for her and her children.

St. James's epistle encourages no less. "Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials, for the

testing of your faith produces perseverance..."

Yes. With faith, we can rest assured. God really IS good, all the time.

Thank you for your prayers and generosity, which allow all of us at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to continue to share the joy of God's goodness – and produces perseverance through the various trials that come our way.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Foppe".

John P. Foppe
Executive Director

YOUR IRA CAN HELP A FAMILY IN NEED TODAY!

70½ years old or older? There's a simple way to benefit a Neighbor in Need and get tax benefits in return!

BENEFITS OF GIVING TO SVDP FROM YOUR IRA



SEE THE IMPACT

Your gift gives thousands of Neighbors in Need hope and help.



PAY NO TAXES

Give from \$500 to \$100,000 and pay no income taxes on the gift. Receive a tax benefit even if you do not itemize.



SATISFY IRA DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

Your charitable distribution to SVdP can satisfy all or part of the amount of your required minimum distribution from your IRA.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

To learn more, contact your financial advisor or Ryan Carney at 314.881.6003 ryanc@svdpstl.org

LIKE THESE DONORS, Your Support Reveals the Presence of the Church



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

SHIRLEY RHEINBERGER REFLECTS on the spiritual growth she and her husband Tom have experienced as longtime Vincentian volunteers and, more recently, as generous donors to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul St. Louis Council.

“We were involved at St. Patrick Church in University City in the ‘70s and ‘80s. Back then it was mostly about energy assistance. “Being part of SVdP certainly helps you grow closer to Christ... We talk about seeing the face of Jesus in others. Visiting our Neighbors in Need is a way to practice that, and the other volunteers you work with become very close friends and fellow laborers for the Lord.”

After St. Patrick parish closed in 2001, the Rheinbergers wanted to further SVdP’s work by contributing financially. “We’d learned how they ran other efforts like helping with transportation and getting people back on their feet after an emergency. We wanted to participate in that. Those programs are so helpful and so practical, and SVdP partners with so many other agencies that really accomplishes so much.”

Shirley says their involvement as volunteers and donors has opened their eyes. “Difficulties can fall on

anyone. Problems pile up and it’s hard for families to find a way out. You learn to not judge others.” Also, helping all who are in need gives people the opportunity to recognize the presence of the Church in their own neighborhood.”

“We had never realized how much need there was among our neighbors.”

Shirley Rheinberger

“I’m grateful to SVdP for helping to broaden our concept of what our community needs and how people can come together to help one another.”

Tom and Shirley Rheinberger live at Friendship Village in Chesterfield and attend Incarnate Word Parish. Shirley grew up in St. Louis and worked in graduate admissions for Washington University. Tom hails from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is a retired McDonnell Douglas (Boeing) engineer.



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WHEN SO MUCH
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WHITNEY, MOTHER OF THREE, DIED LAST OCTOBER.

It was a tragic car accident — and as a result, her daughter, 11-year-old Zakaiya suffered injuries including paralysis below the waist and is confined to a wheelchair.

Dorothy, Whitney's sister was determined to save Whitney's surviving family. "I wasn't going to leave Zakaiya's side at the hospital. And, I was going to do everything I could to make sure my nieces wouldn't be split up like my siblings and I were when we were younger."

So, Dorothy quit her job so she could move to a larger house in Florissant where she, her own three children, and her sister's three children, could start a new life together.



But starting from ground zero was going to be very hard. And she knew she couldn't do it alone.

A social worker at Ranken Jordan, where Zakaiya went for rehabilitation, told Dorothy about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. And so, Dorothy reached out to the St. Norbert Conference.

St. Norbert Vincentians and parish donors sprang into action. Christy Mooney and Kathy Heimberger visited the family home to meet the children and see about meeting the family's most urgent needs. A parish family donated a washer and dryer. Another parishioner, owner of Show-Me's and active with SVdP, promptly interviewed Dorothy and offered her a position as a cook – with hours that coordinated with the kids' school schedule.

Dorothy was able to receive needed mattresses, furnishings, utensils, clothing, and other household essentials at the Florissant SVdP Thrift store. Ranken Jordan also provided a hospital bed for Zakaiya, allowing Dorothy to safely lift her from the bed to her wheelchair.

"God is so good, all the time!" says Dorothy. "If it wasn't for St. Norbert's Vincentians, Miss Christy and Miss Kathy, and all they've done, I don't know where we'd be."

"Dorothy is an amazing person," Kathy says, "with a wonderful attitude. And she is so thankful."

Dorothy was able to receive needed mattresses, furnishings, utensils, clothing, and other household essentials at the Florissant SVdP Thrift store.

"I've now lost a brother and a sister," Dorothy says. "But I know everything happens for a reason. I consider myself blessed so much by so many people. You all are my angels. And as I raise these kids, I am trying to teach them that despite the odds, you gotta keep pushin' ... there's no giving up, not here. If I get up and do it, then you do, too."

