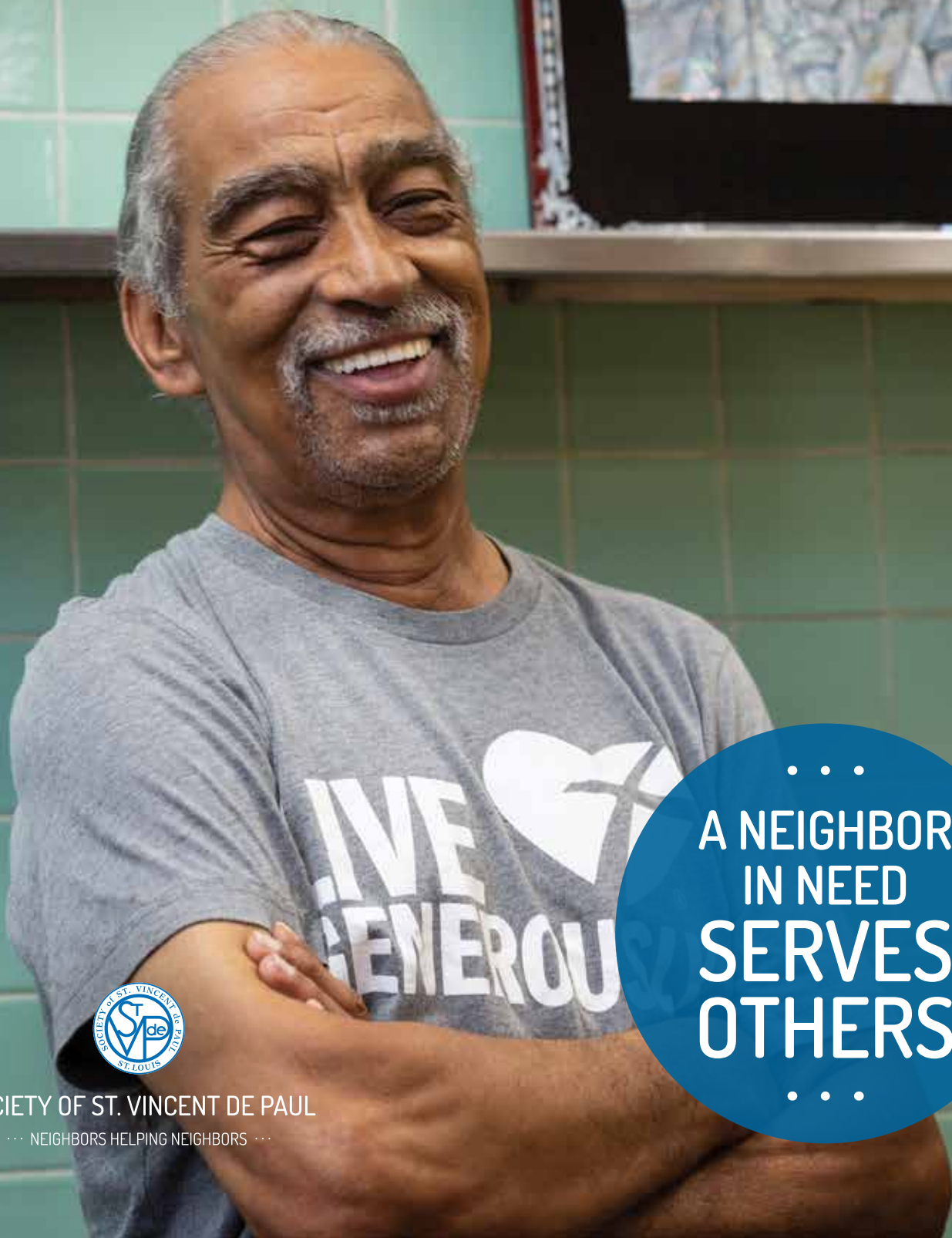


VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2022

FACES *of* HOPE

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

... NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ...

...
A NEIGHBOR
IN NEED
SERVES
OTHERS
...

Letter from the Executive Director



HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED in the new conversation starter? Someone at work, or church or from your neighborhood says, “I just gassed up my car. Guess how much it cost?” That opens an entire line of conversation about high prices and inflation. We all deal with it, and we can all relate to it.

