



Des Moines Council Society of St. Vincent de Paul

VINCENTIAN VOICE

"Like" our store on Facebook Third Quarter 2016 www.svdpsm.org www.svdpsusa.org

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

Dear Friends,

The Des Moines Society of St. Vincent de Paul is off to a banner start in 2016, because of the hard work, dedication, caring, and perseverance of the team at SVdP (Staff and Volunteers alike).

In the last Newsletter we covered our partnership with Bridges of Iowa and St. Gregory Retreat Centers for the Healthy Relationships Iowa Grant and our current partnership with The Polk County Board of Supervisors.

We are excited to announce several new partnerships and organizational funding streams that are helping our organization grow to even better serve our friends in need.

United Way of Central Iowa:

As a result of the dedication to "Ending Poverty Through Systemic Change," and some true innovation, St. Vincent de Paul is excited to share that we are now a United Way Agency. United Way, who will be funding the HSED (High School Equivalency Degree) preparation class in our Education Center, as well as some Financial Literacy work, is excited to work with SVdP again. Each student preparing for his/her high school completion will be strategically paired with a mentor, attend class at no charge, benefit from a small-group learning environment, and have access to our Child-Watch Center, Food Pantry, and a free, healthy meal each night they attend class. Through this process we are not only helping our friends meet their basic needs, but helping them think, act, and behave more positively and productively.

Partnership with Hunger-Free Polk County: In the last newsletter we mentioned that 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.

SVdP has already expanded Food Pantry hours to: 8:30AM-3:30PM Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30AM-7:00PM Tuesday and Thursday, and 10:30AM-2:00PM 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.

Expansion of Services AND Location:

Additionally, The Board of Supervisors and SVdP had conversation about the need for food, clothing, and personal needs pantries on the Southside of Des Moines. Through these conversations, the opportunity to expand our operations became a reality. We are excited to share that we will be opening a second Vintage and Thrift Store, Food, Clothes, Personal Needs, and Infant/Childcare Pantries and assistance in the fall of 2016!! We are also considering partnerships with other, like-minded organizations to create a St. Vincent de Paul Service Center at 500 and 520 Army Post Road.

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?

Kickin' It: April, 15, 2016



More than 200 community members joined St. Vincent de Paul in "Kickin' Hunger to the Curb" in 2016! Mark your calendars for August 4, 2017 to help us Kick Homelessness to the Curb! We'll have live music, a wonderful dinner, and a ton of fun again!

Executive Director Steve Havemann, County Supervisor John Mauro, and First Lady Chris Branstad "Kick' It" Together.

25th Annual SVdP Golf Outing: May 9, 2016

There may have been rain and wind, but over 120 St. Vincent de Paul friends showed up for our SVdP 25th Annual Golf Outing fundraiser. A full list of prize recipients is posted on our website, and we look forward to a phenomenal event again next year!



Phyllis Davis Linen Drive: April 9-17, 2016

Our friends most in need expressed sincere gratitude for the fresh, clean, gently used linens, towels, blankets, and pillow cases. Over 2,200 items were donated during this week! These generously donated items were shared with Youth Emergency Shelter Services, Iowa Homeless Youth

Centers, and Central Iowa Shelter and Services as well. Thank you for your generosity!

Hummels Knocks Down Barriers to Success!

With hard work, prayers, and the generosity of our Vincentians and benefactors, God's grace and blessings become evident in knocking down barriers to self-sufficiency. There is no better example of this than the work our SVdP friend, Leah, has taken over the last several months. In her journey out of homelessness and poverty, Leah worked with Board President Jim Wachuta and several other Vincentians and many supporting SVdP Conferences to get an apartment, a full-time job, clothing, furniture, food, and was close to self-sufficiency. Through the generosity of Hummel's Nissan, Leah's final barrier of transportation was knocked down! Mark Hummel and family generously donated a low mileage vehicle to SVdP, which was available for transfer to Leah and which should serve her well for years to come! Thank you, Hummel's Nissan!

Thanks to the West Des Moines Elks!

