

## Trombone Larry: From the Shelter to the Boardroom



By almost any measure Larry Hickland, aka “Trombone Larry,” had the odds in his favor. As a child he was well-loved, well-fed, well-educated, and musically gifted.

In college, Larry was sought out to play with elite musicians, and by age 25 he was thriving. “In the mid-80s everything was good. I was driven. I was playing. I was making money. I had it all,” Larry recalled.

From this energetic peak the next twenty years began a slow, incremental, and downward slide toward homelessness. The gigs dried up. Larry got married and divorced twice. After a bad car accident left Larry with a fractured sternum, he found himself struggling with pain, loneliness, and an unclear future. Unable to keep up, Larry lost everything – including his house, his car, and his trombone.

In 2013, at the age of 54, Larry became homeless.

But God and some caring people had their eyes and hearts on Larry. In 2015 a friend mailed Larry a trombone and he started playing again in a church choir. “I had been away from playing, away from God, and away from everything. Finally, I was listening again, and playing again, and things started to come back,” said Larry.

Optimistic but still homeless, in 2017, Larry headed home to Dayton, taking a Greyhound bus directly to the St. Vincent de Paul Gateway Shelter for Men on Gettysburg Avenue. Says Larry, “When I was in the shelter, Michael, St. Vincent’s Executive Director, would hear me play the trombone. I told him my story and for once in my life I could admit that I was educated, and homeless, and a child of God.”

A case manager helped Larry apply and get approved for both disability and an independent living apartment. Having survived the arc of homelessness and living in secure housing for the first time in six years, Larry was eager to give back. Michael knew that Larry could provide a unique and needed perspective for SVdP, so he asked Larry to serve on the SVdP Community Board and he agreed.

Says Larry, “There was a time in my life when I thought I was below everything and not worth anything. Now I get to help people embrace God and help SVdP understand what it really is like to be homeless.”

And that is music to our ears.



### CREATE OR UPDATE YOUR WILL FOR FREE

Creating a will is one of the most impactful ways to build a legacy of love. St. Vincent de Paul has partnered with FreeWill to provide a free tool to help you create or update your will. To get started, visit:

[www.freewill.com](http://www.freewill.com)

[www.stvincentdayton.org](http://www.stvincentdayton.org)



## From the Executive Director



*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.*

Dear Friend of St. Vincent de Paul,

Happy New Year! 2019 brought us many opportunities to serve our neighbors in need in the Miami Valley, with yet another year of record numbers of guests in our emergency shelters. The enormity of work strains our financial and human resources, but also provides us many new opportunities to embrace our neighbors with love and mercy that God provides in such abundance!

In this issue you'll meet "Trombone Larry," a gifted Dayton native who is applying his experience with homelessness to benefit our governance of St. Vincent de Paul Social Services and Community Enterprises.

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

I invite you to recommit yourself to our life-affirming mission in 2020, and once again experience the joy of accompanying your neighbors in need.

Thank you!

Yours in Christ,

*Michael*

Michael E. Vanderburgh,  
Executive Director

## New St. Vincent Chapel Provides Welcome to All

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Dayton District Council is pleased to announce our new shelter chapel, welcoming all who wish to worship with our Catholic community or visit for personal prayer and reflection. The St. Vincent de Paul Chapel was dedicated on November 17 by Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, who celebrated the chapel's first Mass. We now offer daily Mass at 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



The chapel is simple, reflecting our mission of service, and a beautiful space of peace and reflection. The pews and altar from a former worship space were beautifully restored for our chapel. The door cornices, additional pews, and niches for the tabernacle and statuary were crafted by staff members, and the piano was donated by a local church. The statuary, Stations of the Cross, and sanctuary appointments create a balance of reverence and simplicity. The chapel is truly a community project, and we thank all who generously shared of their gifts and labor. It is a prayerful space for anyone desiring to draw closer to God.

The St. Vincent de Paul Chapel is located within the Gateway Shelter for Women and Families at 124 W. Apple Street. All are welcome to join us for community worship or personal prayer, which is often the first experience of church worship for our homeless guests.

After entering the main door of the shelter, you will pass through security into the front desk area. Turn right and enter through the double glass doors. The entrance to the St. Vincent de Paul Chapel is halfway down the hallway.

