

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2 FALL 2021

FACES *of* HOPE

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

... NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ...

...
**JOINING
FORCES**
TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

...



GOD OFTEN PLACES PEOPLE in your life when you most need them. This was the case in 1970 when John Foppe was born. Within hours after his birth, physicians informed John's parents that his physical problems were more complicated than they originally thought. John faced numerous challenges.

An immediate surgery was required. It had a one-in-a-million survival rate because John's abdominal cavity had become septic. His parents had him baptized and rushed him to Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. Thankfully, the physician leading the team of medical experts was Richard "Dick" Danis, MD. His father, Dr. Peter G. Danis, was one of the founding members of Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in 1956.

Dr. Richard Danis was a fervent believer in the value of all lives. The fact that John Foppe was born without arms did not faze him in the least. To this day, John's mother speaks of the great comfort she took from Dr. Danis's life-affirming messages. Through the care of Dr. Danis, the team of dedicated physicians and God's good grace, John's surgery was successful.

A few years later Dr. Danis introduced young John Foppe to his wife, Margot at a Jerry Lewis Telethon, where she learned his story. Dr. Danis passed away

in 1996 and life's journey took Margot and John in different directions. Margot eventually remarried and is now Margot Heininger. Some years later Margot read a St. Vincent de Paul publication and recognized the name of the Executive Director. She was happy to see how well John had done. She sent in a donation and the two reconnected. As Margot explains, "It is heartwarming to see the amazing things John has accomplished. The work of St. Vincent de Paul is so important to our community, and John provides outstanding leadership. I know Dick would be proud."

Another interesting note: Dr. Danis's younger brother, David Danis and his wife Nancy also contribute to St. Vincent de Paul. Dave and Nancy support a wide variety of not-for-profits, and their philanthropic efforts include an annual mission trip to Belize in Central America. "Nancy and I always look for the return on investment with our donations," says Dave. "We are happy to offer support, but we like to know it has a real impact on the lives of those who need help. We are confident that happens with our gifts to St. Vincent de Paul."

God does indeed place people in your life when you need them the most, and God continues to bless the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with friends such as Margot (Danis) Heininger and Dave and Nancy Danis.

Letter from the Executive Director



WHEN MY STAFF first approached me about sharing a personal story from my childhood, I initially said no. Our *Faces of Hope* newsletter is not about me! However, I agreed to do the story because the real focus is about the kindness and generosity of Margot (Danis) Heining and the extended Danis family. (Read more about their story on page 2) It was a blessing to reconnect with Margot. All of us here at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are grateful for Margot and all our benefactors! You support us with your prayers, your gifts of time and your financial contributions ... and in many cases through all three!

Thank you on behalf of those we serve, like our Neighbor,

Danielle. Her story on page 4 is a shining example of how your help makes a real difference and of the synergy between our Neighbor, the Vincentian volunteer, and our partner agency. All of you came together to forge a positive outcome.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Faces of Hope* and I thank you once again for all you do to serve as the heart, the hands, and the loving face of Christ in our community.

God bless,

John Foppe

Executive Director

YOUR IRA CAN HELP A FAMILY IN NEED TODAY!

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

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

To learn more, contact your financial advisor or John Fitzpatrick at 314.881.6003, johnc@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 pay no income taxes 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.

JOINING FORCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



You

YOU MAY NOT have grown up in a wealthy family, but you probably had the blessing of never worrying about food, clothing, or having a roof over your head. Unfortunately, that is not the case for many of our Neighbors; the Society of St. Vincent de Paul receives a multitude of calls from the homeless with no place to go, like Danielle.

Growing up in the foster care system, Danielle faced problems that could have easily become overwhelming. Thanks to you she has hope. Your support funds a program that helps homeless Neighbors get back on their feet and become self-sufficient.

The Neighbor in Need

Danielle Miller, whose photo is featured on the cover of this issue, has the same dreams and aspirations as any of us. However, life placed several challenges in her path. She did not come from a stable home environment and traveled from one foster home to the next. Danielle is currently raising three children on her own with help from her grandmother. When Danielle was homeless and in the hospital delivering her third child, she spoke with a social worker at the hospital who suggested Danielle reach out to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. That's where she met Pat Harper.

The Vincentian

Pat Harper (pictured left, center) has been a Vincentian volunteer for five years. Pat says, "The thing that most appeals to me about working with St. Vincent de Paul is first helping people because we are called to do that. A close second is how we can serve as the face of Christ and lead them to the faith. Paying bills or rent is just a small part of what we do."

When Danielle had her car impounded Pat Harper went above and beyond. The lot required cash to release the automobile, and Danielle desperately needed her vehicle to get to work. Pat drove to the lot, presented the cash, and got the car released. He explains, "I fully support helping with our Neighbor's immediate needs but also helping them form a plan and set goals. Danielle was doing her best to get her life in order and she needed her car to get to work and back. St. Vincent de Paul has the ability to help with these things, and I was happy to help."

Pat feels one of the great strengths of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Vincentian volunteers is that we do a solid initial screening. We are also willing to seek additional services or expertise when necessary. Such was the case with Danielle. She and her children were living in a hotel. Pat knew she would be a good candidate for the Rapid Rehousing Pilot program launched by St. Vincent de Paul. The Rapid Rehousing Program is a pilot program between St. Vincent de Paul and the St. Patrick Center. It is administered by Julie Komanetsky (pictured left, on the left), director of programs at SVdP. The program calls for case management services to be provided by St. Patrick Center. The partnership of the two organizations is critical, plus St. Patrick Center can provide housing expertise to help Neighbors in Need.

