



Des Moines Council Society of St. Vincent de Paul

VINCENTIAN VOICE

"Like" our store on Facebook FIRST QUARTER 2017 www.svdpsm.org www.svdpusa.org

[Newsletter can be viewed on-line in color on our Council website]

Dear Friends,

Spring is in the air, but many of our friends in need are still struggling with a lack of clothing, food, shelter, transportation, and access to services. This is why we keep growing and changing at SVdP, to meet people's needs in new, effective ways.

Here are some of the opportunities and challenges we're working on at SVdP:

The Southside location is open!

After a ton of hard work, resourcefulness, grant writing, set-up, prayer, and collaboration, St. Vincent de Paul held a grand opening for its new south side campus on Jan. 21. Customers were lined up and chanting as the store opened, pouring in to examine the new store. The south side SVDP did more than \$4,800 in sales that day!

The new store is intended to continue SVdP's mission of assisting those living in poverty to become self-sufficient by removing barriers to success. In addition to the thrift store, the campus includes a Social Services Department with food, clothing and furniture pantries, as well as providing car seats and cribs to new parents. Social Services also has computers available to help people with job searches and continued education.

The new campus is located in the largest food desert in Polk County. Food deserts are areas where fresh fruit, vegetables and other healthy foods are not readily available. Because of this, SVDP received funds from Hunger Free Polk County to ensure we could help fulfill nutritional needs in the area.

The store portion of the campus is what central Iowa SVDP stores will be modeled after moving forward. It's large, more than 12,000 square feet, with an open feel and large windows that give customers a look inside. The polished concrete floors have a mirror-like quality, creating a feel unlike any other thrift store in the area.

The store has a focus on vintage items, with an area set aside for cool and quirky furniture, art, signs, collectibles and more. St. Vincent de Paul will always have a focus on serving the needs of the community, but the vintage focus will also help us pull in new customers and fund our charity work.

The new St. Vincent de Paul Service Center is located at 520 Army Post Road, and we'd love to have you volunteer, shop, or donate with us!

Healthy Relationships at Home and Work (expansion):

We are excited to share that SVdP's partnership with the Iowa Center for Faith-Based Activities and Healthy Relationships Iowa is stronger than ever! Starting this Spring, SVdP will not only be working with the men in the Bridges program in the Polk County Jail, but is also working with the women in the Bridges program in Adair. This partnership will help develop even stronger outcomes for these individuals that need support so badly.

Volunteers will be needed more than ever, so please share with your friends the exciting news of SVdP expansion! We look forward to seeing you soon!

With Gratitude,
Steve Havemann
Executive Director

What's Coming Up at SVdP?

SVdP's 26th Annual Golf Outing!

Please join St. Vincent de Paul stamp out hunger by participating in or providing a sponsorship for SVdP's 26th annual Golf Outing!

The outing will be held at Willow Creek Golf Course on May 15th, with a 10:00AM shotgun start. Register on your own, or with a foursome and join us for fun, fellowship, and great prizes. Sponsorship levels of all types are sincerely appreciated. With questions or to sign-up, please talk with your Conference President or call 515.282.8327 and talk to Mary, or register online at www.svdpsm.org



Kickin' It Giving Gala

Save the date! Please plan on joining us Friday, August 4 at the 2nd Annual Kickin' It Giving Gala. The event will be held at the Ron Pearson Center in West Des Moines. It will be a great evening of music, dancing, dinner and awards. All proceeds will go to help fund the many programs and services that we provide to those in need. For more information please contact Randi Radosevich at randiradosevich@gmail.com



Please note: this is our FINAL print newsletter, we will be transitioning to email distribution. Please fill out the enclosed form or contact Mary at 515.282.8327 ext. 10 to get on our email list for events, updates, and newsletters!

Transportation is a Key to Success

Enhancing the Level of Dignity for Our Friends

St. Vincent de Paul wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to Mark Hummel, Hummel Nissan, for his generous work with Janice Kellogg, a student working in the St. Vincent de Paul HiSET Preparation classes.

Janice had been attending classes on a regular basis since early 2016 when she encountered some car problems. Janice was informed that her car needed its rotors replaced, a process that would cost upwards of \$700, including labor costs.

Given her car was her primary means of transportation, this meant Janice could no longer attend classes unless assisted with cab fare or a ride from a fellow student.

Steve Havemann, Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul Council, contacted Mark Hummel to see whether he could provide a quote with reduced labor costs. When Mark Hummel learned of Janice's car situation he offered to replace the damaged rotors with new parts at no charge.

"I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate you and your staff for fixing my car," said Janice. "My car is running wonderful. This means I can get to class and go look for a job. If I get a job, I know I can get to work. Thank you again so much!" Both Janice and the staff at St. Vincent de Paul are still reeling from the extent of Mark Hummel's generosity, and would like to publicly thank him for assisting a dedicated student of the Education Center.



Janice outside the St. Vincent de Paul Education Center with her repaired vehicle.

SHOWING OUR SUCCESS—

Why Our Work Matters

Mercy College of Health Sciences students are doing some amazing things at SVdP. For a recent service learning project the students created and painted a mural in the Child Watch Center at St. Vincent de Paul.

There are many educational benefits that the mural brings to the children who will be spending time there while their parents get the resources that are being offered. Many of these lessons will stem from basic reading, writing, and math skills that provide a strong foundation for children. A big THANK YOU to Mercy College of Health Sciences for all they do at St. Vincent de Paul!



