



**Des Moines Council Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

# VINCENTIAN VOICE

**"Like" our store on Facebook Fourth Quarter 2016 [www.svdpsm.org](http://www.svdpsm.org) [www.svdpusa.org](http://www.svdpusa.org)**

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

Dear Friends,

How is it possible that it is already Autumn? The weather is cooling down, leaves cover the sidewalks, and we are seeing those in need begin to see us for warm clothes jackets, blankets, and critical utility assistance.

There is so much going on at St. Vincent de Paul right now, and we are blessed to have such a welcoming, dedicated team. The generosity volunteers and staff alike show everyday is incredible. Thank YOU for all each of you do to make SVdP such a special, warm, dignified place to serve our friends in need and to work!

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

## **Holiday Donations:**

This is a humbling time of year when we are looking at people in need of so many things to not only have a holiday season, but to meet their basic needs of clothing, food, and shelter.

It is due to this high level of need that you will see two additional inserts in the newsletter this quarter. While I do not always like to ask for donations to help those we serve, it is truly necessary this year. I simply could not believe the level of need we saw in the metro last year, and am praying for additional resources to provide critical services to families in need during the holiday season.

The Food Bank of Iowa is no longer offering turkeys or hams, and we are in great need of support for Operation Santa Claus this year. Please review the information sheets in this mailing and consider providing a holiday season to those we serve.

## **The Southside Location is Underway:**

Construction has started!

We are excited to share that we will be opening a second Vintage and Thrift Store, Food, Clothes, Personal Needs, and Infant/Childcare Pantries.

Additionally, SVdP will offer free, new cribs, carseats, pack 'n plays and other needs to new mothers through a new initiative. We would like to thank the Gabriel Project for helping us provide these services and making this dream a reality.

The new St. Vincent de Paul Service Center is located at 500 and 520 Army Post Road, and will be open before Christmas!

## **Key Partners and Sponsors:**

**A special thanks to Continental Western Group, Prairie Meadows, Polk County Community Development Grant, Hunger-Free Polk County, Healthy Relationships Iowa, United Way, Principal Foundation, Elks of West Des Moines, and Rotary Club of Des Moines for funding this year!**

**Volunteers will be needed more than ever**, so please share with your friends the exciting news of SVdP expansion! We will have more information coming soon!

With Gratitude,  
Steve Havemann, Executive Director

## ***What's Been Happening at SVdP?***

**Friends of the Poor Walk, September 18, 2016**



SVdP supporters gather before the Friends of Poor Walk at Pete Crivaro Park in Des Moines.

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Friends of the Poor Walk at Pete Crivaro Park was a great time for everyone!

In total, we had 100 people who walked, volunteered, or pledged. Great food and beverages were catered by Taste! To Go, and others brought desserts. Live music was provided by Jim Wachuta, and he rocked! It was a beautiful day and a great event (except for a few pesky bees). Disc golf winners won \$25.00 gift cards and lots of door prizes were awarded.

With five different Conferences participating, we raised over \$7,000 in total. We enjoyed having our Regional Vice President, Barb Slaven of Omaha attend as well!

The traveling "Big Shoe award" went to the St. Elizabeth Seton of Carlisle conference, with the runner-up being the District Council, and 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up, Christ the King Conference.

We would like to thank our sponsors: Taste! To Go, Fareway, Chucks Restaurant, St. Mary's of Nazaret, Sacred Heart, St. Elizabeth, O'Meara Dental, Paesano's Pizzeria, Cooney's Tavern, Carlisle True Value, Fizz, Knights of Columbus, Optometric of Warren Co., Bob Watts, Shelter Insurance, and Great Western Bank.

Donations still being accepted. Use online at [www.fopwalk.org](http://www.fopwalk.org) or call the District at: 515.282.8327.

## ***Our New Food Pantry***

***Enhancing the Level of Dignity for Our Friends***

One key area of focus for our team at SVdP is providing a sense of dignity and self-worth to everyone who walks through our doors. Many of the friends we serve are experiencing poverty of some kind, whether that be spiritual, emotional, or financial poverty. As we strive to help them meet their basic needs and work towards self-sufficiency, facilities are imperative to providing a positive, dignified environment to provide services so that those we serve feel a sense of pride and safety.

SVdP has been blessed with funding from Hunger-Free Polk County and CMR Construction to entirely remodel our 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Social Services department with new racks for clothing, paint, technology, shelving, private meeting and storage rooms, a large Food Pantry, and new refrigeration and freezer units.