In addition to daily Mass at 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, the chapel provides personal adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Please join us any time!

## Charitable Giving through Your IRA

Shortly after they turned 70 years old, Barbara and Carl Denison learned from their financial advisor that making a Qualified Charitable Contribution from their IRAs was a great way to reduce their taxable income. “We want to support our own local area as much as we can. Especially since the tax rules have recently changed, it makes the QCD even more attractive to the taxpayer,” said Carl. And as long-time donors to St. Vincent de Paul, they both knew those needing food, clothing, and shelter would benefit from their charitable contribution. “When we took a tour of the shelter, we were impressed with the services SVdP provides in addition to temporary housing,” Barbara shared.

### Here are some facts and SECURE Act updates on Charitable Giving with an IRA:

- If an individual has an IRA, at a certain age they must begin drawing a Required Minimum Distribution. Unfortunately, this distribution is taxed as ordinary income and increases tax liability.
- However, turning that Required Minimum Distribution into a Qualified Charitable Distribution—by giving it directly to a qualified non-profit such as St. Vincent de Paul—means one does not have to pay taxes on that charitable amount. **So even if you don’t itemize, you could save taxes.**
- The recent SECURE Act increased the Required Minimum Distribution age to 72 years, up from 70 ½ years. However, this development applies only to folks who reach 70 ½ *after* 2019. So if you turned 70 ½ in 2019 or earlier, you are unaffected by the new law.
- Despite the SECURE Act delay in the starting age for Required Minimum Distributions, Qualified Charitable Distributions may still be gifted from IRAs as early as age 70 ½ .



Barbara and Carl Denison

The Denisons noted, “You don’t have to be wealthy to give through an IRA. The amounts do not have to be large.” This is so true: IRA gifts to SVdP have ranged from hundreds to tens of thousands of dollars, and all will make a difference to someone with great need!

To learn more about IRA gifts, call Michael Vanderburgh at 937-802-3890.

## The Best Giving Tuesday Ever: Feeding the Hungry



Abby, a St. Vincent de Paul volunteer, with freezers purchased after Giving Tuesday

Your generosity raised over \$16,000 and provided for the replacement of six food freezers throughout our food ministry. Two new upright freezers used to prepare our shelter meals and four new chest freezers for our community food pantry are already in use. These freezers were much needed to replace failing equipment for our food ministry that feeds 25,000 individuals each year.

As your donations exceeded our Giving Tuesday goal, you helped satisfy another food ministry need! Most of the funds for a new food transport van came from a community grant. Giving Tuesday completed that funding. Over 1,200 meals are prepared every day at our Apple Street Shelter, and we need a van to deliver meals that volunteers serve to our guests at the Gettysburg Men’s Shelter. The food van also provides flexibility in picking up food at the Dayton Food Bank, when timeliness is important to pick up unexpected fresh produce donations. Thank you for helping us feed our guests in emergency shelter!



St. Vincent de Paul  
ASSISTANCE • SHELTER • HOPE

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Dayton, Ohio 45402-2617

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DRIVE DAYTON FORWARD

The Vincentian Newsletter - Winter 2020



### WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR GIFT OF GOODS?

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 Street. If you or your organization would like to host a collection drive, please complete the form online at [stvincentdayton.org/drives](http://stvincentdayton.org/drives)

### FURNITURE PICK UP

Please call 937.425.0592.

## Urgent Needs

**Our neighbors need a place to sit, eat, and sleep. We are in great need of furniture donations to satisfy these needs. Donations of beds, cribs, mattresses, sofas, living room chairs, end tables, and dining tables and chairs are much appreciated. For furniture pick up, please call 937.425.0592.**

#### PERSONAL ITEMS NEEDED:

- **Deodorant**
- **Soap** – liquid or bar
- **Sheets and sheet sets** – all sizes, new or gently used
- **Blankets** – all sizes, new or gently used
- **Bath towels and wash cloths** – new or gently used

*For the most up-to-date information on the items needed to serve our guests and neighbors, visit [stvincentdayton.org](http://stvincentdayton.org) and “Donate Goods”.*

**The Vincentian is published quarterly by St. Vincent de Paul, Dayton District Council.**

#### 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.

PLEASE FOLLOW US