There is a phenomenon called inflation inequality. Simply stated, it means that inflation hits low-income people harder than the rest of us. We may feel the pinch of higher costs, but our Neighbors in Need can be devastated by them. At St. Vincent de Paul we are

experiencing a rise in requests for help with the most basic of needs. Neighbors need help with rent, utilities and even food.

Thanks to you, we have been able to respond, and will continue to do so, as we put your charitable dollars to good use. Thank you for playing such a key role in the mission of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

With gratitude,

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

John Foppe
Executive Director

How Will You Be Remembered?

MILLIE AND JIM CORRIGAN were *so much* like you. They had a true compassion for those in need.

The couple wanted to be remembered for supporting important causes. They decided to leave a legacy by making a gift in their will to The Society of St. Vincent de Paul St. Louis.

Creating a will is one of the most important ways to record what matters most to you. It is an opportunity to make your most substantial charitable gifts and sustain the future of SVdP, establishing a memorial that will last for generations. To discuss leaving your legacy with a deferred gift to benefit The Society of St. Vincent de Paul St. Louis, please contact the planned giving experts at the Roman Catholic Foundation.

314.918.2890 | giftplanning@rcfstl.org



A Father's Love, a Family Legacy



HELPING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE was a common theme in the Roberts home. Siblings Ed, Rob and Ann often heard their parents, Victor and Theresa, talk about volunteering and giving.

“Our parents were always involved with our Church growing up. Whether it was helping with PSR or Boy Scouts. My parents prioritized our Catholic Faith and community. We did not realize Dad’s connect to SVdP until much later,” said Ed

The big connection was revealed two years ago. Victor spent six years caring for Theresa as she suffered with Alzheimer’s Disease. After her death, he shared with their children the story of how The Society of St. Vincent de Paul changed his life as a young boy.

“He knew that we all donated money to various charities and he asked that we donate to St. Vincent de Paul because of the kindness they showed him and how it changed his direction in life,” said Ann.

When Victor died last year at the age of 92, the siblings followed through on their promise with a memorial contribution to SVdP.

“We are donating to SVdP so they can give others a chance the way Dad was. And look at the life he led!” said Ann.

Victor grew up in North St. Louis City on Mullanphy Street across from St. Leo’s Catholic Church. The pastor at St. Leo’s kept a watchful eye on the young men in his parish. When he thought Victor might be making some poor choices, he connected Victor with a couple in the church who were active with SVdP.

The couple drove Victor to meetings at St. Vincent de Paul where he participated in activities such as wrestling and weightlifting at the boy’s club. Victor would return to the neighborhood and share with his peers in St. Leo’s parish what he learned at SVdP. As Victor got older, the

connections he made at SVdP helped him get various jobs from working in a donut shop to becoming a lifeguard.

“It sounds odd that one kindness would be remembered for a lifetime and that it would have made such a difference in the direction of one’s life, but that is what SVdP did for our dad. That kindness gave my dad a belief in himself. He found that if someone showed him how, he could learn and he could help others learn,” said Ann.

Victor attended Hadley High School, got his GED, and went to Ranken Technical College to study electronics. He worked for Union Electric (now Ameren) and joined the Navy Reserves. He met Theresa on the dance floor at the Forest Park Highlands, and when he returned from serving in the Korean War the couple married. Soon they started a family and moved to North St. Louis County where Victor helped build the family home. Victor and Theresa were married for 64 years and both were lifelong learners, exploring subjects such as art and language together well into retirement.

“All his life Dad looked for the good in others. He helped others when he saw a need, but he stayed in the background. One of us might hear a bit about some little way he had helped but we didn’t put it all together until after he was gone and we started talking to each other about stories we knew,” said Ann.

Ann, Ed, and Rob agree that the best way to honor their father’s legacy is by continuing his commitment to serving others. All are active in their church. Ann and her husband serve as Vincentians, a commitment they made before knowing about Victor’s connection to the organization. The family also appreciates that by giving to SVdP they make an impact locally, providing one-on-one support for people in the Archdiocese of St. Louis who need a helping hand, just like their father all those years ago.