The Partner

Meg Barry (pictured left, on the right) serves as a Case Manager at St. Patrick Center. Meg has 35 years of experience working with clients. She works in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul on the Rapid

Rehousing Pilot program. Vincentian, Pat Harper knew it was time to turn to Meg to work with Danielle.

Those who qualify for the rapid rehousing program are usually housed within 51 days. Once housed, St. Vincent de Paul pays rent and utilities on a progressive basis for Neighbors in the program, helping more at the beginning and tapering off as they become more self-sufficient.

Meg is currently working with 16 clients being helped by 16 Vincentian volunteers. As she says, "It can be a bit overwhelming at times. In addition to all the people involved, we are fastidious about the paperwork. Receipts must be kept for everything. But it is all worth it when you see how people progress and get their lives back on track. The mission of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Patrick Center align nicely, so it is a great fit."

Your Support Was Part of the Teamwork That Made it all Possible

For Danielle, the partnership between St. Vincent de Paul and St. Patrick Center has been a true blessing. She explains, "Asking for help made me feel sad because I had been working so hard to get back on track. The partnership between St. Vincent de Paul and St. Patrick Center has been a huge help, and I consider Meg to be my bonus mom. She has helped so much, and when I moved into the apartment, it was Pat Harper and St. Vincent de Paul who helped me get what I needed. They gave me vouchers that I so I could get pots and pans and other items for my new place."

Danielle is now employed and taking online courses, with plans to pursue a career as a corrections officer.



Growing up in the foster care system, Danielle faced problems that could have easily become overwhelming. Thanks to you she has hope. You came to her aid. Your support funds a program that helps homeless Neighbors get back on their feet and become self-sufficient.



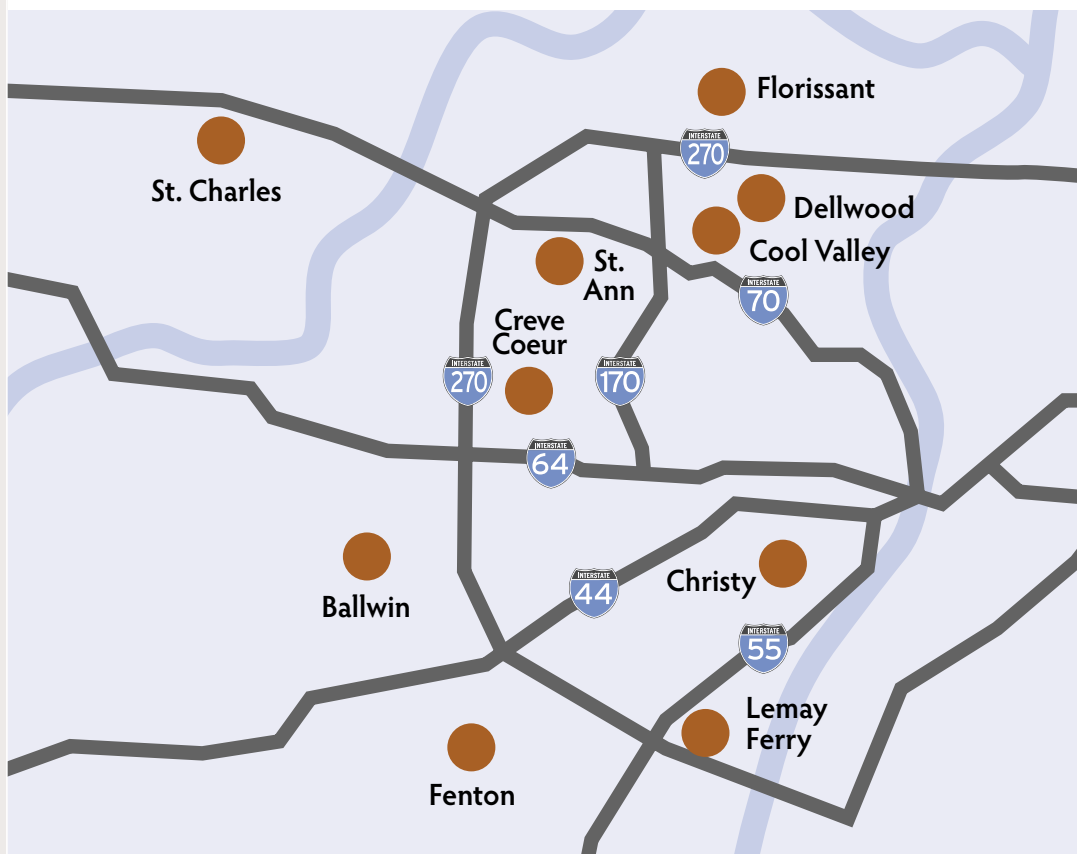
**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF ST. LOUIS**

... NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ...

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.



ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN AREA

Thrift Store Locations

Ballwin

13986 Manchester Rd.
Ballwin, MO 63011

Cool Valley Thrift Outlet

1225 South Florissant
St. Louis, MO 63121

Creve Coeur

11015 Olive Boulevard
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Christy

4928 Christy Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116

Dellwood

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

Fenton

625 Gravois Rd.
Fenton, MO 63026

Florissant

1 Paddock Hills Shopping Ctr.
Florissant, MO 63033

Lemay Ferry

3924 Lemay Ferry Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63125

St. Ann

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

St. Charles

1069 Regency Parkway
St. Charles, MO 63303