

## “God’s Got This.”

Your support helped this family stay together while they waited for housing.



It can be difficult to put family first while facing an emergency, but even when Jessica and Jon were faced with homelessness, they met these challenges with courage and faith. “A lot of people would be scared,” they say about coming to shelter with their two sons—an eight-year-old with special needs and a two-year-old—“but we went with the flow and have realized that God’s got this.”

Not long ago, Jessica and Jon both worked hard at stable jobs with decent pay to provide for themselves and their

two children. As their family’s needs shifted, Jessica left her job to prioritize caring for their two boys, one of whom has Lennox-Gastaut, a severe seizure disorder that causes developmental delays. Jon’s income sustained them financially—until his place of employment closed, and he lost his job.

He floated around between jobs, but he frequently had to miss work for his son’s doctor appointments, as moving his child was a two-person job. The family scraped by for a while with resources that could help them make ends meet. But by the time they found an agency able to assist with rent, it was too late. It would take two weeks to process their request, and they were being evicted in seven days. With nowhere else to go, they came to St. Vincent’s Women and Families shelter.

“This place has been a tremendous help,” they say. “Staff have been supportive. Keeping us together as a family has been very helpful. Before we came to shelter, our son outgrew his clothes. We were able to get him new clothes in the shelter clothing room, and he finally has clothes that fit.” They appreciate being able to attend doctor appointments at the Five Rivers medical clinic inside the shelter, so they do not have to travel. And Jon has made a connection through their church and is now working part-time for someone who will hire him full-time once they move into their new home.

While they appreciate their shelter stay that helped some of the pieces fall into place for them, the family is looking forward to finding a home of their own. The overstimulation and stress of being in shelter has caused their older son’s seizures to increase in frequency, so they are eager to live in a quieter environment. “Shelter life and living in a community really humbles you,” Jon reflects. “I’ve learned to appreciate the little things. I used to roll my eyes when Jessica would ask me to take out the trash. Now I can’t wait to take the trash out when we get our own place!”



## 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.*

Soon we will share the beautiful reflection of gratitude that Thanksgiving brings, a wonderful prelude to 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. Advent can help us 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 – if we remember to turn to God when we face suffering.

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! Nearly every week, Monday through Friday at 10:00 a.m. we have a Holy Hour with Deacon Mark Danis, including praying the Rosary.

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

## Everyone Deserves a Fresh Pair of Underwear

**On Giving Tuesday you can ensure every guest at our shelter receives comfort and dignity.**

This year, Giving Tuesday is November 29, and our goal is to raise \$10,000 for new UNDERWEAR! With nearly 500 men, women, and children in shelter each night, underwear is the number one needed personal item for our guests.

Many of us take having a fresh pair of underwear for granted. But for our guests experiencing the vulnerability of homelessness, new underwear can be critical to preserving a sense of comfort and dignity during a stressful time.

Last year, your generous support on Giving Tuesday provided our guests with sturdy picnic tables and park benches to enjoy the fresh air, as well as preschool activity tables and highchairs for our younger guests. With your help, we know that we can match our Giving Tuesday goal and provide each guest with the most needed and hardest to come by item—underwear.



## Free to Be Herself

Your support encouraged her to find independence.

“They inspire me to be me,” Mollie explains of the staff at St. Vincent’s Kettering Commons supportive housing, where she has been a resident since March of 2020. Instead of the judgment Mollie expected, she receives ongoing case management and support as she struggles every day with depression, anxiety, and PTSD. This daily support has led to some positive outcomes she did not imagine two years ago.



She grew up in Dayton and recalls a happy childhood. She was adopted into a large family of five brothers and two sisters with a menagerie of animals: dogs, cats, chickens, fish, even a bearded dragon. Her family enjoyed many camping trips and vacations together, and she remembers having a lot of fun as a kid. But as adolescence approached, so did tragedy.

In 2012, one of her brothers passed away from a drug overdose. Seven years later, the year after she graduated high school, she lost another brother to liver and kidney failure. She had been staying with family, but after her second brother’s death, relationships with her family became strained and she found herself homeless.

She sought help at Daybreak, a shelter for young adults, and was connected to St. Vincent de Paul where she found a place of her own in supportive housing. “My case manager encourages me to be a free person,” Mollie explains. “She pushes me to get better.” This encouragement helped motivate Mollie to obtain a job on her own. She really enjoys the work and has found that keeping busy helps her mental health.

Thank you for your continued support of Mollie and the other residents in our supportive housing ministry as they continue to find their way towards independence.

## A Life-Changing Transformation at Safe Haven

You give Carlton the support he needs to move forward.

The cold of winter drove Carlton from living out of his car to staying in his daughter’s garage after a divorce left him homeless. When reaching out to Miami Valley Housing Opportunities for help, he was asked if he was interested in transitional housing, and he readily agreed. He moved into Safe Haven, one of St. Vincent de Paul’s supportive housing communities.



Carlton was a smart kid who loved to learn, but he often found himself hanging out with the rough crowd not far from his Dayton neighborhood. At the age of 22, he was arrested in another city and sentenced to 14 years in prison. He used his time in prison to work on his education and obtained certificates in welding, small gas engines, and residential house wiring. He was released after finishing only half of his sentence, but he fell into the wrong crowd again and soon wound up back in jail.

When he was released in 1999, he never went back. He met his wife around then, and for a long time, things were looking up. When their marriage ended, however, and he was left alone and homeless, supportive housing proved to be what he needed to get his feet back on the ground. He describes his experience at Safe Haven as transforming.

Because St. Vincent de Paul’s supportive housing ministries provide more long-term case management and accompaniment than the shelter ministry, community members—staff, volunteers, and residents—have the opportunity for deeper, more authentic relationships. These relationships can be life-changing.

Carlton says of his time there, “All the staff are great. Our program manager is fair, considerate, and caring. She is a ‘people person.’ They are awesome, really beautiful people who know when to pat you on the back. It sure beats living in a garage! They encourage you here, and I truly appreciate that.”





St. Vincent de Paul  
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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.



**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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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 SOCIETY, 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.

