

# Sheltering Homeless Men, Women and Children in a Pandemic

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St. Vincent de Paul  
ASSISTANCE • SHELTER • HOPE

# Overview

- Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Tornado Relief and Recovery
  - Sheltering in a Pandemic

# The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at a Glance

An international organization composed of women and men who seek their personal holiness through works of charity. The Society differs other charities whose principal objective is not the spiritual advancement of their members but instead serving others.

- Formed in Paris in 1833.
- Formed in U.S. in 1846. Across the U.S., 100,000 Vincentian volunteers serve their communities through 4,000 neighborhood associations called Conferences.
- The Dayton District Council of St. Vincent de Paul Society was formed in 1948. Our core values are unconditional service, hospitality, stewardship, and gratitude.

## **Our Miami Valley Mission**

Our **mission** is to, with Christian purpose, accompany those in need one person at a time by focusing on shelter, food, and clothing.

**Helping our neighbors stay in their homes.  
Assisting those who find themselves homeless.**



## Helping our neighbors stay in their homes.

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30 conferences with 800 members who provide person-to-person assistance and accompaniment in their own neighborhoods.

Vincentian Conferences organized around Catholic parishes, with the church supporting their work with financial donations, material donations, service and prayer.

Our central activity is the face-to-face Home Visit. Vincentians visit the homes of their neighbors in need, identifying both immediate and longer-term needs, including emergency assistance with utilities and rent, food, and clothing.

## **Assisting those who find themselves homeless.**

**Homeless Shelters.** In 1985, Dayton Conferences began sheltering homeless men, women, and children in an old fire station downtown. Moved to Apple Street In 2005, expanding in 2009 to Gettysburg Avenue to offer separate shelters for men and for women and families. Fewer than a dozen U.S. St. Vincent De Paul shelters. Operating 24/7, providing daily meals, showers, clothing, personal care items, mail and messaging services, and rehousing assistance.

**Supportive Housing.** Both transitional and permanent, 160 men, women, and children who are chronically homeless or have a disability preventing stable housing without regular accompaniment.

**Supportive Services for Veteran Families.** Case management and resource connections for over 100 veteran families every year.

**Community Stores.** Donations of essential items for those with need, including families re-housed after shelter. We sell clothing, furniture, and household items to support our mission.

**Urban Outreach Center.** Serves neighbors of zip code 45417, assisting with immediate financial need, resource connections, and encouragement.

**Systemic Change** 16-week “Getting Ahead” program to help participants reach self-sufficiency.

## Through Our Ministries in 2020:

- 10,900+ Men, women & children assisted through Home Visits
- 3,000+ Adults sheltered
- 400+ Children sheltered
- 490+ Individuals served through Clothing Vouchers
- 775+ Households served through Furniture Vouchers
- 150+ Residents in Supportive Housing
- 125+ Homeless Veterans and family members served





# Tornado Relief and Recovery

**Sheltering** of tornado-affected families.

**Volunteer** Reception Center at Sinclair Community College, assisting in the intake and assignment of community volunteers.

**Warehousing** and staff for donations of materials for immediate relief and for recovery.

**Tornado relief services** at the Multi-Agency Resource Centers at the Kroc Center and in Trotwood. In addition to helping neighbors apply for relief and recovery aid, we provided Kroger, Meijer, and Walmart cards to supplement food, clothing, furniture, and household item donations.



Immediate **Vincentian volunteer response** to the tornado-damaged neighborhoods, providing for immediate emotional, material, and financial needs and connection to local, state, and federal aid.

**Food, clothing, and home furnishings** delivered to more than 700 survivor families in the days following the tornadoes.

Leadership of the **Miami Valley Long Term Recovery Operations Group**, comprised of non-profit and faith-based organizations in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies to assist tornado survivors. Over two years we have worked with 2,000 individuals and families whose homes were damaged.





# Tornado Lessons in Collaboration - Area Partnerships

## **Private Foundations and Private Donations**

## **Federal, State, County and City governments**

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Veterans Affairs, Ohio Development Services Agency, Montgomery County Homeless Solutions, and City of Dayton

## **Other Non-Profits and Faith-Based Organizations**

Catholic Social Services, Miami Valley Community Action Partnership, Daybreak, YWCA, Miami Valley Housing Opportunities, Goodwill / Easter Seals, Salvation Army, Kettering Health Network, Five Rivers Health Centers

