



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

# VINCENTIAN VOICE

**"Friend" our stores on FACEBOOK    Fourth Quarter 2015    [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 and Fellow Vincentians,

As of August 3, 2015, the District Council of St. Vincent de Paul has been happy to welcome our new Executive Director, Steve Havemann.

Steve is a life-long Des Moines resident who has made a career of non-profit management, program development, training, and networking in central Iowa. Prior to joining SVdP, Steve worked in management with the Youth Policy Institute of Iowa, the Iowa Jobs for America's Graduate program, and started his own training and development company, AskListenHear.

"The opportunity to join an organization with such a strong, positive reputation, and an incredible amount of untapped potential is a dream come true. I truly believe I have the best job in Des Moines," shared Havemann.

In addition to working with non-profits, Steve is also a published author. His first book, *The Excellent Persuader*, was co-authored with his grandfather (and New York Times Best-Selling Author), Joe Batten and was released in 2013. Steve also holds a BA in Communications and Political Science from Central College in Pella, Iowa, and a Masters in Adult Learning and Organizational Performance from Drake University.

Community involvement has also been important to Steve over the years as he has served as an officer with local Neighborhood Associations, mentored a variety of youth, and volunteered a number of hours beautifying Des Moines' neighborhoods.

While work and community have always been a priority, nothing is more important to Steve than his wife, Jen and daughter, Zoe. Recent transplants to Pleasant Hill, Steve and his family enjoy the quietness of living outside of town, and enjoy playing sports, walking their dogs, and seeing new sites.

"The best part of being a dad is watching the world through the eyes of your child," Steve shared.

Steve said that throughout his professional endeavors, he has never felt more inspired by those he works with, or those who he works for. Steve believes in enacting positive change and leaving the world a better place than one entered it.

"It truly is a blessing to be part of the St. Vincent de Paul family. The volunteers and staff are incredible, and our services are so imperative to many residents in our neighborhoods. If you haven't volunteered with us before, please do consider joining us for one of our many projects, it is a wonderful experience," encouraged Steve.

Steve was immersed in our organizational culture when he attended the annual SVdP National Assembly Meeting in Providence, RI, along with Jessica Daab, our Retail Operations Manager who is on the National Stores Committee, and I, during the last week in August.

The theme of the conference was, "Trust in Providence, Abound in Hope," and provided an incredible opportunity to learn best practices from other SVdP sites, as well as learning about new and exciting opportunities at the National level. New connections were made by all, which is invaluable in improving our services and operations locally.



Yours in friendship and service,  
Jim Wachuta, Council President

## ***Trust in Providence, Abound in Hope***

What title could be better for an inspirational conference held in Providence, R.I.? Traveling to the east coast to learn what other national and international SVdP sites are doing, as well as best-practices and updates from SVdP National afforded us an incredible opportunity to improve our operations and learn from others.

The week focused on allowing Vincentians to renew their spirituality. Through daily masses celebrated by a number of visiting celebrants, like Cardinal Sean O'Malley from the Archdiocese of Boston, Reverend Doctor Clarence Williams, CPps, PHD and director of the Institute for Social Sobriety and Bishop Thomas Tobin from the Diocese of Providence; as well as adoration, attendees were able to celebrate their faithfulness with their fellow SVdP members.



Vincentians gathered each day for workshops covering a variety of topics from systemic change to clergy relations and multicultural challenges and opportunities facing the Society today. Workshops were hosted by visiting guest speakers as well as Vincentians themselves.

The National Assembly welcomed special guest speakers such as Fr. Clarence Williams who spoke to attendees about diversity and systemic change.

A group of panel members came together to answer questions about clergy relations and the Society. The panel was made up of Rev. David E. Green, pastor of St. Martha Church in East Providence, Rev. Clarence Williams and Julien Spiewak, SVdP International Secretary General.

Throughout the panel discussion, the members spoke about a number of different topics including the importance of youth Conferences, maintaining the Society's spirituality and the role of evangelization in charity work. They also described some of the road blocks that Vincentians may run into when trying to form a Conference and working with clergy members.

Spiewak attended the Assembly to address the importance of youth and young adult involvement in the Society. He spoke about the crucial part the group will play in the future of the SVdP.

This year's National Assembly held a special place of importance for young people. A group of young Vincentians from the Providence area were there all week to help out. The group of boys and girls, ranging from junior high to college age call themselves, "Next Gen."

For many Vincentians, the National Assembly serves as the one time a year they get the opportunity to come together with most of their fellow-Vincentians from across the country and renew their Vincentian spirit as one.

