

“Let the little children come to me.”

Your compassionate support helps care for these little ones.



Tutors assisting children in shelter with homework.

This past fall, St. Vincent de Paul’s shelters served an average of more than 100 children every night – nearly twice as many as usual this time of year. It is heartbreaking to see so many little ones caught in such difficult circumstances. Yet they continue to teach us by their resilience, their humility, their ability to find joy in the littlest things.

As we compassionately care for our neighbors at St. Vincent de Paul, especially the littlest and the least, we continue to learn, adapt, and evolve our services to care for them better. These efforts include strengthening community partnerships with those who work and advocate for the well-being of children.

Reach Out, a well-child clinic, coordinates with us to transport children from the shelter to the clinic

for free health exams and vaccinations. Dayton Public Schools offers weekly tutoring services for children staying in the shelter and ensures that students have what they need to succeed in school, including transportation, uniforms, backpacks, and school supplies. A liaison from Montgomery County Children’s Services also works directly with families in the shelter to help promote healthy relationships between parents and children and to connect them with appropriate resources.

In November, St. Vincent Health and Safety Advocates organized the first Children’s Mental Health Field Day at the shelter. About 50 children of all ages participated in the event which included various games, activities, and exercises focused on engaging children’s minds and building a foundation for good mental health. Students from Boonshoft School of Medicine and University of Dayton assisted in making the field day a success.

Volunteers also make a significant difference in engaging children and families in various activities throughout the year, including a Halloween Trunk-or-Treat and activities during spring and summer breaks. Our friends at Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church generously gifted a new playground set where children can run and play, which is vital to their mental and physical health.

It is inspiring to see so many community partners and friends come together to care for children experiencing homelessness. Your support allows us to shine a light in the darkness and continue to offer children and their families opportunities and resources to help them flourish.



From the Executive Director

Dear Friend of St. Vincent de Paul,

You may have seen us in the news headlines recently, welcoming all who need us, especially a growing number of children with their families. Here at St. Vincent, we embrace this responsibility to welcome strangers out of the cold and into the warmth of shelter and caring hearts.

For 38 years now we have been the place to go when someone is 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 hope through our love of neighbor.

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 and steadfast friends 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 2024, 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 the St. Vincent de Paul Society, 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.

Gratitude Report: You Are Wonderful!

Your loving gift offers comfort and rest to your neighbors who need it most.

With your generosity, guests at our shelters received a tremendous outpouring of love on Giving Tuesday!

When you heard the appeal for help in purchasing new chairs for your neighbors in need, you gave an incredible response. Your generosity far exceeded our Giving Tuesday goal and made it possible to purchase 190 new chairs for the men and women staying in shelter! This allowed us to furnish the day spaces at both shelters with new, sturdy seating where guests can rest while they search for housing. Having a place to sit is a simple but profound gift that offers guests a sense of dignity and relief.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity in giving comfort to your neighbors while they navigate difficult and uncertain circumstances!



An abundance of new chairs for our guests!

A Chance at a Fresh Start

You are helping Robert land on his feet.

“I was always hungry,” Robert says of his childhood. “There was never any food in the house. I had to grow up quick.” As the oldest in a home with six kids, he kept busy helping his grandma take care of the others. His mom struggled with addiction, and he has vivid memories of being exposed to drugs at a young age.

As he grew older, he explains, “I only knew drugs, so I spent a lot of time in and out of jail for dealing.” When he was released in 2018, he moved in with his girlfriend and stayed there for several years. Eventually he grew tired of her constant threats to kick him out, so he left.

He came to St. Vincent’s shelter while he looked for his own place. He was at the shelter for two months when he was offered a place in St. Vincent’s supportive housing. At first, he was hesitant, but, he says, “I am glad I took this opportunity. This has been a breath of fresh air.”

Now he has his own room and cooks his own food. He found a job and is working with case managers to find his own housing. “St. Vincent de Paul made a significant difference,” he says. “Without them I wouldn’t have been able to make it work. I am thankful the staff here help keep me focused on my goal. I want to leave my footprint on the world, in a good way.”



Robert is happy to have a fresh start.

Faith in Action: A Gift that Keeps on Giving

Steadfast Friends give financially each month, helping to provide stability for our neighbors in need.

Meet Matthew and Meghann, Steadfast Friends of St. Vincent de Paul. They are very intentional about their financial giving, and they believe St. Vincent de Paul’s mission puts their faith in action. “Jesus told us to clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, and St. Vincent de Paul lives that out each and every day,” they explain. “Jesus didn’t give a test before offering aid, love and compassion, and that’s a model we see and appreciate being emulated at St. Vincent.”

They also believe that no work of faith (including their financial giving) is a “one-and-done” act, but an ongoing commitment. In becoming Steadfast Friends, they have seen the real difference that their giving makes over time. “Giving monthly allows us to support St. Vincent in a sustaining way,” they say. “It helps provide predictable income so they can keep doing the physical work of caring for our neighbors.”



Matthew and Meghann are some of our Steadfast Friends!

We are incredibly grateful for our Steadfast Friends who provide stability in our mission of love. If you feel moved to join our network of friendship, you can learn more on our website at stvincentdayton.org/friends

You can give a neighbor in need one day of food, clothing, and shelter with a gift of \$38 per month to St. Vincent de Paul Dayton District Council. Thank you for loving your neighbor!



St. Vincent de Paul

ASSISTANCE • SHELTER • HOPE

St. Vincent de Paul Social Services, Inc.
124 West Apple Street
Dayton, Ohio 45402-2617

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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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PRIVACY STATEMENT

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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