

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 3 FALL 2022

FACES *of* HOPE

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

... NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ...

...
You Brought
HOPE
to a New Mom
...

Letter from the Executive Director



IN 2021 AMERICANS DONATED

\$484.85 Billion to charities. This comes as no surprise as Americans are a generous people. What might surprise you is who gave all these donations:

67% – Individuals (\$362.87 billion)

19% – Foundations (\$90.88 billion)

9% – Bequests (\$46.01 billion)

4% – Corporations (\$21.08 billion)

One more interesting fact: The percentage of donations from individuals has not significantly changed in more than 45 years. Most donations come from people like you and me! That is good for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul since we do not receive government funding because most government

grants include restrictions and often insist, we offer services that are not in alignment with our values.

We remain confident that you our friends and loyal benefactors, will assist in the mission of St. Vincent de Paul; “To follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to his compassionate and liberating love.” Thank you for all you do to help your Neighbors in Need through your support of St. Vincent de Paul.

With gratitude,

John Foppe
Executive Director

You Can Make a Difference Every Single Month

BECOME A SUSTAINER



\$10/MONTH

Fills a prescription



\$25/MONTH

Provides a child with school clothes



\$50/MONTH

Helps a food pantry feed a family for a week



\$100/MONTH

Pays a utility bill



\$200/MONTH

Provides a child with a bed

To become a Monthly Sustainer, contact Nicole Paden at nicolep@svdpstl.org or 314-881-6035.

A Lifetime of Caring and Sharing



FRANK AND JEAN WETTA started their life together as many young couples do – at a dance. But clearly the Holy Spirit played a key role. Jean attended Webster College (now, Webster University) while Frank was enrolled at St. Louis University, where the dance was to take place. However, Jean had no plans to attend until a group of girls from Webster said they could not find a ride. Jean offered to drive, and once at the dance, she met Frank. They began dating, were married and it was the start of a journey that brought them to the United Kingdom, Texas, Florida, and New Jersey, where Frank served as a Lecturer at Kean University in Union, NJ. Eventually, they came back home to St. Louis where their two children live.

Jean is an accomplished artist, and she has donated some of her works to charity auctions. Their giving goes well beyond that as they give to several causes. Frank likes to recount a scripture line his father would recite from Peter 4:8, “Charity covers a multitude of sins.” While the verse is amusing, the lessons Frank learned from his dad were serious, and they continue to this day. The Wettas always tried to help those less fortunate. When selecting a nonprofit to support, they give preference to Catholic organizations and insist that the charity deliver on its mission. As Frank points out, “there is nothing wrong with government programs, but sometimes their priorities don’t line up with our priorities, so I prefer faith-based organizations.” Jean adds, “I think giving must be done with a sense of gratitude. I can remember when we were graduate students and money was tight. Now we are blessed, but I try to recall those days, and when we give it is with thanks for all that God has granted us.”

Frank and Jean selected the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as one of their top nonprofits and set up a monthly contribution. They like the Catholic roots and the solid return on the investment of their donations. Frank says, “There aren’t too many nonprofits that can operate on just five cents of every donated dollar. We love the fact that the other 95 cents go to service the poor. Jean and I encourage others to support this wonderful organization.”



“I think giving must be done with a sense of gratitude.”

~ Jean Wetta

You Brought HOPE to a New Mom



IMANI JONES WAS ALONE AND PREGNANT.

This unplanned pregnancy caught Imani by surprise. Imani's mother was upset, struggling herself and unable to help. Imani's extended family live out of state. She didn't know where to turn.

But because of you, she was surrounded by support.

Imani was referred to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul by ThriVe St. Louis, a pregnancy care center that provides low cost/no cost medical services for women.

That's where you and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul made a real difference for this young woman. Imani was referred to the Annunziata Conference Pregnancy Care Partnership which ensures pregnant women, especially those in crisis and considering abortion, have the support they need to make life-affirming decisions for their unborn child. Imani was introduced to Jane Garvin from the SVdP Parish Conference. Jane stepped in and helped Imani find an apartment. Because of your generosity, SVdP paid for her security deposit and first month's rent.

"I went to meet her to help her move into the apartment", says Jane. "She had an air mattress and a microwave and was expecting a baby in two months. I knew right then I had some work to do,"

Jane put a notice in the parish bulletin asking for donations for Imani. Within hours she had a crib,

car seat, stroller, clothes, diapers, gift cards for Target and more. People were eager to donate, deliver items and set up furniture.

"Jane became like family to me," says Imani. St. Vincent de Paul helped me to stand on my own and feel more stable. Jane was always there for me thorough the whole thing. She went above and beyond."

**"I still thank her all the time.
Like they say, not all superheroes
wear capes. She is my superhero."**

Imani Jones

You and the Vincentians with the Annunziata Conference bore witness to Christ's love with support and compassion to Imani. When her pregnancy limited her mobility, the Conference set up a crib for her baby. When she received her high school diploma, they celebrated her accomplishment. When she was alone in

the hospital waiting to give birth, they prayed with her. When she was a teenager trying to learn about caring for an infant, they provided answers. When her refrigerator broke, they helped restock perishables. They recognized Imani's strengths, provided help when needed and encouraged her to control her future.

