



QUARTLERY NEWSLETTER

# St. Vincent de Paul

## **A Letter from Our Executive Director**

Dear Friends,

Thank goodness it is almost Spring! Spring is often a time to get back outdoors, spend time with family, golf, grill, and look forward to beautiful weather. Also, this time of year represents a time for thoughtfulness, contemplation, and fresh beginnings. It is through this thoughtfulness, contemplation, and faith in fresh beginnings and brighter futures that we serve those most in need through St. Vincent de Paul every day.

Each of our programs are thoughtfully assembled, assessed, implemented, re-assessed and revised consistently to ensure we are helping move more people than ever out of poverty, while being good stewards of the funds entrusted to us. Practices such as these have resulted in Des Moines SVdP developing two Nationally replicated program models.

The first one, IMMERSION, helps individuals returning from incarceration more successfully transition back into society, employment, and hopefully, positive family situations.

The second program, Back2Work, focuses on getting those who are unemployed or underemployed into the workplace at a livable wage job. This provides dignity for the individual and his/her entire family, as well as a positive impact on the community from a tax perspective and from local employers who cannot fill all their open positions.

Additionally, we are now entering the second year of implementation of Food Pantry 2.0, where those we serve are given a monthly allotment, or budget, of points they can use at the pantry. When clients visit the pantry, which they can do daily now, they draw down from their monthly points allotment based on the items they select. The healthier the food, the lower the point value, which provides an incentive for individuals to make healthy choices while also educating them on how to select food to nourish themselves and their families.

Through the Conferences, these innovative programs, and our other programming, we served over 33,000 individuals across 21 counties with over \$1,500,000 in charity.

Every day I am grateful to have the opportunity to help guide SVdP into the future. Part of the gratitude I feel every day is not only from the many blessings God provides, but also for the incredible volunteers, staff, community support, partnerships, and new funding streams that have helped St. Vincent de Paul grow and develop.

If you are not currently involved with SVdP, we would love to have you join our team. We are in need of volunteers in our store, pantries, and education center, and our annual Golf Fundraiser is right around the corner (May 21st at Copper Creek Golf Club).

From all your friends at SVdP, thank you for all of your incredible work and support.

With gratitude,

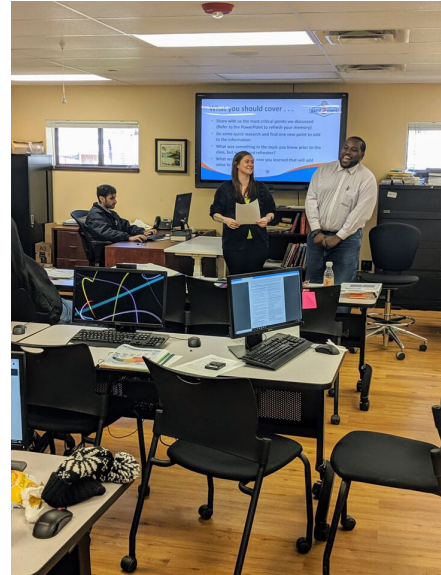
Steve Havemann  
Executive Director



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

In October, SVdP held our fourth Back2Work Cohort. Seven participants completed the two-week classroom experience. This group of participants became very supportive of each other and helped each other during difficult times. Following the classroom portion, six participants were placed in employer partnership internship experiences. Their internships included automotive, general construction, warehouse, HVAC and retail training. Several of the participants were very successful in their placements and were offered permanent positions.

One participant, Jennifer, she stated she is grateful for the Back2Work Program. She is a recovering addict and has been in treatment for a year and half. She was a leader in the classroom experience and was a wonderful support to all the other participants in the class. She had a successful internship in a retail environment. The employer was very supportive during the internship process and at the completion offered Jennifer a full-time position. Jennifer was so pumped to accept the position and the employer has high expectations for her to move up in the organization in the near future.



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We are excited to have recently partnered with Iowa Correction Institution for Women and will be doing two Cohorts in 2020. Our first cohort began February 6th and will last 10 weeks.

Our next traditional cohort of Back2Work will be held at SVdP starting in April.

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## Questions?

Contact our Back2Work

Coordinator 515-282-8327 Ext 15

<http://svdpdsm.org/back2work/>

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# HOLIDAY BASKETS

We had an excellent holiday season in 2019 made possible by St. Vincent de Paul staff and volunteers determined to help others in our community. Holiday basket sorting, assembly, and distribution is no easy task, but everyone pitched in to make sure it ran smoothly. For Thanksgiving and Christmas, we received a generous donation of fruits and vegetables from Capital City Fruit. They brought several pallets of produce that almost filled the warehouse. Staff and volunteers worked to help split up the produce proportionately for all of the churches helping distribute baskets, as well as St. Vincent de Paul District Council clientele. Once this is done, the basket assembly began.

