

A Great-Grandmother Finds a New Home and Peace of Mind

“St. Vincent was wonderful...They gave me the sense of security and stability that I needed.”



“When I first found out we were being kicked out of the building, I didn’t know what was going to happen next. I was in shock and I couldn’t stop crying,” remembers Elizabeth. Last year, at the height of COVID-19, she suddenly became homeless when her apartment building was condemned. She had lived in that apartment for 12 years and found herself with nowhere to go.

Things were going well for Elizabeth before her building was condemned. In fact, just one week before she became homeless, she had adopted a dog she named Sassy. When she learned she needed to leave her apartment, she was given five days to vacate and remove her belongings. Initially understanding that her building was being remodeled, she stayed in a hotel for a few days, then discovered she would never be

allowed to go back to her apartment. The senior recalls feeling “one hundred percent depressed”. “I could relate to Sassy’s pain because I knew what it was like to be unstable. I knew it was best for her to live with someone else.”

Elizabeth had an unstable childhood, but she recalls it as being mostly normal. She loved school and was good at it – she even had dreams of becoming a music teacher. However, when she was fifteen years old, she was assaulted and gave birth to her oldest daughter. With four kids, eleven grandkids, and four great-grandkids, Elizabeth became like a mother and grandmother to many of her neighbors, doing artwork with the children living in her building.

Still reeling from the abrupt loss of her home, Elizabeth found her way to St. Vincent’s Shelter for Women and Families. With the help of her case manager, she was able to quickly move out of the shelter and into a place of her own. “My mind was messed up and I couldn’t always think straight. My case manager helped me stay focused and get things done,” she says.

“St. Vincent was wonderful. It was peaceful. They gave me the sense of security and stability that I needed.” Now that she has her own place and regained stability, she looks forward to getting another dog.

“I’m just so happy. I thank God. I got peace of mind thanks to St. Vincent,” says Elizabeth.

You Are Inspiring!

Last November, we received a generous donor match of \$100,000 for our gift appeal at the end of 2020. We are happy to report back to you, our supporters, that your response exceeded our appeal goal, bringing in well over \$200,000.

Thank you for your kindness that works small miracles every day, with a special thank you to the three community members who offered the matching funds. Your belief in St. Vincent de Paul’s mission inspires us through the understanding that you are there with us in feeding, clothing, and sheltering our friends in need. Thank you!



From the Executive Director

Dear Friend of St. Vincent de Paul,

Happy New Year! 2020 brought us another great challenge to serve our neighbors in need in the Miami Valley, with the COVID-19 pandemic layered on top of the “ordinary needs” in our neighborhoods and emergency shelters. The work strained our financial and human resources, but also gave us many new opportunities to embrace our neighbors with love and mercy that God provides in such abundance!

In this issue you'll meet Elizabeth, a grandmother who benefited from working with our case managers at our Apple Street shelter. You will also see some of our renovations that provided safer, healthier spaces for our homeless guests to weather the pandemic.

When you place your confidence in us, you are providing a refuge for the homeless, but also encouragement, a listening ear, and practical help for rejoining the community in a stable home. If you are able, this year please consider joining our committed group of volunteers 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 2021, and once again experience the joy of accompanying your neighbors in need.

Thank you!

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.

You Made it the Best Giving Tuesday Ever

You help keep our guests warm and safe.

Your generosity raised over \$22,000 and provided for an abundance of wonderful sheets and blankets for our guests! We were faced with the challenge of sheets and blankets becoming worn from the frequent laundering needed in COVID times, and the logistical difficulties of washing and drying linens in time for use each night. You helped address these problems with your Giving Tuesday kindness, and set us up well for the future.

As your donations exceeded our Giving Tuesday goal, you helped provide other linens we are always in need of – bath towels and washcloths.

All these new Giving Tuesday linens allow us to be ready to meet our guests' needs, and we are very grateful for your response. Thank you!



Some of the blankets purchased as a result of Giving Tuesday

COVID-19 Expansion of St. Vincent Shelters

Guests can practice social distancing in our newly renovated spaces.

We are pleased to report our shelter expansion and renovation projects were completed in December. These projects nearly restored both shelters to their original capacity of 600 beds with safe social distancing. The projects, funded primarily by federal CARES Act coronavirus economic relief dollars, were completed in 90 days at a cost of \$7 million. The purpose of the expansion and renovation is to safely shelter all homeless community members during the pandemic.

At the Apple Street Shelter for Women and Families, communal bathrooms were converted to eight separated bathrooms for our guests. A new family dormitory for 70 beds and separated full bathrooms for families were created by moving the kitchen, laundry, and food pantry to another site.

At the Montgomery County Job Center, a full-service kitchen handles over 1,000 meals per day. There we now have a laundry facility and storage areas with easy access to accommodate transport of meals and laundry to both shelters.

At the Gettysburg Shelter for Men a new 15,000 square foot day space was erected to keep guests out of the elements. It doubles as a dining hall at mealtimes. A serving kitchen is included in the new building, as well as case management offices. The former day space was converted to an additional dorm area for 70 beds.

It is difficult to foresee the impact of the coronavirus on our community's vulnerable, with the impact of eviction moratoriums and COVID-related unemployment benefits still unknown. For years, the struggles of those who live paycheck-to-paycheck has been a growing concern for our community, and our neighborhood St. Vincent volunteers are now providing financial assistance to many more families to prevent homelessness. Lost wages and jobs due to COVID have taken a toll on families, and financial relief may help some maintain their housing, but not all.

These shelter expansion projects, a partnership of public and private funding, has allowed our community to prepare as best we can for the increased number who may find themselves homeless due to this pandemic. We are grateful for your continued support to provide food, shelter, and clothing for our guests, and to help them regain stability and a new home. With this preparation and your assistance, we look forward in the hope that we can provide love and care to all who seek help at St. Vincent de Paul.



Inside the new day space building at the Gettysburg Shelter for Men



New dorm at the Apple Street Shelter for Women and Families



Newly remodeled kitchen at the Montgomery County Job Center



St. Vincent de Paul
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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

FURNITURE PICK UP

Please call 937.425.0592.



**Please remember
St. Vincent de Paul
in your will.**

**Please call
Michael Vanderburgh
at (513) 257-6266 if
you need assistance.**

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