

“It’s not easy, but a good life is attainable.”

You have been a blessing to him on his journey.



Joshua at his graduation in May.

Referring to himself as the ‘black sheep’ of his family, Joshua details a youth where he was rejected and cast out of his childhood home. “I made friends with people who were lost, and I became like them,” he says, describing years of homelessness, couch-hopping, jail, alcohol, and drugs.

“Eventually, things came to a head when my friend’s cousin pulled a gun on me at the place I was staying,” Joshua says. “I was tired of this lifestyle, and that incident helped push me to get out. I went to Sinclair the next day and signed up for classes.” That step was the first of many on a journey toward improving his life.

He studied hard to maintain a 3.0 GPA and became president of several campus organizations. However, he was still living out of his car when he graduated with an associate degree in business management. He had been hesitant to come to shelter, but mentors at Sinclair encouraged him to

utilize community resources that could help him in his situation. He eventually came to St. Vincent’s shelter and says, **“St. Vincent is a blessing for housing and feeding me. It is a blessing to have a place to shower and stay clean.”**

While in shelter, he graduated with a second associate degree, this time in supply chain management. Unfortunately, he also found himself drinking more. Fearing he might ruin his progress, he reached out to shelter staff for help finding a change. They helped him find a sober living facility in Cincinnati where he could start fresh.

“I am proud of my achievements,” Joshua says. “My goal is to continue moving forward. I can’t live in the past and blame others for everything that has happened in my life. I want to be a light to those coming from similar experiences. **I want other felons, homeless people to know that it isn’t easy, but a good life is still attainable. I am going to keep moving forward to get my own place and have the peace of my own place to call home.**”

Thank you for providing a place for Joshua to stay and find the help he needs to continue improving his life!



From the Executive Director

Dear Friend of St. Vincent de Paul,

Sometimes I need a reminder that I am a creation. I didn't will myself into being. Though God gave me the awesome gift of free will, God still has plans for me and hopes that I will choose to love – to put others' needs ahead of my desires for myself. Our earthly culture has a different message: free will is freedom to choose what I want, I can thrive by myself, the best life is one of constant pleasures, and my best hope is in the next pleasure I can find.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul grounds hope in Love itself – God who created us, dwells among us, and 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.

In this issue you will read stories of broken relationships and how your support of our mission helps love persevere through it all.

Thanks for sharing our Love 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.

Peace of Mind and A Safe Place To Stay

You provided shelter to a mother and her son when they needed it most.

Ashely was evicted from her apartment at six months pregnant, so she moved back in with family. Her son was born prematurely, and over time began to experience abuse from his cousins who also lived in the home. She knew she needed to get her son away from harmful family relationships, so she brought him to St. Vincent's shelter.

With support from her case manager, she and her son now have a two-bedroom apartment at St. Vincent's supportive housing. Even though it took several months, Ashley says it was worth it to have the peace of mind that comes with a safe home. "They have everything you need to get back on track," she says. **"I know I have the support of the staff and that is so helpful. I feel like I'm developing community here."** Thank you for helping Ashely and her son find a peaceful home and supportive community!



Ashely smiling outside her place with her son, Jacob.

Like Father, Like Daughter

Your used vehicle can drive positive change in someone's life!

When Dana donated her late father's vehicle to St. Vincent de Paul, she took comfort knowing "even in his death, Dad is still bringing joy to someone."

After her father passed away, her family kept his unused car; the old KIA held so many fond memories that it was difficult to part with. She recalls they even referred to her father in a loving way as Mr. KIA (Know-It-All). "My father was a soft-spoken, loving, giving man who would do anything for his family," she says. "Dad was the 'go-to guy' when any family members needed support, be it financial or emotional."

He passed his generous spirit on to Dana, who follows his example in service to her neighbors. So when the time came to put her father's car to rest, she knew where it should go.

"What better place to drive it to the end of the road than St. Vincent de Paul?" she says. **"I believe in the mission. We share the same beliefs when it comes to showing love for God's people, and I know St. Vincent is a good steward of donations."**

Are you ready to part with a vehicle that is no longer being used? It can be used to make a positive difference in the lives of your neighbors! If so, please call 937-222-5555 option 3, or fill out our online form at stvincentdayton.org, "donate goods," "donate vehicles."



Dana and her father, Edward Hill



A Breath of Fresh Air

A comfortable shaded place for guests to rest.

In July, staff, volunteers, and guests gathered to dedicate two picnic shelters recently constructed outside the Women and Families Shelter. These shelters were made possible through the last of the CARES COVID-19 relief. The comfortable, sheltered seating provides guests with more opportunities to take breaks in the fresh air, which can be a huge benefit for mental health, as both shelters continue to serve 500 guests each day.

Deacon Mark Danis offered a blessing over the structures at the dedication, and over all who will come to find rest in their shade. Women and families then enjoyed a midday cookout at picnic tables and benches in the shelters' shade, complete with grilled burgers, fresh watermelon, lemonade, and music. It was a bright, hopeful reprieve from the hardships of life.



Guests enjoying one of the new picnic shelters.



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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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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