## ***Creating Happy Holidays for Everyone***

Although it is still early in the fall, we have already started to think about our families in need during the holiday season. Each year provides a unique set of challenges to families, this year one major unexpected barrier we are facing is the rising costs of turkeys due to the bird flu epidemic of 2015. With the cost of a turkey expected to nearly double from last year, it will likely be much more challenging for us to purchase a sufficient number of turkeys for our clients. Additionally, our food pantry is in need of some specific items to help those in need this winter. Please consider donating the following items to help those in need during the holiday season:

- Steel-toed work boots (to help people work)
- Personal hygiene items
- Pasta sauce
- Hamburger Helper
- Frozen turkeys
- Winter clothes and jackets
- Volunteers to help distribute food

**REFLECTIONS – From the Desk of  
Fr. John Bertogli, Council Spiritual Director**

September has a strange and wonderful feeling. It is the best and hardest part of summer. Just when summer gets perfect—fresh nights, casual breezes, cooling trees and free weekends—it all ends. Life is like that. Just when we get it right, it changes. The job gets easier, and then we're told to retire. The children grow up and become reasonable, and then they leave home just when it is nice to have them around. The days get less full of work, but we get older and too stiff to play. The money we never had enough of abounds after the mortgage is paid off, but we don't have the energy to enjoy it. That emptying and letting go is life on the edge of autumn. It can be beautiful if we have the humility for it.

Humility is a natural virtue. It is one of those life skills we have to get or else die in misery. We see it often in our ministries together in the St. Vincent de Paul Society. We are humbled by the people we encounter as we see the face of Christ in them. The poor remind us of the poverty of Christ's birth, and the limitations we face in life. The uneducated witness that all of life is a learning process. The unemployed remind us that everyone has abilities to be used and shared. Vincentians are called to bring "good news to the poor" (Lk 4:18). We do that best by surrendering ourselves by accepting direction and cultivating the presence of God in all we do.

Humility is the keystone and the survival mechanism of life. Without it we will never have lasting happiness and contentment. That awareness puts us before the Lord, God who tells "act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

A safe and enjoyable autumn to all!

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

**New Hires and Position Changes**

Jerry LaRue: Formerly a Truck Driver, now Jerry is the Supervisor of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Store

63<sup>rd</sup> Street Store employees: Ethel Diekman, Evelyn Gill, Missy Cardeines, Haley Nickell.

Kathy Clark: 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Store, Backroom Associate

Donovan McClain: Truck Driver

Chol Kuot: Social Services Assistant

Nicole Lewis: Volunteer Coordinator

**Making a Difference:**

**Volunteers are our Core!**

Behind every great organization is even greater people. We are blessed to be able to say that St. Vincent de Paul qualifies for this category! Sometimes we become so focused on helping those in need, that we don't publicly recognize those who reach significant milestones in making our work possible. Since the beginning of 2015, one employee and five volunteers have reached their five-year service marks, and five more volunteers have been serving for more than 20 years!

Employee reaching her five year service mark:

- Tina Blobaum

Volunteers reaching significant milestones:

32 years of service:

- Clara Sertich
- Dick Schuster
- Cathy Schuster
- Betty Wines
- Marguerite Wines

Five years of service:

- Geri Hufkin
- Chuck Hufkin
- Judi Cunconan
- Rose Mary Hicks
- Kathy Bowen



Tina Blobaum.



Rose Mary Hicks

**Stores Now Selling New Beds –** Due to the identified constant high demand in our stores for beds, we have entered into a business arrangement with a mattress company to offer comfortable new beds to our customers at low cost. This provides us the opportunity to more often have an inventory of donated used beds (meeting consumer protection regulations) available at no cost to those in need we serve, through our social services department and conference works. When needed, new mattresses are available at even lower special pricing for conferences.

### **Timely Submission of End of Year Reports –**

Looking ahead to our annual End Of Year (EOY) SVdP conference and council roll-up IRS reporting requirements (and challenges!) I am asking conferences to set member activity reporting date targets to assure conference EOY reports are submitted to the Council Office in October, if possible.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteers, including Dowling Catholic or other high school students in need of service hours, are always welcome and needed. Council needs include office volunteers, store volunteers at 1426 Sixth Avenue and 109 SW 63rd Street thrift stores, assistance in operating our food pantry on the first and third Tuesday evenings of the month, assistance in our social services department, mentors for students and evening childcare assistance for HiSED students' children (onsite at our 6th Avenue location during evening class hours) in our education center, and other technical assistance based on skill sets. For additional details or to volunteer, please check our local website ([www.svdpsdm.org](http://www.svdpsdm.org)) for guidance or contact Volunteer Coordinator Nicole Lewis at 282-8328 ext. 18.

### **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)

**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

**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:**

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

### **Dates to Remember**

#### **2015**

October 4 Sun	SVdP Picnic and Friends of the Poor Walk, Pete Crivaro Park
October 6 & 20 Tue	Evening Food Pantry 5:00PM – 7:30PM
October 15 Thu: 5:30PM	Exec Committee Mtg [No Full Board Mtg]
October 25 Sun: 8:30 AM mass	Quarterly Breakfast Mtg Holy Trinity Cath Church
Nov. 3 & 17 Tue	Evening Food Pantry 5:00PM – 7:30PM
November 19 Thu	Full Board Meeting 5:30PM
November 26 Thu	THANKSGIVING
December 17 Thu	Full Board Meeting 5:30PM
December 25 Fri	CHRISTMAS
January 1, 2016	NEW YEARS

### **Find us on Facebook at:**

**Sixth Avenue Store:**

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

**63<sup>rd</sup> Street Store:**

<https://www.facebook.com/svdpon63rd?ref=hl>