

SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

"Helping others help themselves."



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@SVDPofDSM



@svdpdsm

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is finally July! This means hot days, thunderstorms, lightening bugs, and still not a lot of activity, services, or in-person fellowship with our families, friends, neighbors, and loved ones. As we move through the year of 2020, we all have been through various challenges related to COVID-19, empathized as violence erupted across our country, and many of us have seen anger divide us.

This sadness, anger, suffering, frustration, and illness is staggering America. It breaks my heart. Decades ago, my grandfather, Joe D. Batten, worked with the government of South Africa to end apartheid. The words he gave them became the answer. While the government said, "I will be my brother's keeper because he cannot keep himself," my grandpa changed it to, "I will be my brother's brother unless he cannot keep himself." He was awarded the Springbok Chuross (equivalency is knighthood) for this work. Now, we need this in America. We must all be there for each other with love, compassion, values, and dignity. We must focus on the good. We must remember that love is the toughest emotion there is. We must dedicate ourselves to positivity and leaving a better world for our children and grandchildren. That's on us.

However, overcoming these challenges create opportunities. As such, I see an opportunity for clarity. An opportunity to focus on helping those who are less fortunate than we are. An opportunity to focus on family, friends, God, and gratitude. An opportunity to mitigate our consumerism and reinvest in our communities and our neighbors that live there.

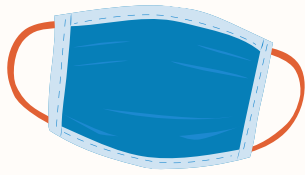
Due to the COVID-19 lockdown and loss of work, St. Vincent de Paul is working to serve more people with fewer resources than ever before. Our stores are re-opened to a limited capacity, our food pantries are serving people without directly being in contact with individuals, and our Back2Work, Healthy Relationships, and IMMERSION programs continue to operate in a smaller capacity through the integration of technology. As we move forward, we are asking for your help to sustain. Please consider donating to help those most in need by clicking on the "donate" button in the top right corner at <http://svdpdsm.org/> St. Vincent de Paul has less than a 1% overhead, and wants to continue to build on 96 years of service in Des Moines. If you can't donate, please consider calling a friend, neighbor, or family and just catch up, say hi, and provide a smile

From all of us at SVdP, we pray for your safety, and look forward to seeing you in-person when it is safe again. Take care and thank you for your incredible support and partnership.



With Hope,
Steve Havemann
Executive Director

REOPENING OUR DOORS



On June 3rd we reopened our thrift store doors at 1426 Sixth Avenue and 520 Army Post Road. For customer and staff safety, only 10 customers are allowed in the store at once. We are requiring customers to wear a face covering while shopping. We have also marked our floors with social distancing stickers. Dressing rooms are not open at this time.

While we were closed our staff spent time cleaning and organizing our stores. New items are added to the retail floors daily.

We thank you for your continued support. Check out our Facebook page, @SVDPOfDSM, for updates on the store and sales happening!

Store Hours

Sunday: Closed

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

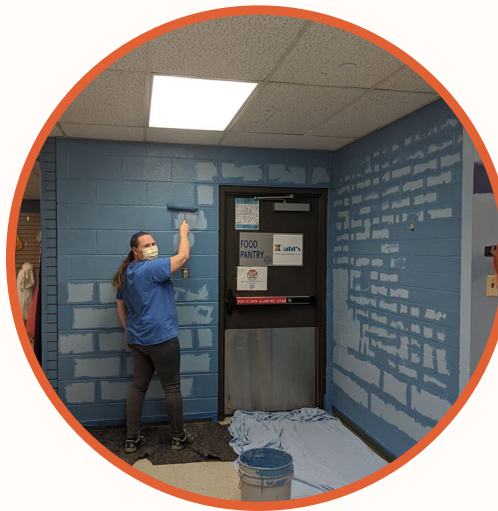
Donations

Donations are accepted Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at both locations.

To schedule a pick up please call 515-282-8328 ext. 100

We have also launched an online system for scheduling donation pickups!

Please visit <https://resupply.app.link/svdpsdm> to create an account and schedule your future pickups.



