

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 3 FALL 2019

FACES *of* HOPE

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED



...
YOU HELPED
When I Wasn't
Able to Help Myself
...



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

... HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME ...

“I will never forget you.”



In these five little words from the prophet Isaiah, God makes what I think is one of the most comforting promises in all of Scripture. Among

our deepest human needs is to be known and remembered by another.

This powerful sentiment underscores the person-to-person ministry of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. And in this issue of *Faces of Hope*, we see it unfold in the lives of people who feel alone, misunderstood, forgotten.

In recent months, our SVdP in St. Louis has taken major steps forward to walk more closely with teens and women experiencing a crisis pregnancy. Your prayers and financial support for the Society is making this possible! Your generosity speaks to those we serve that you will never forget them. They are deeply grateful, as am I.

Recently, we celebrated Respect

“Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you.”

Isaiah 49:15

Life Month in our Archdiocese. Thank you for continuing to respect life at every stage, “from womb to tomb.” You are with us every step of the way in our journey to serve moms like Brit (see story, page 4), and thousands more neighbors who find themselves in desperate need.

John P. Foppe
Executive Director

YOUR IRA CAN HELP A FAMILY IN NEED TODAY!

70½ years old or older? You can get tax benefits and benefits a Neighbor in Need. It's simple!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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

BENEFITS OF GIVING TO SVDP FROM YOUR IRA



SEE THE IMPACT

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



PAY NO TAXES

Pay no income taxes when you give from \$500 to \$100,000 and on the gift. Even if you do not itemize, you receive a tax benefit.



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.

INSPIRED TO GIVE



“It’s part of being
a good person,
a person of God.”

Tim Sullivan

TIM AND MARY SULLIVAN point to their early family lives shaped their attitudes toward charitable giving.

Both grew up in large, middle class families. “We weren’t poor,” Mary says. “There was always enough. But with so many kids—all in Catholic schools—there wasn’t much more. We learned that enough is fine, and that everything we have comes from God.”

Tim adds, “And we’re just stewards of those gifts. We need to share. In both of our families, you helped whoever was in need.”

In 2013, the couple heard John Foppe speak at their son’s graduation. Inspired by Foppe’s work with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, they began to direct an annual gift for the organization’s charitable and spiritual mission.

“Faith-based charities seem to do a better job with maximizing donations,” Tim says. “St. Vincent de Paul has a remarkable business model – 100% of gifts go to programs, with the thrift store revenues helping to cover administrative and fundraising.”

The Sullivans are most drawn to the programs that help improve families’ overall quality of living. “Beds for people in need – that’s huge because a good night’s rest is so important,” Mary notes. “And car repairs. So many people are one breakdown away from not being able to get to work and losing their job. St. Vincent de Paul prevents that.”

The Ste. Genevieve du Bois parishioners feel fortunate to share their financial blessings with Neighbors in Need. “It’s part of being a good person, a person of God,” Tim says. Mary agrees. “Clearly, how we live matters. I think of the Gospel ... ‘Whatsoever you do to the least of these, you do to me.’” (Matthew 25:40)

The Sullivans have lived in St. Louis for 30 years. They have three twenty-something-year-old children and recently welcomed a daughter-in-law into the family. Tim works for Barry-Wehmiller Companies. Mary volunteers helping low-income families file their income taxes.



You Supported
a Mom and
**HER DAUGHTER
WITH SPECIAL
NEEDS!**

BRIT WATKINS' DAUGHTER ENVY WAS BORN more than three months early. The tiny newborn spent her first four months fighting for her life in a neonatal intensive care unit. Starting over with a baby with special needs was not going to be easy. And, Brit wasn't sure where to turn.

At age 23, Brit's marriage fell apart. And just weeks after making the difficult decision to end the relationship, Brit found out she was pregnant.

Halfway through the pregnancy, she had to take a medical leave for the safety of herself and her unborn child. She was even hospitalized for a time and put on bed rest.

As Brit was recovering from the challenging pregnancy and difficult childbirth, she hoped she could return to work – it was important to her to keep her job as a court clerk.

When Envy was finally able to come home, it was a happy day. But, caring for Envy was a full-time responsibility. The baby was on oxygen and would need round-the-clock



Thanks to gifts from you and other generous friends, Brit was not alone. She received critical assistance from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Birthright St. Louis.



tube feedings. “My family and Envy’s dad . . . they wanted to help with her care, but it was overwhelming for them. There was too much to learn and do, and they just weren’t comfortable.”

