



St. Vincent de Paul
ASSISTANCE • SHELTER • HOPE

St. Vincent de Paul Social Services, Inc.
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THE Vincentian

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Conferences Are the "Pearls of Great Price"



The Manual of Saint Vincent de Paul describes the Conference as a "pearl of great price" and states that the Conference is where the strength of the Society lies.

The Dayton Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has 32 Conferences. Most of them are parish-based, serving a set geographical area near their parishes, but we have some that are united by school or university (St. Peter's Youth Conference and University of Dayton). Yet another, Our Lady, Mother of Refugees, is united by its mission and is not defined by a parish neighborhood.

The St. Vincent de Paul Conferences are composed of volunteers, called Vincentians, who work together to assist those in need in their neighborhoods. Every day many Miami Valley residents in need turn to the Conferences for help. In fact, in 2018, the Conferences helped over 23,000 neighbors in need.

In general, the services the Conferences provide are supported by the members of their parishes, through the donations of funds and needed goods and services and by sharing of their time and talents. In assisting their neighbors, Vincentians often utilize the resources of our Special Works – our Food Pantry, clothing and furniture voucher programs, and supportive housing programs. If one becomes homeless, they may stay at one of our Gateway Shelters, another of our Special Works programs. Once they secure housing again, our neighbors can contact their Conference for support in maintaining their housing. The gift of groceries, a winter coat, or a bed can free up household funds to pay the rent and cover utility costs.

Keep reading inside to see some of the ways our conferences touch the lives of people throughout the Miami Valley every day.



Vincentians often come together for training and information sharing.

Conferences serve their neighbors by the support that comes from donations of funds, goods, and services, and by Vincentians sharing their time and talents.

Donate Your Vehicle
937.222.5555 Option 3



DRIVE DAYTON FORWARD!



WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR GIFTS OF GOODS?

At St. Vincent de Paul, we regularly use the household items you donate to help the people we serve in a number of ways. From clothes and toiletries for our shelter guests to furniture and appliances for families moving into their new homes, nothing you give to our mission is wasted and everything you give is appreciated.

DONATION DROP-OFF

Donation of goods can be made any time to our 24/7 donations dock at **120 W. Apple St.**

If you or your organization would like to host a collection drive, please complete the form online at www.stvincentdayton.org/drives.
For furniture pickup, please call **937.425.0592**.

Urgent Needs

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS:

- Body Lotion (unscented)
- Deodorant
- Chapstick / Lip Balm
- Shaving Cream

BABY CARE ITEMS:

- Wipes
- Lotion
- Bath Wash
- Baby Socks

For the most up-to-date information on the items needed to serve our guests and neighbors, visit our website at www.stvincentdayton.org/wishlist

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PRIVACY STATEMENT

Your privacy is very important to us. We do not sell, rent, loan, or in any other way share your personal information with anyone.

MISSION OF 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.





Through our ministries of St. Vincent de Paul, our very humanity is celebrated every time we reach out to a hurting neighbor, a stranger with nowhere else to turn, or a child without clothing, food, or safe shelter. Together we show God's love through our care and accompaniment of over 100,000 people in the Miami Valley each year.

Thank you for your continued prayers, labors, and financial sacrifices to support our mission!

From the Executive Director

Dear Friend of St. Vincent de Paul,

Happy New Year! 2018 brought us many opportunities to serve our neighbors in need in the Miami Valley with record numbers of guests in our emergency shelters. Serving in this capacity is how we are best known, but this issue of our quarterly newsletter is dedicated to our lesser known “force for good,” the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – “Vincentians” for short.

Vincentians are not only the history of the Society for the past 200 years around the world, but they are also the foundation of its present and future, and the first line of assistance for our neighbors who struggle with clothing, food, and housing insecurities. Vincentians also took on the awesome responsibility of providing emergency shelter for Dayton’s homeless over 35 years ago and continue that responsibility today.

When you place your confidence in us, you join a committed group of volunteers who work alongside our staff, and who govern our shared work with a heightened sense of responsibility to our community and to God. Thank you!

I invite you to recommit yourself to our life-affirming mission in 2019, and once again experience the joy of accompanying the poor and marginalized in our neighborhoods and in our shelters.

On behalf of our employees, your fellow volunteers, our neighbors, and our guests, again I thank you and pray for a most blessed year for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Michael

Michael E. Vanderburgh,
Executive Director

Whatever the need, our Conference Vincentians are there—as call takers, as home visitors, as pantry workers, and more — to listen to and pray with, and for, those in need across the Miami Valley.

Just as a fine pearl reflects an image, much like a mirror, Vincentians recognize that our neighbors reflect the suffering Christ. Through home visits and other person-to-person interactions, Vincentians seek to establish relationships with those they assist, understand their needs, and show empathy. And the needs are many.

Laura, for example, is a single parent and mother of three, including one with special needs. She works and does her best to stretch her meager, seasonal income; yet sometimes she just needs a little help with a utility bill. This is what many of our neighbors need—just a little bit of help to bind them over until their next paycheck.

However, some people face many, intertwined obstacles. James reached out to his neighborhood Conference for a bus pass to get to work. Instead of simply honoring his request, the Conference scheduled a home visit. Through the ensuing months and visits, relationships formed; and they all worked together to bring about systemic change in James’ life and the lives of his family. They now live in affordable housing, close to the bus stop. They have friends; they have support.

And sometimes our neighbors reach a crisis point, and it is then that the Conferences, “the pearls of great price,” may be of even greater value as they join together in accompanying our neighbors. One of our neighbors was in what seemed to him a hopeless situation. Because he was in Stage 4 cancer and bedridden, his wife quit her job in order to care for him. They refinanced their home to help with bills, but then their monthly mortgage payment skyrocketed when compared to their monthly Social Security benefits. Their children, though grown, are unable to help much, at least financially, because they are raising families of their own, with their own financial challenges. Because the family’s needs far exceeded the financial capacity of their neighborhood Conference, this Conference sought assistance from other Conferences. This cherished process, called twinning, fosters deep friendship and mutual help. In this instance, by coming together, the Conferences were able to stabilize the family’s financial well-being.

Our Vincentians, through their Conferences, are living the mission of the Dayton Society of Saint Vincent de Paul: They are growing in spirituality and friendship, providing Christ-inspired person-to-person support in an empowering effort to improve the lives of those in personal, spiritual, or material need.

We give thanks for the more than 700 Vincentian volunteers who ensure that our Miami Valley Conferences continue as “pearls of great price.” We ask for continued blessings in their work.



Furniture donations should be taken directly to our Community Store, 945 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd. Drop off hours are Mon-Fri 7:30am – 5pm and Saturday 10am – 4pm.

Or contact us at 937.425.0592 to request a pick up.

Donate Furniture

Do you have unused furniture? Are you moving, downsizing, or redecorating?

An important way we serve people both through our Conferences and Special Works is by providing low-cost or no-cost furniture. We are always in need of donations in order to support the demand.

While we can use any home furniture, we always have high demand for beds, love seats, couches, and kitchen tables and chairs.

Did you know? Many of our neighbors live in apartments which often have small hallways and stairwells to navigate as they move in. Smaller pieces that are easier to fit in these tight spaces are especially appreciated!