



Mark Your Calendar for the First Annual Mission Gala on September 20

Join our MISSION. BOND our community

We cordially invite you to the first annual Mission Gala of St. Vincent de Paul on Saturday, September 20, at the David H. Ponitz Center of Sinclair Community College.

“The purpose of the event is two-fold,” said SVDP Development Committee Chair Holley Thompson. “Of course, we want to raise funds to support our ministries among the poor and homeless. Just as important, we want to celebrate those in our community who work every day to eliminate the blight of homelessness and poverty in our community.”

We are also pleased to announce that Deborah A. Feldman, President and CEO of Dayton Children’s Hospital, has generously agreed to serve as honorary chair of the gala, and WHIO-TV meteorologist Rich Wirdzek will emcee the event.

A team of exceptionally talented and dedicated volunteers, working with Rebecca DeLong of the SVDP development staff, is planning and coordinating the event.

Tickets to the Mission Gala are \$125 each (\$50 of which is tax-deductible). Gala sponsorship opportunities are also available for local businesses and private individuals to underscore their support for our work in the community. To reserve your tickets, please go to MissionGala.org. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, contact Rebecca DeLong direct at 937-630-3945.

Be sure to join us for this very special evening.



Our Talented Gala Volunteers

- Deborah Feldman:
Honorary Chair
- Chad Maggard:
Gala Chair
- Don Arnett:
Sponsorship Chair
- Nathan Daulbaugh:
Entertainment Chair
- Suzette Kallas:
Logistics Chair
- Maggie LaSelle:
Budget and Marketing Co-Chair
- Kelly Maroney:
Marketing Co-Chair
- Perry Martin:
Design Chair
- Beth Miller:
Auction Chair
- Kelley Somerville:
Decorating Chair
- Bonnie Vitangeli:
Conferences Chair



Spring 5k Run/Walk Victory!

Thank you everyone, (runners, walkers, volunteers & sponsors) who helped make the St. Vincent de Paul Spring 5k Run/Walk a huge success! We had a total of 384 runners/walkers and 31 volunteers. We raised a net amount of over \$25K! Mark your calendar on April 25th for next year’s event.

SPECIAL THANKS: Renae Ladd did the most incredible job as Chair of this event and was helped immensely by her wonderful fiancé Edward Fisher. Thank you to Carolyn Rathweg for donating the 40” Flat Screen TV and Smart Blu Ray Player. Lastly a HUGE SHOUT OUT to ALL of our volunteers who worked tirelessly before and during the event to make this 5k successful!!!

From The Director

Dear Friend of St. Vincent de Paul:

Acceptance is often a virtue.

At St. Vincent, for example, we recognize that God has called us to our work. And we accept.

For those of us with children, or with parents to care for, we understand the responsibilities of family. And we accept.

At work, even though our boss may know less than we have forgotten, we recognize the hierarchy of authority. And we (often begrudgingly!) accept.

In these contexts, acceptance is indeed a virtue, aided and abetted by love, humility, accountability, ownership, gratitude – and reality.

Other facts, of course – about our lives and our country – we should always and forever reject: ignorance, racism and intolerance; social inequality and injustice; cruelty and disrespect; poverty and homelessness.

Let's look at the last of these. Today in the United States, 46.5 million, or 15% of the total population, lives in poverty. More than 50,000 in Montgomery County alone, with 4,000 served by our two shelters at one time or another during a typical year, and thousands more prevented from the same fate only through the work of our 35 Conferences.

At St. Vincent we react to this disturbing data with both acceptance and rejection.

At St. Vincent, our model of service is built on accepting our clients as they are, all the while rejecting the notion that homelessness and poverty are inescapable facts of life.

We know better than that. Every day we witness the spectacular outcomes produced by our faith, our mission – and especially the resolve of our clients.

And so our rejection of the inevitability and permanence of poverty and homelessness is steadfast, knowing that if given the opportunity, God would embrace this particular ethic of rejection. And accept it.

Sincerely,



David Bohardt, Executive Director



New Program Seeks Improved Outcomes for Shelter Guests

Through an exciting partnership with the Department of Clinical Psychology at the University of Dayton, St. Vincent de Paul has launched a new program designed to improve outcomes for shelter guests served at the Gateway Shelter for Single Men.

During the current academic year, as many as 30 UD undergraduates, working under licensed supervision, have initiated a “behavioral activation” research project designed to demonstrate that, by engaging shelter guests in a variety of empowerment, coping and self-sufficiency exercises, will strengthen their self-esteem, encourage positive thinking, and ultimately result in sustainable improvements to the quality of their lives.

“The results of the research in this area are very clear,” said SVDP Executive Director David Bohardt, “and we have very high hopes for the work of Dr. Reeb and his students, including lower rates of recidivism.”

The behavioral activation research will continue throughout the upcoming summer, Bohardt said, and added that he hoped in future years that it could be expanded to the Gateway Shelter for Women and Families, as well as St. Vincent de Paul's other housing programs.

Calling All Thrivent Financial Members!

You can now direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® to St. Vincent de Paul Social Services – Dayton District Council. It's easy to do and a great way to help support the services and programs at St. Vincent de Paul. If you are eligible, simply go to www.thrivent.com to direct Choice Dollars®. Last year, Thrivent Financial provided more than \$100 million in outreach funds to help congregations, communities and individuals in need. If you want to know more about Thrivent, please contact Terry Powers, ChFC®, CLU®, FIC, Financial Consultant, at 937-660-9444.



UNLOAD YOUR CLUNKER!