• • •
**A NEIGHBOR
IN NEED
SERVES
OTHERS**
• • •



ON A HOT SUMMER MORNING in North St. Louis City near O’Fallon Park, the line of people at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Pantry reaches out the door and into the parking lot. People from the surrounding neighborhood wait patiently as volunteers register visitors and help them through the food line as they select items such as bread and canned goods from tables and milk and juice from refrigerators.

Volunteer Charles Franklin hustles around the pantry; his warm smile puts visitors at ease despite the hot temperatures and long line. For the past five years, Franklin has volunteered at the pantry every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, giving back to those in need in his neighborhood. But his first introduction to the pantry was as a visitor.

“I heard they were giving away senior boxes and at the time I needed a little help. I came in and applied, and when I returned to pick it up, there was a big crowd. I told Pam, the woman who runs the organization, that I can find my name in this book and sign my own self in. She asked if I wanted to volunteer to help others find theirs. I’m retired, and I have time to help during the day, so I started helping at the pantry. That was five years ago,” says Franklin.

Supported by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Pantry is a not-for-profit organization run by a small but dedicated group of volunteers. The pantry has been supporting the surrounding community for more than 20 years and serves about 2,800 people each month.

On this Tuesday morning, Franklin works the dessert table, taking tickets and helping people fill their bags. He grew up just six blocks from the pantry and knows many of the people he sees there each week.

“I’ve lived in my house for 60 years. It was my mother’s house, and I took it over. When I worked for Greyhound, I was in and out of town a lot. Whenever I was furloughed, I came home to help my father at his tavern down the street. I got to know lots of people from the neighborhood,” says Franklin.

Franklin says his familiarity with the neighborhood, and its residents helped make a smooth transition to volunteer and visitors appreciate seeing a familiar face when they go through the line.

“God put me here for a reason. I spent all my life driving a bus and dealing with the public. I learned there’s a certain way you have to talk to people, especially when they are upset. It’s nice to give back to my neighborhood and help others. People need help,” says Franklin.

Recently Franklin was one of those people who needed help. Franklin mentioned to fellow volunteer Ken Patterson that his refrigerator quit working. Knowing that purchasing a replacement on his limited income would be a burden, Patterson reached out to St. Vincent de Paul about providing Franklin with a new refrigerator.

“He told me he had a need, and I put the details together. Helping people is what we do. He’s been a

“If we can’t help our own, then why are we doing this?”

Ken Patterson

volunteer here for a long time, always on time and doing stuff for the pantry,” says Patterson. “If we can’t help our own, then why are we doing this?”

Thanks to the generosity of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Franklin received a new refrigerator. He was grateful that the organization he joyfully helps every week was eager to assist him in his time of need.

“It’s a nice organization to help so many people. People need it, and I try to do as much as I can to help. I like working down here,” says Franklin.

Your generosity allows SVdP to support Our Lady of Perpetual Help and other food pantries in the St. Louis area, as well as make a difference in the lives of people such as Charles Franklin. 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*

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Charles Franklin





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

... NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ...

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

Our Mission

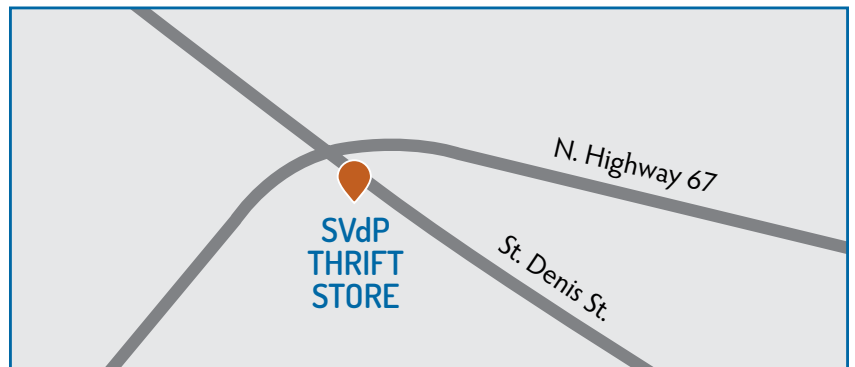
A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.



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.

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

OUR FLORISSANT STORE HAS MOVED



Visit us at our new location

...

Mon. – Sat., 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Closed Sunday

770 North Lindbergh
in the Florissant Meadows
Shopping Center