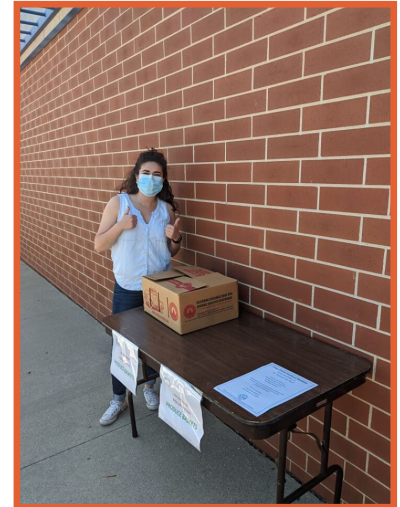
PANTRY SERVICES

We have made it a priority to continue to provide food pantry and fresh produce box services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both our food pantry and produce boxes are available to anyone in need at no cost. Our pantries are open Monday-Friday, and our Produce Basket Pickups take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Our phone tree has recently been updated; to access all food related services please call 515-282-8327, Press 2 for Food Pantry, and you will have the option to select the 6th Avenue Pantry, Army Post Road Pantry, or the Produce Basket Program.

For both services, you can call any time to leave a voicemail, and we will return your call as soon as possible.

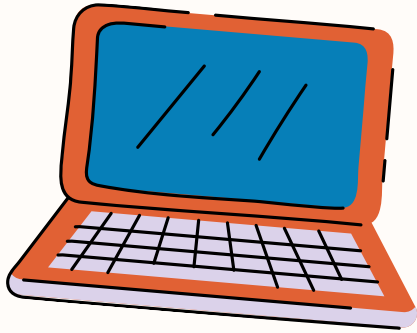
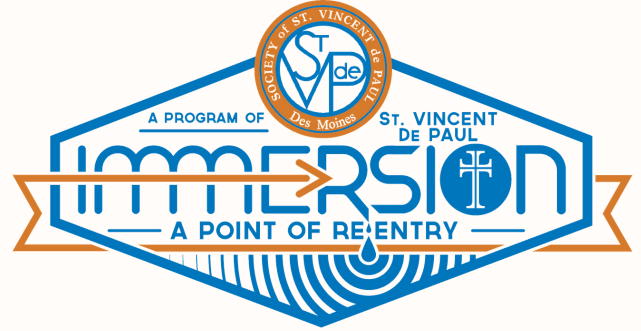


Food Bank of Iowa's Hot Meal Program is a partnership between Food Bank of Iowa, Orchestrate Hospitality, Urban Dreams, New Life Center, St. Vincent de Paul, and Catholic Charities.

Food Bank of Iowa provides food to Orchestrate Hospitality catering staff who is preparing free hot grab and go dinner meals for each location.

Meals will provided every Monday from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m. at 520 SW Army Post Road from now until the end of August. No pre-registration is required.

PRISONER RE-ENTRY



Beginning in March, St. Vincent de Paul Immersion staff began meeting with inmates at North Central Correctional Facility who are returning to Polk County and surrounding areas to discuss our Immersion Program and services we offer.

Using technology, staff is able to meet with those interested in Immersion virtually. During these meetings, we speak to inmates about barriers they may face pre and post release. Staff and volunteers mentor Immersion clients during their re-entry journey to self-sufficiency using these technologies as well.



In late April, the Immersion program began offering curbside pick-up to returning citizens for essential items at our 520 Army Post Road location. Items were boxed up and placed outside the Social Services door marked with appropriate names.



Using virtual classroom tools, staff continues to instruct Healthy Relationships to inmates prior to their release and to Bridges of Iowa guests and family members. During this time participants learn about the 6 pillars of a healthy relationship. These include: Setting Specific Goals, Avoiding Blame, Using Power Listening, Changing Behavior not Your Partner, Conflicts and Disagreements and Apologies and Forgiveness.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Back2Work Cohort 5 took place at our 6th Avenue location in the Education Center at the end of June. We had six participants that completed the two-week classroom course. One participant has secured an internship as well as looking as furthering her education. Three additional participants have secured employment, and the other two participants are working towards employment.

Facilitators and participants worked through the new normal being in-person, with temperature checks every day, wearing masks and gloves during class and maintaining social distancing. We look forward to seeing participants succeed.



Ready2Work, which is for young adults aged 16-21, will begin in Mid-July. 8 participants will complete a one-week classroom experience followed by a 5-week internship experience at SVdP learning the ins and outs of employment. Some participants will also have the opportunity to have outside internships in their desired trade.

