

## Fear and Shame Conquered with Determination

**The Huffmans overcame homelessness to become homeowners.**

Her first night in a homeless shelter is permanently etched in Terry Huffman's memory. "I was scared. I felt like a failure. I felt worthless. And I thought I was the worst parent in the world."



Prior to becoming homeless, Terry and her son RJ had lived for four years with then-boyfriend, Henry Huffman. The three lived rent-free in an apartment owned by someone for whom Henry did maintenance and other odd jobs. When the apartment owner stopped making his loan payments, Terry and Henry were told that they had 30 days to move out. With no other options, and with nine-year-old RJ in tow, they headed to the SVdP shelter.

Having been homeless previously for a short time, Henry had some idea what to expect. For Terry and RJ, however, it was much harder. She remembers, "I didn't know what it was going to be like, or what was going to happen. Henry and I were not married, so we got split up. He went to the men's shelter and RJ and I stayed at the Apple Street shelter for Women and Families. I felt so lost that first night."

After three months in their respective shelters SVdP worked to reunite them as a family in transitional housing. For the next three years, The Huffmans lived in transitional housing. They focused on creating a future with a determination to never be homeless again. Terry found a job. Henry went back to school to earn his bachelor's degree in Social Work.

Today, The Huffmans have been married for ten years and own their home. They laugh easily as Henry shares, "Sometimes it is still a struggle. Instead of living paycheck to paycheck, now we live direct deposit to direct deposit."

Coming full circle, Henry now works for SVdP as a case worker for Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) which assists homeless veterans to find stable housing. Henry knows his homeless experience makes him a better case worker, "I can relate to my clients. I can let them know that I've been there. I've seen it. I've lived it."

Henry's hopes for all the veterans he supports mirror his hopes for his own family. He says, "I hope they have their name on a lease. And I hope they have the income to maintain their home. Those are the building blocks."



## From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of St. Vincent,

In a few short weeks, just after the beautiful reflection of gratitude that Thanksgiving brings, we in the Christian tradition will begin the season of Advent. It is a time of waiting in expectation – hope for God’s Word made flesh, dwelling among us in our anxieties, fears, weaknesses, and poor choices. We prepare to welcome Love itself into the manger of our hearts at Christmas, through our own rich choices of vulnerability and generosity toward one another – particularly the stranger and powerless.

God is Love. We were made for Love, and our neighbors in need help us grow our faith in Love – even more through the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We need you now more than ever – in prayer and in deed. Thanksgiving and Advent always inspire me to try loving more deeply and giving more freely; I hope the same for you! Come pray in our beautiful St. Vincent de Paul Chapel at our Apple Street Shelter for Women and Families, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thanks for making it all possible through your prayers, financial support, material support, volunteering, and by sharing the good news of St. Vincent de Paul Society with your family and friends!

Have a great Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

*Michael*

Michael E. Vanderburgh,  
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.*

## Sheets and Blankets Keep Guests Warm and Comfortable

**On Giving Tuesday you can ensure our homeless guests have sheets and blankets.**

This year, Giving Tuesday is December 1 and our goal is to raise \$10,000 for sheets and blankets! **With more than 400 men, women, and children in shelter each night, we go through sheets and blankets quickly.** These items are important to our guests, especially as the weather gets colder. With COVID-19, we are washing sheets and blankets more frequently, causing them to need to be replaced more often.



Last year, your support on Giving Tuesday provided four much needed freezers for our Community Food Pantry, two freezers for our shelters, and the remaining funds needed for a shelter food van. With your help, we know that we can hit our Giving Tuesday goal and supply the shelter with the necessary sheets and blankets.

**Follow us on Facebook or sign up for our email newsletter ([stvincentdayton.org/signup](http://stvincentdayton.org/signup)) to learn more and track our progress on December 1!**

## You Provide Pam a Refuge from Violence

**Pam and her son ran as far as they could—and came to St. Vincent in Dayton.**

Pam never would have guessed she would end up homeless at St. Vincent's Shelter for Women and Families with her 15-year-old son. Having grown up in an abusive home, Pam knew she wanted more for herself and for her son. When her boyfriend became abusive after she moved across the country with him, homelessness became Pam's reality. "I only had so much money for our bus tickets, so I looked at a map to see where we could afford to go. I prefer cold weather, so we decided to come to Dayton," says Pam. **You provide Pam and her son a safe place to stay while she and her case manager find them a new home.**



## COVID-19 Looms: Eight Months in and Looking Ahead

**With decreased occupancy, renovations are crucial to accommodating an increasing number of homeless guests.**

Since March, we have been sheltering 20% of our homeless guests at a motel. This established social distancing within our shelters to keep everyone as safe as possible, especially those at-risk for dangerous outcomes from COVID: the elderly, those suffering from chronic illnesses and/or compromised immune systems, pregnant women, and families with young children. Thankfully, we have been able to avoid any major outbreaks.

### **Our COVID-19 Plans**

For many of our neighbors who are living paycheck to paycheck, COVID-19 will result in lost jobs and wages, difficulty paying rent and utility bills, and a sudden fall into homelessness. At the same time, social distancing requirements have significantly decreased our shelter capacity.

Our partner Montgomery County has committed \$8 Million of CARES Act funding to expand our shelters, providing dozens more emergency shelter beds and sufficient space for social distancing. CARES funding will also allow us to continue motel sheltering through December, when shelter renovations should be complete.

### **Progress on the Expansion**

Renovations began in September and will return the shelters to a higher occupancy and increased bed space.

At the Shelter for Women and Families, communal bathrooms are being converted to eight separated bathrooms while the kitchen, laundry, and food pantry are moving to another site to create another dormitory for up to 70 new beds. At the Shelter for Men, a 15,000 square foot building is being constructed to create an area for daytime use and dining, allowing the current gym to accommodate 70 additional beds. Case management offices and the serving kitchen are



moving to the new building to create extra space inside the shelter.

**Please pray for our guests, residents, volunteers, and staff. You make it possible to address the needs of our brothers and sisters in an unknown future.**





St. Vincent de Paul  
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124 West Apple Street  
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2617

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DRIVE DAYTON FORWARD

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### WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR GIFT OF GOODS?

We regularly use the household items you donate to help the people we serve. Shelter guests receive donated clothes and toiletries, and families moving into their new homes need furniture and appliances. Would you please make sure your furniture, appliances and household items are in clean and usable condition before donating? Thank you!

### 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 visit [stvincentdayton.org](http://stvincentdayton.org)

### 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, mattresses, sofas, living room chairs, end tables, and dining tables and chairs are much appreciated. For furniture pickup, 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”.

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