

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1 SPRING 2025

FACES *of* HOPE

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED



...
You Helped a
Local Mother
Overcomes
Homelessness
...



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

... NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ...

Letter from John Foppe



DEAR FRIEND,

The recent severe weather left many families and individuals facing power outages, property damage, and in some cases, the total loss of their homes. Yet, it's during times like these that we are reminded of the incredible goodness in people—the neighbors, volunteers, and organizations who step forward to help those in crisis.

The recent Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) events are powerful examples of this generosity. For those unfamiliar, MARC events bring together various agencies—including the Society of St. Vincent de Paul—to provide coordinated support to individuals and families impacted by catastrophic events, often caused by extreme weather.

I am reminded of the Gospel story of the Good Samaritan, who not only stopped to help the injured

traveler but also ensured his continued care by covering the costs. It is a true reflection of Jesus's call to "love your neighbor as yourself."

In this issue of *Faces of Hope*, you'll find more stories of that same commitment—stories that show how we care for one another in times of great need. Your prayers, your time, and your financial gifts are a living part of these stories. You are the reason we can lift others up and offer hope.

On behalf of our Neighbors who have been helped through your generosity, thank you.

With gratitude,

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

John Foppe

Executive Director

Your Love In Action at the Frontlines of Service

THESE PHOTOS CAPTURE the powerful moments when Society of St. Vincent de Paul Vincentians met face-to-face with Neighbors in Need in Perryville and in St. Louis, St. Charles and Jefferson Counties, offering comfort, resources, and hope in the wake of the devastating tornadoes and hail storms.



St. Vincent de Paul and Archdiocese Partner to Meet Rising Needs in the Community

IN A YEAR marked by extraordinary need and generosity, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis emerged as a vital focus of community support. Amid rising inflation, surging rent costs, and an escalating affordable housing crisis, St. Vincent de Paul continues to serve as a critical safety net for our Neighbors in Need—offering hope, stability, and compassion to those facing hardship.

This year, the Society received a boost through a special allocation from the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA), which celebrated its 70th anniversary. While the ACA traditionally supports a wide range of ministries, Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski and campaign leadership recognized the urgent needs of the St. Vincent de Paul and extended this special support.

Executive Director John Foppe expressed deep appreciation:

“This gift comes at a crucial time for St. Vincent de Paul. We strive every day to keep people housed, and I am deeply grateful to Archbishop Rozanski, the ACA, and the entire St. Louis Catholic community for their generous response.”

The ACA, led this year by Chair Michael Heck, raised funds to benefit ministries across the Archdiocese—including parish support, youth ministry, clergy care, and outreach to those in need.

Together, through faith, compassion, and generosity, the St. Louis Catholic community—and partners like the Society of St. Vincent de Paul—continue to bring lasting hope to those who need it most.



Mitchell T. Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis, and John Foppe, Executive Director at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of St. Louis of St. Louis, pictured together at the 400th Anniversary Celebration of the Congregation of the Mission.

You Helped a Local Mother Overcomes Homelessness

AFTER MONTHS of living out of her car and hotel rooms with her four children, Alexandra has found a new path forward thanks to the support of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) and two dedicated volunteers. Her journey from homelessness to stability is a testament to the power of community support and determination.

At her lowest point, Alexandra reached out to churches in her area, seeking any assistance available. One call led her to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, where she connected with John Heithaus and Michael Cunningham. The two Vincentians quickly responded, arranging for a home visit to assess her needs.

Their help could not have come at a more critical time. In addition to facing homelessness, Alexandra was struggling with an eviction on her record, which made finding suitable housing nearly impossible. Recognizing the urgency of her situation, the Vincentians secured funding for Alexandra to stay temporarily at the St. Patrick Center, giving her and her children a safe place to regroup.

Two local St. Vincent de Paul Conferences — Sacred Heart and Holy Name of Jesus — joined forces to provide further support. John Heithaus went above and beyond, personally reaching out to potential landlords to advocate for Alexandra despite her eviction history. His persistence paid off, helping to open doors that had previously been closed.

“One of the things I most appreciated was that they always saw me as a person — they didn’t see color or gender, just someone who was trying to do better in life and needed a little help.”

~ Alexandra

Reflecting on the support she received, Alexandra expressed deep gratitude. “One of the things I most appreciated was that they always saw me as a person — they didn’t see color or gender, just someone who was trying to do better in life and needed a little help,” she said.

Her story took a positive turn as she found housing for herself and her two younger children. Determined to build a better future, Alexandra has since enrolled in a training program to become an EMT. Along the way, she has also formed lasting friendships with the Vincentian volunteers who assisted her. She and John Heithaus often exchange prayer requests for friends



and family, maintaining a bond that continues to provide spiritual and emotional support.

John Heithaus spoke warmly of Alexandra's perseverance. "Lending a hand to people like Alexandra is where we, as Vincentians, can really become the face of Christ," he said. "There is nothing more joyful than seeing her or any of our Neighbors succeed. She was working hard and doing all the right things, and now with just a little help from St. Vincent de Paul, she has her life in good order."

As Alexandra continues her EMT training, her story stands as an inspiring example of resilience and the impact of compassionate community support. For those interested in supporting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, more information can be found on their website.

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**Name has been changed to protect the privacy of the Neighbor*

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~ John Heithaus



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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.



Your generosity can change lives right here in St. Louis. Please donate using the QR code above, online at www.svdpstlouis.org or by calling 314-881-6035.

How You Can Honor a Memory and Change Lives.

A gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in honor of someone special is a powerful way to celebrate their life, values, and legacy. Whether you're remembering a loved one who has passed or paying tribute to someone who inspires you, your donation becomes a living reflection of their compassion. Every contribution helps a neighbor in need-providing food, shelter, and hope when it's needed most. By giving in their name, you not only honor their spirit-you help transform lives.

www.svdpstl.org/donate

Shop with Purpose, You can Change a Life.

When you shop at St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores, you're doing more than finding great deals-you're supporting a mission of hope and help. Proceeds from your purchases directly fund programs that provide food, shelter, clothing, and vital assistance to individuals and families in need. **Every item bought helps change a life in our community.**

Thrift Store Locations

Ballwin

13986 Manchester Rd.
Ballwin, MO 63011

Creve Coeur

11015 Olive Boulevard
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Christy

4928 Christy Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63116

Fenton

625 Gravois Rd.
Fenton, MO 63026

Florissant

770 N. Hwy. 67
Florissant, MO 63031

Lemay

2500 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