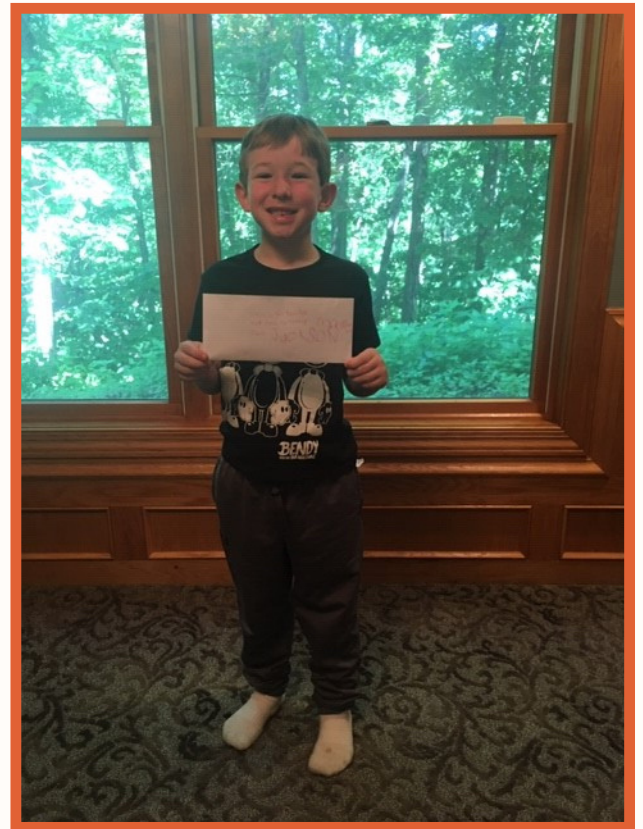
Both Back2Work and Ready2Work participants will complete Healthy Relationships training as part of their classroom curriculum. In June, the Back2Work participants were active in the conversation and learned how to communicate more effectively in both their personal and professional lives.



HELPING OTHERS

Jackson Moore is your average six-year old. He attends Bergman Academy, enjoys playing outside, and would love to be a veterinarian so he can help dogs when he grows up. This summer, however, Jackson did something that not every average six-year old would do.

Jackson was at home with his mother and her friend when he saw a family that was working hard outside in the summer heat. He could tell they were having a difficult time and asked if he would be able to give his savings to the family to help them. His mother assured him that the family outside was okay but wanted to encourage his instinct of wanting to help others. Jackson's mom and her friend let him know that he could help feed a family through the pantry system if he were to donate to St. Vincent de Paul, and he was so excited. More than anything, he just wanted to help someone in need.



On June 15th, 2020, Jackson made his donation to help feed a family through St. Vincent de Paul. His selflessness at such a young age is an example of what it is to be kind and to help others with whatever you have. Jackson says that the person he looks up to and is inspired by the most is his mother, who is always helping him. We are so grateful for Jackson's gift, and can tell that his future is incredibly bright.

EVENT UPDATES



St. Vincent de Paul's 29th Annual Chip in Fore Charity Golf Fundraiser has been postponed until 2021.

Please contact Randi Radosevich, Resource Director, at 515-282-8328 ext. 590 or at resourcedirector@svdpdsm.org with any questions.

**Purchased raffle tickets will still be valid!
We will hold a cash raffle on September 17th, 2020.**



St. Vincent de Paul's annual Kickin' It Blue Jean Ball has been postponed this year.

Mark your calendars for July 30, 2021!



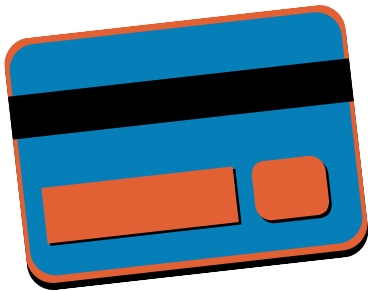


WAYS TO GIVE



Shop at Our Thrift Stores

Shop local and give back to your community!



Donate to St. Vincent de Paul online using PayPal

Visit svdpdsm.org and click the "Donate" button on our home page. Using PayPal you can make a one time or monthly donation.



Use Amazon Smile to Shop

Amazon shoppers can give back to St. Vincent de Paul by using AmazonSmile. Log on to amazon.smile.com and choose "Des Moines Council of St. Vincent de Paul Society" as your charity of choice. Amazon will give .05% of your purchase back to St. Vincent de Paul.

**Support St. Vincent de Paul's mission of
"Helping Others Help Themselves."**

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Thank you to the Evans Family Foundation, Central Bank, St. Vincent de Paul Conferences and all of our individual donors for your continued support.

