



Des Moines Council Society of St. Vincent de Paul

VINCENTIAN VOICE

"Like" our store on Facebook Second Quarter 2016 www.svdpsm.org www.svdpsa.org

(Newsletter can be viewed on-line in color on our Council website)

Dear Friends,

This is truly an exciting time to be involved with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The last several months have been full of growth, challenges, and the development of some incredible opportunities to serve our friends in need. It is through the dedicated and selfless efforts of our team at SVdP, volunteers and staff alike, that these growth opportunities have been made possible. Included in your newsletter is a brief overview of the impact SVdP had during the last Fiscal year. As such, I'd like take a few minutes to share some updates with you about our current operations.

Partnership with Hunger-Free Polk County:

About two years ago the Polk County Board of Supervisors began raising awareness and dollars around the increasing need for food and food pantries in Polk County. As the dollars were raised, several key contractors were identified in the greater Des Moines area. Through the grace of God, as well as several presentations and proposals, St. Vincent de Paul has been chosen as one of these key partners.

To address this need, SVdP will be expanding food pantry hours starting May 1, 2016. The Pantry will now be open 8:30-3:30 Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30-7:30 Tuesday and Thursday, and 10:00-2:00 on Saturdays. We will also be installing refrigeration to provide produce and other healthy foods to our friends, as well as remodeling the pantry to increase accessibility and efficiency. Volunteers will be needed more than ever, so please consider joining us in the food pantry during our evening or weekend hours!

Healthy Relationships Iowa:

One of the many challenges that our friends in poverty face are positive, healthy relationships. Relationships with significant others, children, employers, and families can all be challenges (as they can be for everyone). Individuals who are in the process of transitioning from prison to society face even more significant challenges around this issue. Fortunately, the Federal Government saw this need, and Iowa received grant dollars to begin addressing the issue of healthy relationships.

I am excited to share that SVdP is partnering with the Iowa Center (an affiliate of the University of Iowa), as well as St. Gregory Retreat Centers and the Bridges program to help individuals who are re-entering society from prison. The focus of this work will be on healthy relationships at work and home. This is an exciting opportunity!

Maximizing Our Impact:

As you know, for the last two and a half years we have operated a second store on 63rd street. Unfortunately, we were not in an area with as high of need as we anticipated. As such, we closed the store on March 31, 2016. So please, do bring your donations to the 6th Avenue location now, and we'll continue to walk our friends out of poverty towards self-sufficiency.

As we move forward, there are going to be even more exciting opportunities ahead to positively impact the greater Des Moines area, and your support, donations, and volunteerism is sincerely appreciated.

With Gratitude,

Steve Havemann
Executive Director

Get Involved with SVdP this Spring!

April is going to be a banner month for The Society of St. Vincent de Paul! We have several events coming up we'd love to have you join us for!

Kickin' It: April, 15, 2016

Come help SVdP Kick Hunger and Homelessness to the Curb! Join us April 15th at the Iowa Event Center/Hy-Vee Hall for a steak dinner, refreshments, camaraderie, and a great Country-Western concert featuring the Brad Morgan Band! Tickets are \$125, with several levels of corporate sponsorship available! More details can be found at: <https://svdpdsm.org/news-events/kickin-it/>

25th Annual SVdP Golf Outing: May 9, 2016

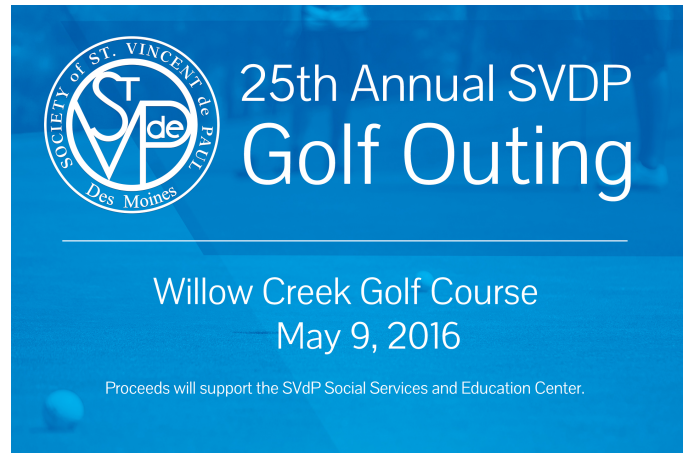
What could be better than enjoying a friendly round of Spring golf with your friends to support Des Moines' best charity? Join us May 9th at Willow Creek Golf Course for a delicious dinner, great raffle prizes, new games on the course, and the chance to win a new car! The cost is \$100 per golfer, or register as a foursome for \$400. Don't have a foursome, no problem! We can match you up with a group. More details can be found at: <http://svdpdsm.org/news-events/charity-golf-outing/>

Phyllis Davis Linen Drive: April 9-17, 2016

SVdP will be holding our 15th annual Phyllis Davis Linen Drive to help provide linens, blankets, bedding, towels of all kinds, pillows, and sheets to our friends most in need. You will see large barrels at Church during this time. Please fill them with new, or clean and gently-used linens, and we will share them with our community partners.