Please, come down and see for yourself what we're doing. It will change your life too!

***Before:***



St. Vincent de Paul Social Services 7/1/2016

***After:***



St. Vincent de Paul Social Services 8/1/2016

## **SHOWING OUR SUCCESS—**

### **Why Our Work Matters**

Samuel was a successful, young man in television production, and felt like he was building a good life. As life progressed, health issues struck, and he was forced to retire from his work and receive Social Security Disability (S.S.D.I).

With income now low and savings gone, Samuel needed more assistance. St Vincent de Paul helped Samuel meet his basic needs and provide a sense of stability in his new life. This stability allowed him to regain his dignity, and he even states that St. Vincent de Paul has saved his life on two occasions.

“St. Vincent de Paul has helped me with my personal needs including rent assistance, utilities, clothing, food, and furniture.”

Samuel has been given a second chance with life, and was given back his self-esteem. Samuel likes to let other people know what services St. Vincent de Paul offers, and how they are willing to help others.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:retaildirector@svdpdsm.org)

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

### **Council Spiritual Director**



I have lived for the past eleven years at Mercy Park Apartments on the Mercy Medical Center campus. It was close to the Cathedral to get back and forth for my ministry of Rector at St. Ambrose, not to mention very convenient for all hours if needed at the hospital. August, 2016, the hospital closed the apartment units due to the need to expand patient rooms and parking space.

The past two weeks have found me in transition to a new living location. Packing for a new move interrupts our comfort zones, demands, time, energy and patience. In route of my many trips back and forth from my apartment to the new unit, I witnessed many hitch-hikers and homeless people on the streets. My frustrations seemed very small weighted to their concerns. Jesus tells us, “The poor you will always have with you.” Our Lord’s point is that we cannot ignore them or their needs when we have an opportunity to reveal His face in such vulnerable settings.

I continue to be grateful to the St. Vincent De Paul parish conferences, our administrators and staff, those who serve in the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue offices and those in the field working directly with those who come to us looking for the image of Jesus. St. Vincent de Paul said, “If God is the center of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts.”

My thanks again for all our efforts to offer compassionate hospitality and welcome to people of every background, culture and age who come in and out of our lives. May we hear the Lord’s words of gratitude for our efforts. “Well done, good and faithful servant.” Enjoy the beauty of this fall season.

In The Risen Lord,

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. Our remodel is done, come check it out!
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 is already under construction!
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 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.svdpusa.org](http://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](mailto:president@svdpdsm.org) or 282-8328, ext. 13

#### Executive Director Steve Havemann:

[execdir@svdpdsm.org](mailto:execdir@svdpdsm.org) or 282-8328, ext. 12

#### Office Manager Mary Beck:

[secretary@svdpdsm.org](mailto:secretary@svdpdsm.org) or 282-8328, ext. 10

#### Retail Operations Director Jessica Daab:

[retaildirector@svdpdsm.org](mailto:retaildirector@svdpdsm.org) or 282-8328, ext. 11

#### Social Services Director Chasity DeMaranville:

[socialservices@svdpdsm.org](mailto:socialservices@svdpdsm.org) or 282-8328, ext. 14

#### Education Center Director Andrew Gross:

[ajgross@svdpdsm.org](mailto:ajgross@svdpdsm.org) or 282-8328, ext. 17

## 2016 Dates to Remember

### Expanded Evening/ Weekend Food Pantry Hours

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

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

November 4	Thanksgiving Basket produce requests due
November 5	Christmas Extravaganza 1426 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue
November 7 Mon: 10:00 AM	Volunteer Meeting 1426 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Break Rm
November 17 Thu: 5:30 PM	Full Board Meeting 1426 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue
November 19 Sat: 8-10 AM	Thanksgiving Basket Pickup 1426 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Warehouse
November 25 Thu: 5:30 PM	Happy Thanksgiving
December 1	Projected Southside Service Center Ribbon Cutting
December 1	Operation Santa Claus Toy Requests Due
December 2	Christmas Basket produce requests due
December 15 Thu: 5:30 PM	Full Board Meeting 1426 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue
December 22 Thu: 8-10 AM	Christmas Basket Pickup 1426 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Warehouse
December 23 Fri: 12N-2PM	Christmas Chili Dinner 1426 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Warehouse
December 25	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</b>

### Check out our updated website:

[www.svdpsm.org](http://www.svdpsm.org)

### Stay up to date on our events at:

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

### Like us on Facebook at:

Sixth Avenue Campus:

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