

Seeing the World Through New Eyes

You helped Monica find a happy home in Dayton.



Monica smiling in her new apartment

Monica started running from problems at a young age. Even as a child she suffered from poor mental health and bi-polar disorder. Without proper support, she turned to alcohol at the age of 12 to cope with the stress. By the age of 14, she was living on the streets in a vicious cycle. “I’d get picked up by the cops, taken home, and my mom would send me to a different mental health hospital. When I’d get released, I’d just go back to the streets ‘cause I didn’t want to be home.”

Eventually she got her GED and went on to raise five children. However, when she received bad news about her health recently, she escaped Dayton, the place that had always been her home. She chose Las Vegas, hoping it would distract her and allow her kids the space to process the news. “Instead,” Monica confesses,

“I found people running away from their problems just like I was.”

She returned to Dayton in December of 2022 and came to St. Vincent’s shelter with new eyes. “All of my life I’ve been in Dayton,” she says. “I always felt a dark cloud over the city. But now when I look, I see people determined to live and enjoy life.”

She worked well with shelter staff and it didn’t take long for her to find new housing. “I am thankful for shelter staff,” she says. “They take care of you. They can’t be everyone at once, but they try to do their best. Shelter is what you make of it. The staff were very helpful, especially the Health and Safety Advocates. Whenever I was having a rough day, I could always go in there and talk to someone.”

Now that she has settled into her own apartment in the hometown she has a new appreciation for, she is able to enjoy time with her children and, despite her health problems, she is determined to find happiness.

“How does it feel to have my own place?” Monica takes a deep breath in and out. “That’s what it feels like.”



From the Executive Director

Dear Friend of St. Vincent de Paul,

Perhaps you saw the recent national news story about an “epidemic of loneliness and isolation” that now has the attention of the U.S. Surgeon General. It echoed something we have wrestled with for decades at St. Vincent – the increasing lack of deep relationships in our neighbors’ lives. We know that ruptured relationships fuel homelessness, and we are meeting more and more neighbors who never had deep relationships in the first place.

If your life experience is anything like mine, throughout many challenges over the years your family bond has made a tremendous difference in your quality of life and your experience of authentic love.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is built upon a radical faith in Love itself – God who dwells among us, who teaches us to tenderly accompany each other through every pain and suffering. We were made for Love, and our neighbors in need help us grow our faith in Love.

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

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.

Do Good While You Shop!

Did you know that every time you shop at CityThrift by St. Vincent de Paul, you are supporting your neighbors in need? **Every penny of proceeds from these sales goes directly back to our ministries that feed, shelter, and clothe our brothers and sisters in need.**

When items are donated to any St. Vincent de Paul drop-off location, they are sorted carefully to prioritize the needs of those we assist. Any items that are not needed for shelter guests or those in housing ministries are tagged and placed on the CityThrift sales floor.

Come check out CityThrift for great deals on unique and gently used items!

945 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd.

Open Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Now open Saturdays! 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Many rows of wonderful clothes and home goods available for purchase at CityThrift.

“I Was a Stranger, and You Welcomed Me.”

You welcome with open arms those with nowhere else to go.

“It felt strange the first time I came here,” Elijah says about coming to St. Vincent de Paul’s shelter. “I was welcomed as soon as I came in. The staff loved me, and truly were people of God.”

He spent a full year in shelter before he found a new home. Things were going well for him there – until the day his ceiling collapsed. He was injured and hospitalized, but his landlord did not offer an apology or address the situation. “That hurt,” Elijah says, “and because of that I didn’t feel comfortable staying there.”



He went to a rooming house for several months while he searched for new housing, but the lifestyle of the other residents was dangerous. He gave up his own room and privacy to return to St. Vincent’s where he knew he would be welcomed with a safe place to stay.

He had learned from his case managers during his first stay how to be proactive in his housing search, and he was approved for a new apartment within two months. “St. Vincent is a blessing. There are people here to help you. There are so many resources here. It is hard being homeless, and to know you are welcome is a relief.”

Thank you for welcoming those in need through your support of our ministries!

“We Should Take Care of Each Other.”

Becoming a Steadfast Friend is an easy way to provide reliable care to our neighbors in need.

“They showed up on my doorstep with a ham and some money for my family to have a Christmas,” Lou recalls of the St. Albert St. Vincent de Paul conference. He was unemployed at the time, but the neighborhood ministry showed his family love. “That touched our hearts.”

Since then, Lou has been a steadfast friend and supporter of St. Vincent de Paul and the mission. “The mission matches my faith,” he says. “We are all created in God’s image, and we should take care of each other.”



After 60 years of marriage with his wife Katherine, eight children, and 19 grandchildren, Lou says, “God has blessed me, so I need to give back on a regular basis.” He gives generously of his time serving both the St. Albert Conference and the St. Vincent de Paul Community Board.

In addition to his time, he makes a monthly gift to St. Vincent de Paul as a Steadfast Friend. This constancy helps us meet our expenses throughout the year to carry out our mission of love.

Will you join Lou as a Steadfast Friend? For \$38 you can provide food, shelter, and clothing for one guest for one night, but any amount is welcome and appreciated. Please go to stvincentdayton.org and “How to Donate” to sign up today!



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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 PICKUP

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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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.



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