Brit wasn’t sure how she could do it all.

Thanks to gifts from you and other generous friends, Brit was not alone. She received critical assistance from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Birthright St. Louis.

Your generosity gave Brit the ability to furnish her empty townhome with items from St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores; vouchers allowed her to get what she needed.

“I was able to get a bedding for Envy, a mattress and box spring and frame for me. We also got a kitchen table and chairs and a living room set.” In addition to the big items, she selected some smaller lamps and appliances to bridge the gap. Brit was so very grateful to receive the basics necessary to rebuild her life while caring for herself and Envy.

Today, Brit is enjoying stability. With help from her mom and Envy’s dad, Brit has now returned to full-time work as a housekeeper a hospital. Her daughter will soon be enrolled in an early childhood program at a nearby school.

“I would like to say thank-you,” she says as she looks forward to Envy’s 3rd birthday. “I really appreciate everyone’s generosity. They were able to help me during a time when I wasn’t able to help myself.”



PREGNANCY HELP INITIATIVE:

Vincentian and Birthright Volunteer Marge Merjavy on a home visit with a woman referred to SVdP through Birthright

Your Gifts at Work for New Lifesaving Ministry

FOR A FRIGHTENED TEEN or distraught young woman facing an unplanned pregnancy, abortion often seems like the only reasonable choice. Many mothers-to-be have little support at home, no income and feel overwhelmed at the thought of having a baby or raising a child on their own.

Now, thanks to donors like you, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in St. Louis is stepping up its partnership with area pregnancy resource agencies to provide immediate material support for moms in crisis – before and after their baby is born.

“We will make a home visit to assess what is needed. We can provide help with rent and utility payments, beds, baby clothing, household necessities . . . and even things like job referrals and transportation needs. Seeing the face of Christ in the women in need, our Vincentian volunteers will offer spiritual and emotional support.”

“We want to make sure that no need ever goes unmet, that no woman ever feels that she cannot make a life-affirming choice for her baby,” explains Steve Rupp from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. “So we created a

formal partnership with places like Birthright, Thrive, Coalition for Life, and others. We will work as an extension of their services to provide immediate help that goes beyond the scope of what the other agencies provide.”

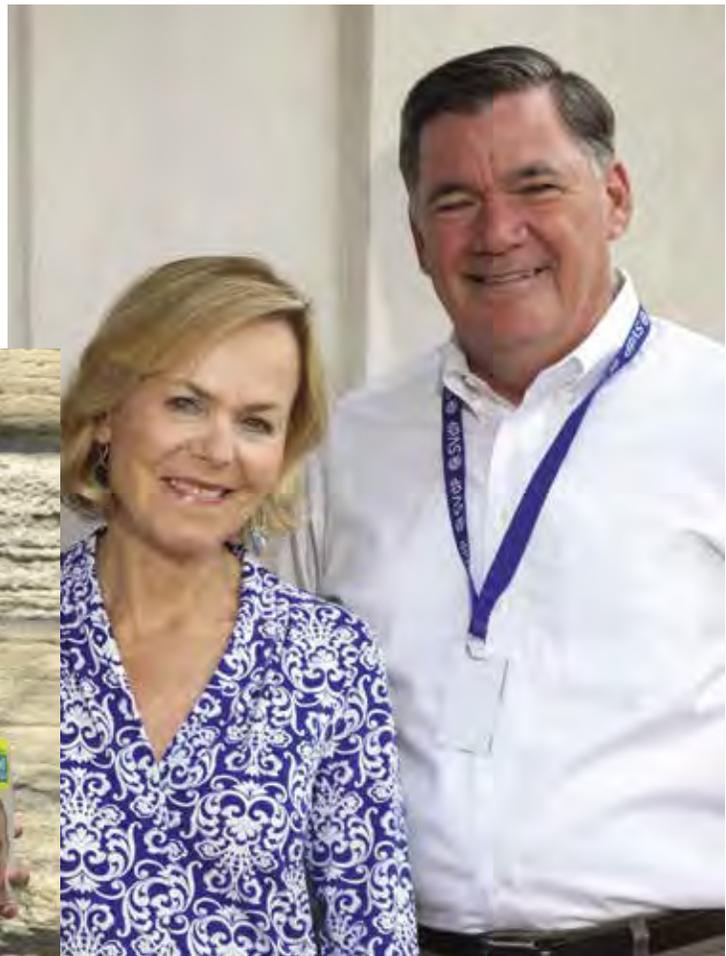
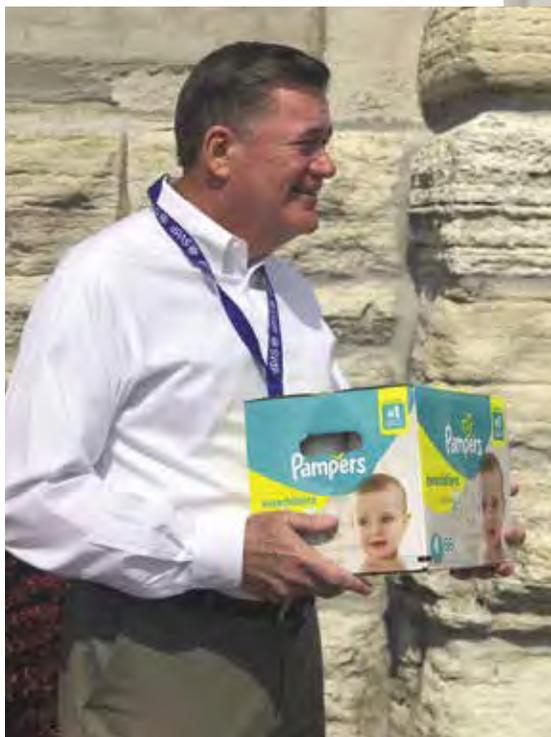
Nearly two dozen Vincentian volunteers and pro-life friends have already stepped forward as “life coordinators” responsible for overseeing the progress of each pregnancy case. “Too many women consider abortion because they lack material necessities, and they also have little reassurance from others to make a loving choice for life.