## **Other Organizations of Volunteers**

Declare Dayton, Omega Baptist Church, Miami Valley Presbytery

# Sheltering in a Pandemic

## Our COVID Response

1. **Immediate warehousing of PPE** from the Federal Stockpile for 8-county area at the request of Montgomery County's Emergency Operations Center.
2. **Social Distancing provisions.** 80 high-risk guests, including families with young children, were moved immediately to two area hotels. The number of guests decreased to about 50 and sheltered at one hotel. We sheltered 69 men, 169 women, and 73 children in hotels for 267 nights.
3. **Hygiene procedures** were established at both shelters and at our supportive housing ministries. Social distancing, handwashing, PPE, COVID safety education, and isolation and quarantine quarters.
4. **Public Health.** Masks encouraged, but not enforced. Montgomery County Public Health performed COVID testing and provided flu and COVID shots at sites. Guest and worker COVID cases, but no outbreaks.
5. **Neighborhood ministries,** our Conferences gave \$ 1,602,667 in financial assistance or in-kind goods and services. Of this amount, \$386,863 was Rental Assistance/Eviction prevention.
6. **2020 Neighborhood Ministry Summary:** Through 40,208 hours in neighborhood assistance, Vincentians visited 10,958 individuals through 15,196 personal visits, with 3,291 of those as home visits. Pantries served 5,404 families.

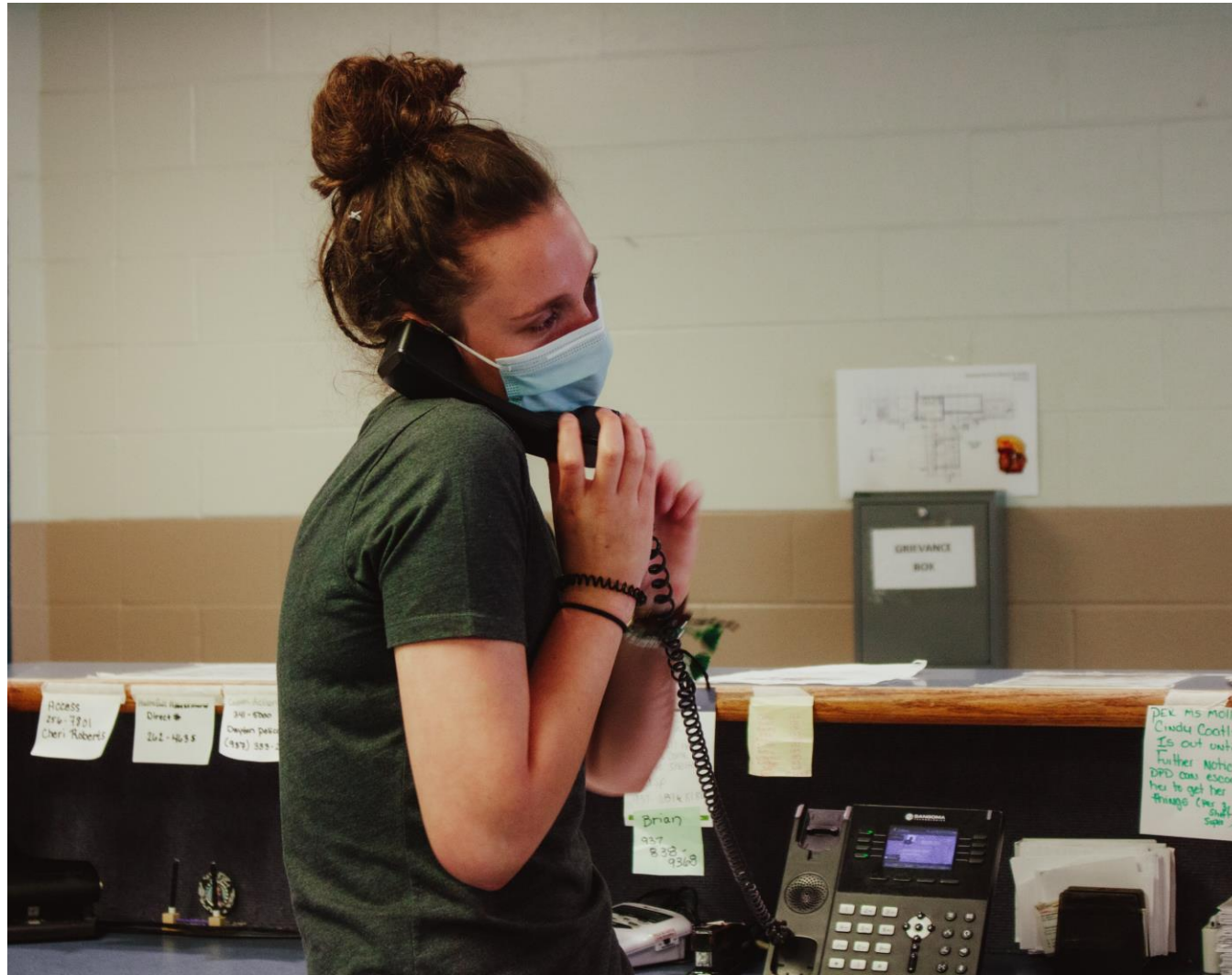
# CARES Act Funding

\$7.5M+ for the purpose of safely sheltering all homeless community members during the pandemic. Expansions and renovations were completed by Dec. 31, 2020. Our total capacity is now 560 beds, with social distancing.