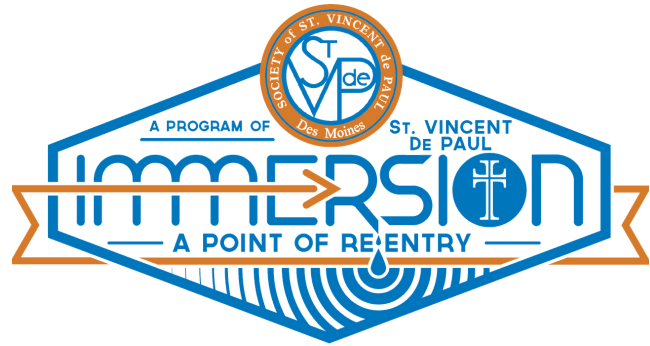
This year we were so grateful to receive help from a multitude of volunteers. For Thanksgiving, we had support from the Des Moines Police Department, St. Patrick's Irish Settlement, our Back2Work intern Jennifer, and volunteers from the pantry on Army Post Road.

For Christmas, the Des Moines Police returned, and we also had help from the Central College baseball team! With the combined effort of St. Vincent de Paul Council and Conferences we sorted and distributed enough food for 430 families on Thanksgiving and 396 families on Christmas. When communities come together to help one another so much is possible, and we are grateful for our network of supporters that make holiday giving a success every year.

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# PRISONER RE-ENTRY



MENTORING



72 HOURS TRANSITIONAL  
PROGRAMMING



EDUCATION-VINCENTIAN  
AND VOLUNTEERS



ADVOCACY



EMPLOYMENT



COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS



EDUCATION-RETURNING  
CITIZENS AND THEIR  
FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES

2020 has been a year of growth for Immersion. Our goal is to provide wrap around services and eliminate any barriers that would cause returning citizens to not succeed. Through Immersion, clients are able to utilize St. Vincent de Paul's services including, the food and clothing pantry as well as our Education Center to meet their immediate needs. Immersion clients are able to work with mentors prior to release to create re-entry plan and during their transition back into society post release. Mentors can offer clients guidance and stability during a time of transition. Mentors and Immersion clients work together to find stable employment, form lasting relationships in the community and become the best version of themselves.

St. Vincent de Paul staff and volunteers are currently instructing Healthy Relationships Iowa in 3 state correctional facilities. Our facilitators teach inmates communication skills to utilize post release with loved ones, employers, and others that they may come in contact with. Many of our clients in the correctional facilities are fathers. The Healthy Relationships Iowa curriculum gives participants the opportunity to learn skills in raising children such as how to set goals, becoming a better listener and managing conflict in an effective manner.

Starting in March, our Immersion team will meet with inmates returning to Polk County upon release to discuss resources available at SVdP. During these one-on-one meetings, we are able to identify specific barriers that inmates face upon release. as well as create 72-hour transitional programming to assist clients for the first few days post release.

Through community partnerships, we are able to refer clients to services that we do not offer.

For more information or to get involved please visit our website: [immersionreentry.org](http://immersionreentry.org)

# 29TH ANNUAL GOLF FUNDRAISER



Spring is just around the corner and we are excited for our 29th Annual St. Vincent de Paul Chip In Fore golf fundraiser. Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 21 at Copper Creek Golf Club. Registration payments received prior to April 15 are only \$125 per golfer, after that it's \$145. Many sponsorship levels are available, so please purchase a tee sign to showcase your support to help provide sustainability for the many services we have available for those in need.

If you have any questions, please contact Randi Radosevich at [resourcedirector@svdpsm.org](mailto:resourcedirector@svdpsm.org) or call the main office at 515.282.8327 ext. 10.



# STAY CONNECTED WITH US!



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[svdpsdm](https://www.instagram.com/svdpsdm)



# SHOP AND GIVE BACK

The Amazon Smile logo is displayed on a light blue background. It features the word "amazon" in black lowercase letters and "smile" in orange lowercase letters, with the orange arrow from the Amazon logo pointing from the 'a' to the 'e'.

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AmazonSmile.*

**DES MOINES COUNCIL OF  
ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

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of helping others help themselves.*

When you click on our unique link, you will be  
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support St. Vincent de Paul - Council of Des Moines.

Unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/42-6021808>