Dorothy's family now includes her own children – ages 17, 16, 6, and 2, along with her nieces, ages 11, 10, and 8. The younger children attend Brown Elementary School in Florissant.

"God is so good, all the time!
If it wasn't for St. Norbert's
Vincentians, Miss Christy and
Miss Kathy, and all they've done,
I don't know where we'd be."

Dorothy





BEYOND THE NEED, NEIGHBORS & VINCENTIANS BECOME FRIENDS

“When you go into someone’s home and learn about their life, they are no longer a Neighbor in Need, but a friend.”

Christy Mooney

CHRISTY MOONEY’S CONNECTION with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul began when she was growing up in Florissant in the 1960s. “With six children, my parents faced a lot of challenges. From age 34 until she died, my mom was confined to a wheelchair. My dad suffered post-traumatic stress following World War II. St. Vincent de Paul supported us.”

In 2009, Christy and her husband Joe joined SVdP volunteers at their St. Norbert parish. At that time, the Conference focused mostly on providing utility help. But today, volunteers go on home visits to help neighbors with a much wider range of needs.

Christy marvels at the difference that “getting to know your neighbor in need” makes. “This is what makes

St. Vincent de Paul so different. When you go into someone’s home and learn about their life, you no longer judge the poor. You realize it could be you. It’s a paradigm shift in thinking – from sympathy to true empathy. All of us need help of some sort.” The empathy . . . it begins at the first home visit. Vincentians develop a deep understanding, a relationship that leads to a commitment reciprocated by the Neighbors they serve.

Kathy Heimberger, one of the St. Norbert’s newest SVdP volunteers, agrees. “I’m constantly amazed at what our neighbors accomplish with what little they have. I’ve been overwhelmed with their sense of caring, humility and their genuine gratitude.”



Recently, Christy and Kathy met Dorothy, a single mom of three who's taking guardianship of her three nieces following their mom's tragic death in a car accident. (Read Dorothy's story on page 4.)

"Dorothy had no job, no furniture and no car," Christy says. "Our Conference has been able to connect her with a lot of resources."

Kathy marvels at Dorothy's positive attitude about her plight. "She's so joyful. On that first visit, I wanted to help in every way I could."

These devoted Vincentians extend their gratitude to the generous parishioners of St. Norbert and donors to the St. Louis Council. "It's so good that people can see exactly how the gifts they entrust to St. Vincent de Paul are used. Dorothy wasn't going to survive without this help."

Kathy and Christy continue to visit Dorothy and her children, providing ongoing friendship, guidance, and direct help.

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about becoming a Vincentian volunteer, visit our website at www.svdpstlouis.org or call 314-881-6000.

"I'm constantly amazed at what our neighbors accomplish with what little they have. I've been overwhelmed with their sense of caring, humility and their genuine gratitude."

Kathy Heimberger



Thrift Store Locations

Dellwood

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

Lemay Ferry

3924 Lemay Ferry Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63125

Creve Coeur

11015 Olive Boulevard
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

St. Ann

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

Fenton

625 Gravois Rd.
Fenton, MO 63026

St. Charles

1069 Regency Parkway
St. Charles, MO 63303

Florissant

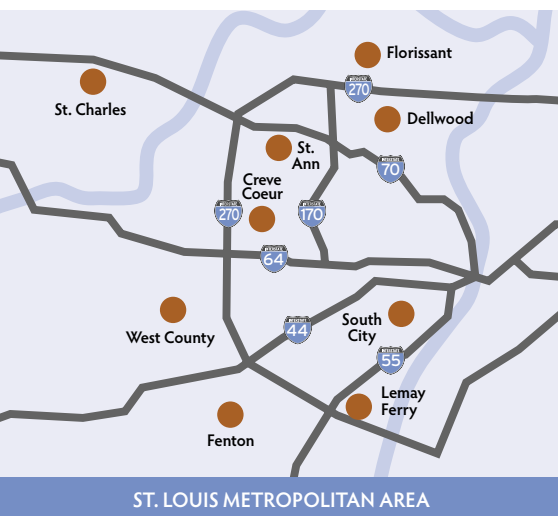
1 Paddock Hills Shopping Ctr.
Florissant, MO 63033

South City

4928 Christy Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116

West County

13986 Manchester Rd.
Ballwin, MO 63011



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

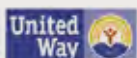
... HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME ...

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.

United Way
of Greater St. Louis



Finding Friendship in an Unlikely Place

Six years ago, Rae and Vic Schmitt retired and moved to O'Fallon, Missouri from Central Illinois; they wanted to be near their daughter and her family. But relocating, leaving friends and a community that had been home for 40 years, required some adjustment. Not knowing anyone beside family can be really unsettling.

But the Schmitts found a new community of friends at an unlikely place – the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store in St. Charles. You can find Rae and Vic volunteering there every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. They are a huge help to the store, but the real bonus is the friends they've made. A core group of 13 volunteers get together occasionally for dinner. "These are friends we feel we've known our whole life. We love that we have this in our lives." And all thanks to a St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store!