“We want to make sure that no need ever goes unmet, that no woman ever feels that she cannot make a life-affirming choice for her baby.”

So, we want to respond immediately, even within hours of their referral,” Rupp says.

We couldn’t offer this assistance without the help of you, our donors and devoted volunteers. Through your ongoing support, we pray the Pregnancy Help Initiative will empower more mothers to choose life for their unborn child. And also through your ongoing support, we will also assure each mother and child served that will continue to be there for them. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will provide help well after the baby is born, for as long as needed.

If you would like to offer your time, talent or other support for the new Pregnancy Help Initiative, please call Steve Rupp at 314-881-6018.



SVDP Council Office Employee Steve Rupp with Marge

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

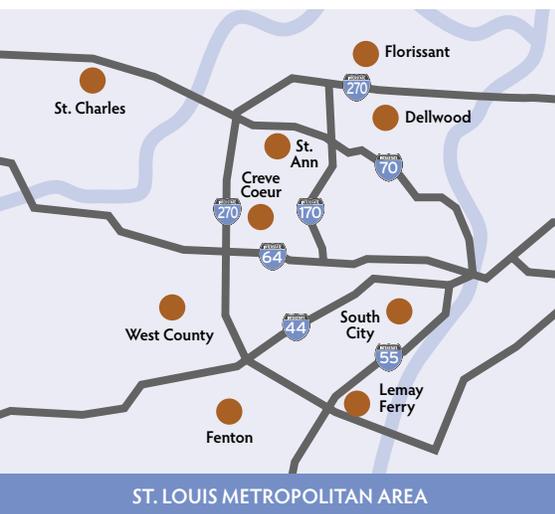
1 Paddock Hills Shopping Ctr.
Florissant, MO 63033

South City

4928 Christy Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116

West County

13986 Manchester Rd.
Ballwin, MO 63011



Your Thrift Store Donations Make a Real Impact!

THANK YOU! Because of your donations to St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores, this past year, we served more Neighbors in Need than ever. SVdP's stores give those in need an opportunity to shop for necessities at no cost to them. At SVdP Thrift Stores, families can find furniture for their home, household items and great clothing for home, school and work.

Remember us when you're ready to clean out your basement or attic. You can drop off your donations at any of our nine stores or one of our blue donation bins throughout the St. Louis area. And, we are happy to pick up your furniture donations – just call us at 314-881-6006.



**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 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.