- **Shelter for women and families:** Communal bathrooms were converted to 8 separated bathrooms. A new family dormitory for 70 beds and separated full bathrooms for families were created.
- **Montgomery County Job Center:** Full-service kitchen built to handle over 1,000 meals per day. Also a new laundry facility and storage with easy access to for transport of meals and laundry to both shelters.
- **Shelter for men:** A new 15,000 square-foot day space/dining hall was erected. 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.



# COVID's Impact on Those We Serve



**2020 average daily number of those sheltered was lower than 2019** (393 vs. 443). Encouraging to see family and friends stepped up during the pandemic, but shelter services were crucial for those who had no one else to turn to. St. Vincent remained open 24/7 throughout COVID.

**Shelters are lengthier than typical.** Our 2020 average family shelter stay was 49 days. The re-housing target was an average of 30 days. Delays were caused by agency pandemic shutdowns or slowdowns. The primary underlying cause of re-housing delays was--and still is-- the shortage of safe and affordable housing in our area.

**More stress and mental health issues** among those entering shelter, and those remaining in shelter. This is expected to continue if evictions and homelessness increase.



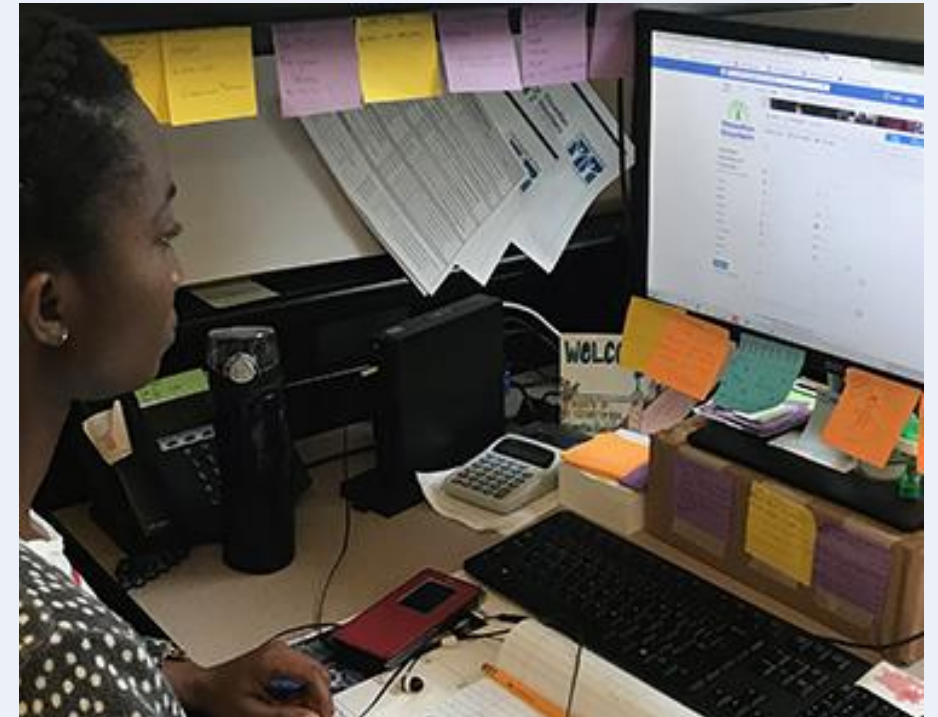
**Many will remain in shelter as they are unable to sustain independent living.** Includes the elderly and those with severe physical and mental health challenges. They have nowhere else to go, and no one to take care of them, so we must.

# Current COVID Economic Effects and Helping Prevent Homelessness

Since July 2020, the St. Vincent de Paul has spent approximately \$175,000 to prevent COVID-related evictions across the Miami Valley area. This was in response to the immediate financial needs of neighbors facing eviction who were unable to access CARES Act funding for housing support, or unable to access funding in time to avoid eviction.

A trained St. Vincent volunteer first works with the family to access CARES Act assistance. We have found there are several typical reasons for declined CARES assistance or inability to receive timely aid. If they are unsuccessful in obtaining timely assistance, we provide assistance from our Housing Fund, which is supported by the Dayton Foundation and United Way's COVID-19 Response Fund.

In May 2021, St. Vincent began assisting Miami Valley Community Action Partnership (MVCAP) in the emergency housing applications funded through a total of \$15.8M. MVCAP is one of several agencies participating in the effort to distribute the first \$ 8.1M of this funding. St. Vincent has dedicated several staff members and 13 trained St. Vincent volunteers to help neighbors complete their applications.



# Questions or Comments?

If you have questions after this ZOOM session, please email me at  
[Michael@stvincentdayton.org](mailto:Michael@stvincentdayton.org)

Thank you for your attention and interest in our brothers and sisters in need of our assistance and love. Please pray for our workers and those we serve.



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