The Learning Mural in the SVdP Child Watch Center

Volunteer Opportunities

Office Support: We are looking for volunteers to help answer phones and provide clerical support in the administrative offices. Please contact Mary Beck at 515.282.8327 ext. 10, or secretary@svdpdsm.org

Mentoring: The Tom Varilek Education Center is seeking 100 volunteers to mentor students in the Tom Varilek Education Center. Please contact Andrew Gross at 515.282.8327 ext. 17, or ajgross@svdpdsm.org

Social Services: Social Services is looking for help during upcoming food pantry nights and Saturdays at both locations! Please contact Chasity DeMaranville at 515.282.8327 ext. 14, or socialservices@svdpdsm.org

Store: The store is growing, and more than ever we are in need of help sorting, stocking, and displaying the quality goods we receive (both locations). Please

contact Jessica Daab at 515.282.8327 ext. 11, or retaildirector@svdpdsm.org

REFLECTIONS – From the Desk of Fr. John Bertogli

Council Spiritual Director



Our Lives are a combination of contradictions. We hope for change, but fear conversation. We seek repentance, but are unsure of mercy. We look for new life, then resist it when it comes.

Lent is a call to renew our commitment that has grown dull, maybe a life marked by routine rather than reflection. We are challenged to decide whether we truly believe that Jesus is the Christ, and if we believe whether we will live accordingly even when we don't hear the angels singing in our lives or when the star of Bethlehem has grown dim in us. Lent enables us to face ourselves, to see the weak places, to touch the wounds in our souls and to try once more to live beyond our lowest aspirations and dreams.

This holy season reminds us that life is short and change is urgent. It reminds us of what we have become and prods us to do better. It is about opening our hearts and turning away our savings of excess, our fleeting self gratifications and childlike addiction for attention and pleasure. The voice of Lent is the promise of forgiveness. It keeps our souls melded to the spirit within us. These 40 days teach us that darkness may try to overtake us, but will not overcome good as long as we refuse to become the very thing we hate. Lent is our salvation from the depth of nothingness. It is our hope to the more and best of life.

Our hope as Vincentians is to serve the marginal and unnoticed, and find the face of Christ in their vulnerability. To take a second good look and see the image of Jesus can only be achieved by prayer, one of the foundations of Lent. May the words of our patron saint, Vincent de Paul, be ours these 40 DAYS and forever. "If God is at the center of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts."

A BLESSED LENT TO ALL!

Father John O. Bertogli
St. Vincent de Paul, Metro Chaplain

What's New

Education Center:

1. HSED Prep (High School Equivalency Diploma) preparation classes are underway and accepting referrals.
2. Financial Literacy is held every Weds and Friday, please refer friends we serve.
3. Healthy Relationships Iowa courses are underway with Bridges of Iowa, Youth and Shelter Services, Iowa Homeless Youth Centers, and Children and Families of Iowa.

Social Services:

1. Southside Social Services is open and beautiful!
2. We are expanding our Pantry hours, please come volunteer with us!
3. Donations of food and clothing are always needed.

Stores:

1. The Southside store is open and it is incredible!
2. We are now partnering with United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants and Catholic Charities to help clothe those in need.
3. We are on Facebook. Please like our Facebook pages for updates on sales and specials.

Please give us a call or come down and visit us. We would love to show you the impact we're making together!

SVDP Has a National Vehicle Donation Program

It's a tax deductible donation. 1. Fill out an on-line form on our national website (www.svdpusa.org) or call 800-322-8284, available 24hrs/day, 7 days/wk. It takes just a few minutes. 2. We'll have the vehicle picked up within 24 hours. 3. We'll fill out all the tax forms and send them to you.

Contact Us

We welcome your suggestions to improve our services. Feel free to contact us:

President Jim Wachuta:

president@svdpdsm.org or 282-8328, ext. 13

Executive Director Steve Havemann:

execdir@svdpdsm.org or 282-8328, ext. 12

Office Manager Mary Beck:

secretary@svdpdsm.org or 282-8328, ext. 10

Retail Operations Director Jessica Daab:

retaildirector@svdpdsm.org or 282-8328, ext. 11

Social Services Director Chasity DeMaranville:

socialservices@svdpdsm.org or 282-8328, ext. 14

Education Center Director Andrew Gross:

agross@svdpdsm.org or 282-8328, ext. 17

2017 Dates to Remember

Expanded Evening/ Weekend Food Pantry Hours 6th Avenue

-Every Tuesday and Thursday 5:00PM-7:00PM

-Every Saturday 11:00AM-2:00PM

520 Army Post Rd.

-Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11:00AM-6:00PM

-Every Tuesday and Saturday 9:00AM-1:00PM

April 20 THU Executive Committee Meeting
1426 6th Avenue

April 22-30 Phyllis Davis Linen Drive
(call the 6th Avenue store to participate)

April 30 SUN Quarterly Breakfast Meeting
After 8:30AM Mass, ALL SAINTS Church, 650 NE 52nd Ave, DSM

May 15 MON 26th Annual Golf Tournament

May 18 THU Full Board Meeting
Thu: 5:30 PM 1426 6th Avenue

June 15 THU Full Board Meeting
Thu: 5:30 PM 520 Army Post Road

PLEASE NOTE:

This will be our FINAL print newsletter.

We will be transitioning to electronic mailings. Please send Mary your email address so we can stay in touch about events with emails and our new electronic format newsletter.

MARY can be reached at: secretary@svdpdsm.org or 515.282.8327 ext. 10

Check out our updated website:

www.svdpsm.org

Stay up to date on our events at:

<http://svdpdsm.org/news-events/event-calendar/>

Like us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/svdponsixth>

Or search: St. Vincent de Paul of Des Moines