"I don't know what I would have done without them. Being in a situation like that so young and my mom was angry with me. I didn't know where to turn, especially being responsible for another human," says Imani.

Imani has since reconnected with her mother who now eagerly helps take care of the baby.

Imani talks excitedly about her new job working as a cardiac patient care tech at a local hospital. Her 12-hour overnight shifts allow her to spend more time with her son, Trevor. It's a much different life than the one she was leading just over a year ago, attending high school and working inconsistent hours at a gas station. In fact, she now wants to pursue a job in the medical field ... her favorite part of being pregnant was seeing the ultrasound images of her baby, so much so that she wants to go to college and pursue a job as a sonographer.

Jane sounds like a proud parent talking about Imani's new job and her dedication to motherhood. "I have great admiration for her. She was in a rough spot and she had the grit to stick to it. Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference was able to be a safety net for her, but she did the heavy lifting. She is a good mom and a remarkable young woman," says Jane.

Imani and Jane still talk frequently and check on each other.

"I still thank her all the time," says Imani. "Like they say, not all superheroes wear capes. She is my superhero."

You made it happen. You are Imani's superhero, too.

• • •

Your generosity allows St. Vincent de Paul to support the Pregnancy Care Partnership and support expectant mothers like Imani during pregnancy and following the birth of a child. This initiative gives expectant mothers in crisis the support they need when they are most vulnerable and helps give them the confidence to choose life for their unborn child. Please donate using the enclosed envelope, through online giving at www.svdpstlouis.org or by calling 314-881-6035.

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





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

... NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ...

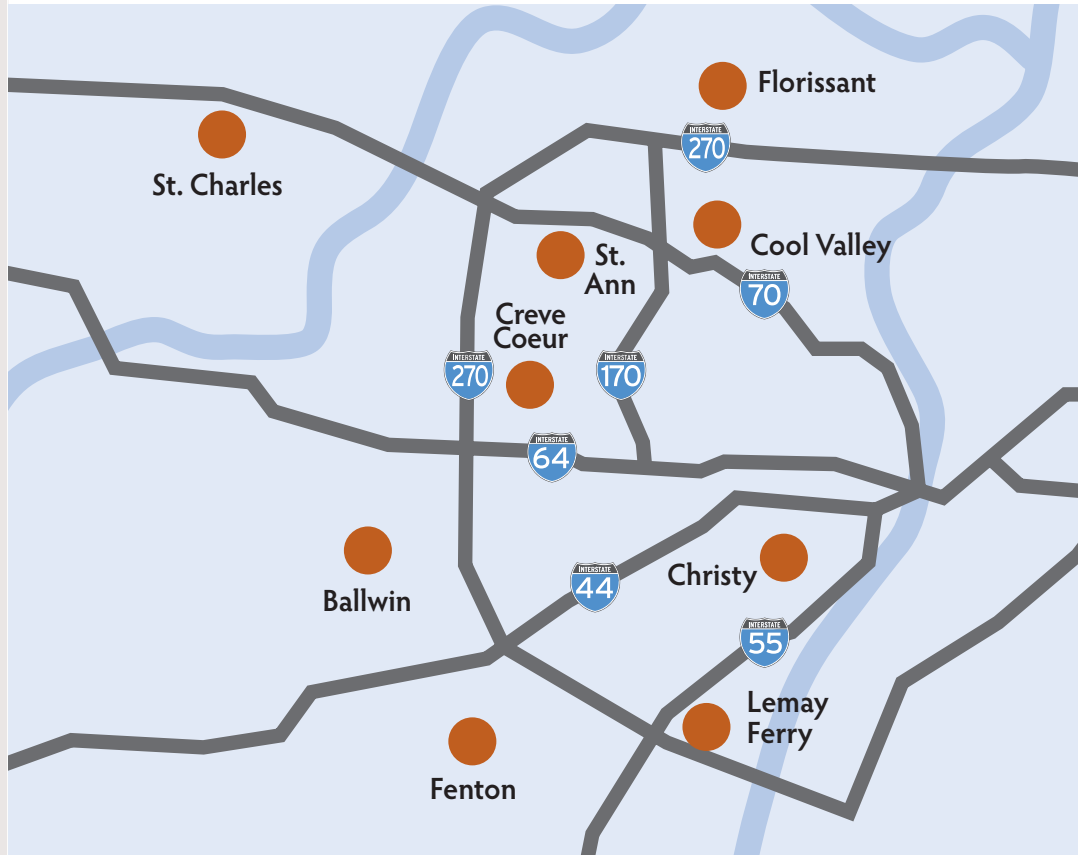
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis
1310 Papin Street
Saint Louis, MO 63103
(314) 881-6000
svdpstl.org

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.



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.



Your Purchases at SVdP Thrift Stores Help Neighbors in Need

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

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