- Accepting most cars, truck, vans, fleet vehicles, boats, motorcycles and RVs – even if they don't run
- Just one automobile will fund as many as 30 days of shelter.
- Quick and easy
- Our team makes all the arrangements
- Call 937-222-5555 or connect at: stvincentdayton.org

It Has Been A Marvelous Ride

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for a marvelous experience as your District Council President. I leave office this year and want to reflect with you about my time in Dayton. I put it that way because my wife and I will move within the next few months to San Antonio, Texas. I was able to pull Janie away from her family there thirteen years ago; but now she wants to return, and who am I to say “no”.



My parents and I came to Dayton in 1940. I made my First Communion at St. Albert the Great and Confirmation at Holy Angels. After college I left Ohio and didn't return for over thirty-five years. It was then that I first became acquainted with St. Vincent de Paul. My wife got me involved, and that participation moved me into the presidency of the Holy Angels conference, involvement with the Dayton District Council (DDC) and my introduction to Bob Young. It was because of Bob that I accepted the part time position of Conference Support Specialist around 2004. I was elected President in 2011.

The DDC has dramatically changed over the past 10 years. Much of this change occurred within our shelters and housing ministries; and we have grown into a multi-million dollar organization with sizable assets to manage. Our Community Board evolved into a truly extraordinary group of men and women, and we added conferences outside of the Greater Dayton area. It was an exciting and challenging ride for all of us.

Along the way we have lost some very valuable Vincentians who have meant so much to our organization. There was Jack Van Degrift, a former DDC President who, with his wife, played Santa and Mrs. Claus at the “St. Vincent Hotel”. Art Bissonette was the “mainstay” at St. Rita's conference for many years; then more recently Sarah Hinders of St. Anthony, Sue Petty of Emmanuel, and Terri Porter of Precious Blood passed on. My personal big loss and a very big loss to the DDC was Bob Young of Incarnation. Bob was “larger than life” in more ways than one. We will all miss Bob's presence at the Edwin C. Moses food pantry as well as the DDC meetings. He was a two-term President and responsible for many of the newer conferences that are now a part of our organization.

This October the ride will continue, but with a different “driver” at the wheel. Thanks to all of the Vincentians, volunteers, and staff. We wouldn't be where we are today without you. May God bless your continued efforts of “seeing Christ in the face of the poor,” and let us bring an even stronger spirituality presence to the organization.

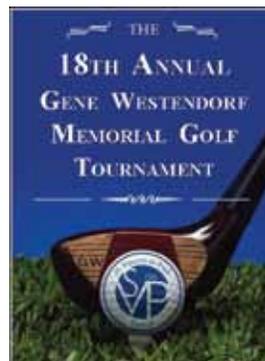
Bill Loftus

Fore!

Gene Westendorf volunteered many hours for St. Vincent de Paul, and he also loved to play golf. Join us as we play the game and support the mission that Gene loved on Friday, July 25, 2014 at The Golf Club at Yankee Trace.

The cost is \$90 per adult or \$80 per junior (under 18). For online registration, please go to <http://stvincentdayton.org/news-events/gene-westendorf-memorial-golf-tournament/>. For more information, contact Terry Williamson direct at 937-630-3948.

Bring in the lowest team score and WIN \$500 to be awarded to the St. Vincent de Paul Conference of your choice.



Bob Young – He Gave His Heart and Soul to St. Vincent de Paul

Bob Young was a Vincentian in every way, and his death, on March 11, has left us with the loss of one of the Dayton District Council's (DDC) greatest leaders. Bob's Vincentian journey included attending the Invitation for Renewal leadership formation program, being honored with the Top Hat Award as an outstanding Vincentian, and serving two terms as president of the DDC. In 2001, Bob was instrumental in the creation of the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. For more than 13 years Bob was passionately devoted to the pantry – and until just weeks before his death – lead our cadre of volunteers on pantry Saturdays and Wednesdays. His commitment to meeting the food needs of thousands of our fellow citizens was unsurpassed and truly appreciated by those we serve.

SVDP Charitable Enterprises Manager Krys Davidson, who worked with Bob for 20 years, recalls Bob loved everyone. “Due to his stature, he became the father of “group hugs.” Folks would start forming a huddle when Bob arrived just to be ready for “the hug.” He could embrace four to five people at once and everyone could feel God's love through Bob. His smile, jokes, strong leadership skills and, most of all, his undaunted trust in the Holy Spirit will be forever remembered.”

An executive with Ohio Bell for 30 years before his retirement, Bob was a very active member of the SVDP Incarnation Parish Conference where he coordinated the parish's annual Christmas Kindness Program and was a Eucharistic minister. He was, as a family member put it, “the embodiment of the Christian spirit.”



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Mission of the St. Vincent de Paul, Dayton District Council

The Dayton District Council of St. Vincent de Paul, growing in spirituality and friendship, provides Christ-inspired person-to-person support in an empowering effort to improve the lives of those in personal, spiritual, or material need.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
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 (937) 222-7349

Great News! Shelter Numbers Trending Down

The demand for shelter services dropped dramatically during the first quarter, reflecting the dedication of our staff, our very effective partnership with Homefull and (fingers crossed!), sustainable improvements in the economy in general, and in the job market in particular.

As reflected above, the number of shelter nights is down by an average of almost 23% compared to the first quarter of 2013.

“Diversion also plays a role,” said SVDP Executive Director David Bohardt. “When guests first come to us, we make absolutely certain that shelter is their only option. What we often find is that there are friends or families members who are willing to house them, at least for a while.”

Another factor, said Bohardt, is the sharp reduction in the amount of time families with children are staying in shelter. Those numbers are down at least 50% since last year, reflecting the success of the Rapid Rehousing Program and other local initiatives.

First Quarter SVDP Shelter Nights: 2013-2014			
Month	2013	2014	Change
January	13,201	10,115	Down 23%
February	11,209	8,801	Down 31%
March	10,966	9,439	Down 14%