Midwest Region Meeting: June 3-4, 2016

The Springfield District Council is hosting our Midwest Region Meeting, Branson, Missouri on June 3-4. We haven't had a regional meeting in years and all Vincentians are invited. We have kept the registration fee very low (\$50), and the rate of \$79/night is an excellent rate for Branson in the summer! And you can extend your stay and enjoy the many tourist attractions in the area. It promises to be a wonderful time of spirituality, fellowship and education. Online registration is available at: https://www.regonline.com/midwestregionalmeeting_1820841. Contact Executive Director Steve Havemann or President Jim Wachuta if you wish additional information.



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.

Math Instruction and Mentoring: The Tom Varilek Education Center is looking for a volunteer Math Instructor to teach the HSED prep class to approximately 12 students on Thursday evenings from 5:30-7:30. Additionally, the Ed 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. 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. Please contact Jessica Daab at 515.282.8327 ext. 11, or retaildirector@svdpdsm.org.

***Showing Our Success—
Why our Work Matters***

Nearly every day there is a friendly face working, learning, and researching in the Tom Varilek Education Center. His name is Roy, and he is a man on the mend.

Living in Chicago for a number of years, Roy struggled with addiction, specifically alcohol. For a number of years, he was a truck driver who could prevent his barriers from affecting his work. However, after 30 years of struggling with this addiction, he made the conscious decision to put God first in his life, which gave him the strength to free himself from his dependence on alcohol.

Roy was motivated to make changes in his life because he got tired of being frustrated with a life that was spinning in circles. He wanted a higher quality, more fulfilling life.

This motivation and dependence on the Lord provided him the strength to move away from the job and the life he was leading to start a new life in Des Moines.

So, where does Roy see his life going now? He wants to have a good career making a living wage. He aspires to improve his literacy in reading and math, as well as to perform well in the NCRC (National Career Readiness Certificate) assessment, receive a certificate of a Class A CDL (Commercial Driver's License) credential, and be able to live comfortably.

"St. Vincent de Paul means a lot to me," Roy shared. "They do a great job of helping people get back on track in their lives, especially if they have fallen short. St. Vincent de Paul understands the importance of patience, and they take the time to work with anyone to give them help and encouragement to take the next step in their lives. SVdP is an incredible resource for me, and I am grateful!"

***REFLECTIONS –
From the Desk of
Fr. John Bertogli***

Council Spiritual Director



The message of the Easter season is one of radical hope. Easter sings that the resurrection is not just an event after death, but a reality of everyday life. Unity, love, and wholeness are qualities of the resurrected life. Easter calls us to break through boundaries of nationality, race, age, mental capacity, and gender. We are to create a unity of life that allows the life of Jesus to be lived in everyone. We are to let go of old ways of feeling good about ourselves, and to reach out to a new integration of our many-faceted humanities. Like those who come to the empty tomb that first Easter, we may be frightened and confused. The promise of this season (Easter is 50 days, Lent only 40) is that God has the final word over darkness, be it sin, despair and death. The power of the Lord's resurrection is a rich grace that allows us to live our lives with vision that can transform us as we are living it! It is the empty tomb that says to us, "Go tell the others, and they will see me." (Mt 28:10)

I continue to marvel with gratitude the various ministries that are served by the metro conferences of the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Our apostolates show the face of the Risen Lord to those who experience the crucified life due to economic structures beyond their control, those who have no relational support, as well as those whose grief is so strong they are too weak to cry for themselves. Our efforts "raise up" the dignity of those we attempt to assist as God "raised" His Son, Jesus from death. St. Augustine tells us "Easter people are Alleluia people from head to toe." May "Alleluia" be our song of praise for all that God is doing through us to reveal the Easter message of hope in word and deed.

A Blessed Easter Season to All!

Father John O. Bertogli
St. Vincent DePaul, Metro Chaplain

What's New

Education Center:

1. HSED Prep (High School Equivalency Diploma) preparation classes began March 15, 2016
2. First Friday Financial Literacy is held the first Friday of each month from 9:00AM-11:30AM
3. Ozanam Orientation will be held in June (TBD)

Social Services:

1. We are in need of additional shelving and large, high-quality refrigeration units
2. We are expanding our Pantry hours, please come volunteer with us!
3. Donations of food and clothing are always needed

Stores:

1. 6th will have the warehouse open for sales Friday and Saturday during the upcoming warm months.
2. We are now partnering with United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants to help clothe those in need
3. We are now 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.svdpsusa.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

Executive Director Steve Havemann:

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

Office Manager Mary Beck:

secretary@svdpdsm.org or 282-8328

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:

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

2016 Dates to Remember

April 9-17 All Week	Phyllis Davis Linen Drive Please donate at Church
April 15 Fri	Kickin' It at the Iowa Event Center/ Hy-Vee Hall
April 17 Sun: 8:30AM mass	Quarterly Breakfast Meeting St. Anthony's Cath Church
April 21-23 All Week	SVdP National Meeting
April 28 Thu: 5:30PM	Exec Committee Meeting
April 5 & 19 Tue	Evening Food Pantry 5:00PM – 7:30PM
Expanded Evening/ Weekend Food Pantry Hours <i>Beginning May 1, 2016:</i> -Every Tuesday and Thursday 5:00PM-7:30PM -Every Saturday 10:00AM-2:00PM	
May 9 Mon	25 th Annual Golf Outing
May 19 Thu: 5:30PM	Full Board Meeting
June 3-4	Midwest Region Meeting Branson, MO
June 16 Thu: 5:30PM	Full Board Meeting

Check out our new website:

www.svdpsdsm.org

Stay up to date on our events at:

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

Find us on Facebook at:

Sixth Avenue Campus:

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