

The Comfort of a Quality Meal

You offer meals that nourish and sustain our guests.



Service with a smile on Taco Tuesday!

As St. Vincent de Paul shelters serve historically high numbers of guests at over 600 men, women, and children each night, one of the most essential needs they have is food, particularly while they navigate the stressful and frightening experience of homelessness.

“The food fills us up, so we don’t have to be hungry, ” says Rose, a guest at the Women and Families Shelter. “I am thankful that we don’t have to worry about any meals.” She adds, “We always look forward to Taco Tuesday.”

Taco Tuesday is a staple at the St. Vincent shelters under the guidance of José Perez, the new Manager of Food Services. He sees it as a special gesture of comfort and expression of love to our brothers and sisters in shelter.

This is just one of many ways that José has worked to increase the quality of food at the shelters. Saving money is an even greater challenge these days given the sharp rise in food prices. Though prepared foods like frozen hot dogs and burgers were frequently utilized in the past, José insists that healthier and better-quality meals can be had at a lower cost, with proper planning and preparation. “Our goal is to be responsible with the resources that have been generously shared with us,” he says. “The best way to save money is to use our time wisely.”

Farren, who has been a guest for a year, says, “Food quality has slowly improved over the time I’ve been here. I’m never left hungry.”

Meeting this essential need with healthy, quality food at lower costs certainly requires more effort and labor from employees and volunteers, but it is a labor of love. We already see this outpouring of love from the many volunteers and organizations who help serve meals and provide casseroles and bagged lunches for guests to help meet demand.

“Thank you for the love you have shown our guests when they may have needed it the most,” José says. “We can’t accomplish this mission of love without you!”



From the Executive Director

Dear Friend of St. Vincent de Paul,

As I write this, we are experiencing an unfortunate milestone in our homeless ministries: over 600 men, women, and children are in our emergency shelters.

For 37 years now we have been the place to go when someone's out of options, all because our community – and that means you – have been with us in person, in prayer, and in financial support.

In this issue you'll read about how you and I nurture community and foster resiliency through our shelter and housing ministries.

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 2023, 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.

We Are Better Together – Thank You To Our Caring Community!

Our shelters are currently serving more guests than in our 37-year sheltering history: at times over 600 each night, including more than 80 children. When we reported these heartbreaking numbers with an urgent request for help with blankets, sheets, and towels, the community response was astounding.

Donations poured in from our Amazon Needs List and from concerned community members' closets, including handmade family heirlooms made with love. Even those who had nothing else to give spread the message and sent vital prayers, and volunteers helped sort through the incredible number of donations.

We know that these challenging times are not over, but your compassionate support sustains us as we care for our brothers and sisters in need. Thank you!



Stacks of Amazon deliveries from our generous donors outside our donation dock

The Art of the Supportive Housing Community

You give supportive housing residents the chance to form positive relationships.

Grace rained down in the warmth and light of the spring and summer sun as residents and staff of St. Vincent de Paul's supportive housing ministry gathered outdoors in fellowship. All were invited to these cookouts to breathe in the much-needed fresh air at local parks, to share a meal in friendship, and to hear a spiritual reflection offered as food for the soul.

Community gatherings like these are what set St. Vincent's supportive housing apart from other providers in the Dayton area. Our Christ-centered approach focuses on the dignity of every person, no matter where they are on their life's journey. Staff, residents, and volunteers build connections by accepting our common brokenness as a foundation of trust for deep, authentic relationships.



Corey practicing with pastels

“This place gives people a chance to get a handle on being lost,” says Corey, a resident at the DePaul Center. “It gives people time and space to figure things out.”

Along with time and space, supportive housing provides resources such as ongoing case management, life-skills education programs, connections to agency services, addiction and mental health recovery, spirituality, recreation, and social activities, all with the hope that residents will begin healing and find the support they need to fulfill God's plan for their lives.

“Community activities can spark connections, creativity, and motivation,” explains Mike Goebel, Director of Housing Ministries. Opportunities for connection like this are vital, particularly for those escaping a life of isolation in homelessness or addiction and those who struggle with mental illness. Corey describes how the volunteer-led art class at the DePaul Center has helped him in this area.

“I suffer from depression,” he says while practicing with pastels. “I isolate in my room a lot, but the art class is a break from everything. It gives me a chance to socialize. When I first started taking this class, I was in a much worse place than I am now. It was the first time in my life I did art. It's helped me find out more about myself and develop a skill I didn't know I had.”

With the hope that more opportunities like this will continue to benefit the men and women who reside in supportive housing, program managers work hard to provide a variety of offerings from classes on nutrition, wellness, and spirituality, to ping-pong tournaments and karaoke.

Thank you for helping residents discover a family-like community in their shared homes while they take the time and space to find healing.

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20)



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
Society in your will.**

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

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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.



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