St. Vincent de Paul is blessed and grateful to receive a generous donation from the West Des Moines Elks! This money will be used to feed those most in need and to enhance our Education Center. Thank you, West Des Moines Elks!

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 looking for a volunteer Math Instructor to teach the HSED prep class to approximately 12 students on Thursday evenings from 5:30-7:30PM. 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

My name is Rebecca Feters, and I would like to share with you all the impact the work SVdP has on the community, and those who volunteer there. Until I attended Mercy College (and enrolled in the Servant Leadership course), I had not done any volunteer work in a while. Through my time volunteering at SVdP, I feel like this opened the door for me to starting giving back again.

I went into this experience thinking I was there to assist with the needs of the community, not expecting to get anything in return from this experience, but I was pleasantly surprised. I guess I have always thought it was those who were more fortunate responsible to give to those less fortunate. I learned this is not the case, in fact everyone should serve everybody with a servant's heart no matter the financial status.

I came from a unique background as my parents were financially stable but I had a mental health illness which led me to places that were not so good. People judged me daily and I can still feel the pain that this brought to my life.

The best part of this experience were the lessons of love and caring that I witnessed. This was great because it made me realize that I was to strive to be a better person and serve with a more loving heart. I witnessed real struggle and sacrifice, and emotional and financial poverty.

While I know this experience will not be a sincere service opportunity for everyone it was for me. It reminded me of a part of me that I had lost. I had been lost for the last several months struggling with where I wanted to be versus where I was. I needed a wake up and an experience that would help me find my way.

I believe that God knows when we are struggling and if we love and serve him, he will always help us find our way back. I also believe that I might not always understand his plan, I just have to be patient and let him lead. I know that this was my Savior's way of helping me find my way back

REFLECTIONS – From the Desk of Fr. John Bertogli

Council Spiritual Director



Last week in the midst of a hectic, busy and frustrating morning, a refugee from our parish insisted he visit with me. He had settled in the metro with a job and apartment with the hope to bring his family here from Africa. He returned to his native homeland to secure them only to find out, due to the political struggle and violent civil war, his wife and family could not accompany him back to Iowa. He was able to return here and wanted to secure his previous job as a maintenance worker. The income from his labors he would send back to his family for their livelihood. To get the above data and history from him was time consuming due to language barriers and limited communication skills.

Patience and time were the gifts needed to be of service to the man in need. The St. Vincent de Paul mission is rooted in service. Our apostolate is more than government agencies who avail themselves to those with immediate forms of outreach. Our baptismal call is rooted in the paschal mystery to enter into the dying and rising of the lives of those we encounter. That dignity stretches our vision so we can get a glimpse of the face of Jesus in those living the crucified life. Our empathy, compassion and mercy can bring the resurrected life to hope-filled fruition to the desperate and marginal. That awareness and growth keeps our spirit of Vincentian Mission alive and well. Prayer, private and public, is vital for that to happen. It is God's work we engage in, not our own. Prayer helps us to focus on that truth. In gratitude for all the Lord has done for us, and that litany is long, may we continue to find the face of Christ in all we meet and attempt to serve.

A safe and restful summer season 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 began August 23, 2016.
2. First Friday Financial Literacy is held the first and second Friday of each month from 9:00AM-11:30AM.
3. Healthy Relationships Iowa courses begin in July.

Social Services:

1. Our remodel is starting; we are on the way!
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 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.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 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:

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

2016 Dates to Remember

Expanded Evening/ Weekend Food Pantry Hours

Beginning May 1, 2016:

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

-Every Saturday 10:30AM-2:00PM

July 11 Mon: 10:00 AM	Volunteer Meeting in SVdP Breakroom
July 15	Healthy Relationships Work Begins in Ed Center
July 17 Sun: 8:30 AM mass	Quarterly Breakfast Meeting Basilica of St. John
July 21 Thu: 5:30 PM	Exec Committee Meeting
Aug. 8 Mon: 10:00 AM	Volunteer Meeting in SVdP Breakroom
Aug. 18 Thu: 5:30 PM	Full Board Meeting
Aug 30-Sept. 3	National SVdP Assembly Columbus, OH
Sep 15 Thu: 5:30 PM	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>