

A Heart Full of Gratitude

You helped Evelyn move from living in her car to a place of her own.



You are helping Evelyn bounce back from homelessness.

One day several years ago, Evelyn became very sick and was hospitalized. She was unable to return to work and applied for supplemental security income. She had to adjust her lifestyle to make the most of her limited income. These challenges took a toll on her mental health as well. “I was in a dark place,” she explains. “I suffer from a number of mental health issues, and they just built up over time.”

Therapy and medication helped, but she still had to adjust how she lived with her limited income. She stayed in a house with several roommates who all split the rent.

“I was paying my portion of the rent each month, but my roommates were not,” she says. “I didn’t find out we were being evicted until it was too late. The late rental fees were too much to overcome.”

When they were evicted, Evelyn lived out of her car for several weeks. “I am on oxygen due to my advanced emphysema, so I needed a place to stay quickly,” she says. Thanks to you, she quickly moved into a room at St. Vincent de Paul’s supportive housing.

“It has made a big difference,” she says. “I have support here. The staff are wonderful. They never turn me away when I need help. Janine, the program manager, has taught me to take one thing at a time. There is always something to work on to get housing. I crashed one day because I hadn’t stopped or slowed down on trying to get housing since I got here. Janine has really helped me slow down and not rush to do everything at once.

“It is such a blessing to have a roof over my head, to be able to shower, cook, and stay clean,” she continues. “I love to cook. I even help cook for some of the other people staying here, who struggle with cooking.”

Caring for others comes naturally to Evelyn after many years working as a nursing assistant for the elderly. Now that she is in a place in life where she needs extra care and support, she sees this as a small way to give back. Full of gratitude, she says, “I don’t take this for granted. The help is so greatly appreciated.”

Thank **YOU** for caring for Evelyn and giving her the support she needs!



From the 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.

Dear Friend of St. Vincent de Paul,

Thank you for being here and for loving your neighbors! 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 to come dwell among us in our anxieties, fears, weaknesses, and suffering. Waiting for the birth of Jesus reminds us of our shared humanity and our need for Love.

God is Love. We were made for Love, and our neighbors in need help us grow our faith in Love. When we open our hearts to be vulnerable and generous with one another – particularly the stranger and the powerless – we make room to welcome Love itself into the manger of our hearts at Christmas.

In these stories, you will catch a glimpse of how your generosity and support welcome your suffering neighbors with love and hope. Thank you for making it all possible through your prayers, financial support, material gifts, volunteering, and sharing the good news of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

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!

Have a great Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

Michael

Michael E. Vanderburgh,
Executive Director

Give the Gift of Rest

This Giving Tuesday, show some love to your neighbors!

On Giving Tuesday this year, we are asking for your help to raise \$10,000 for new beds in our shelters! When we welcome each of the 500 men, women, and children into our shelters every night, our goal is to ensure each has a safe, clean bed to sleep in. Right now, many beds need to be replaced due to years of wear and tear.

Your generosity will help us replace damaged bed frames, mattresses, mattress covers, and sleeping mats – just in time for the busy cold weather months!

Last year, you exceeded our expectations and helped us purchase new chairs for guests to find rest during the daytime. This year, on December 3, you can help make sure each guest has what they need to rest easier at night. Thank you for your support!



Your gift this Giving Tuesday will ensure our guests have a place to rest.

Peace of Mind

You are helping Joseph be at peace in his own place.

On a bitter cold day in November, Joseph found himself without a place to stay. He came home from work to find his girlfriend had packed all of his bags and told him he had to leave. Joseph says, “I remember it was sleeting, I wondered how she could kick me out into the cold like this.” With nowhere else to go, Joseph came to the St. Vincent de Paul Men’s Shelter.

The shelter was a hard experience. “There were a lot of people with mental illness, and it was a stressful environment.” He was there for six months and then he moved into St. Vincent supportive housing this past April.

Having his own place, Joseph felt a weight lifted off his shoulders. He says, “It felt good to have my own room. The staff here are nothing but nice. They’ve taken care of me ever since I’ve been here. I’m more at ease. There is a lot more peace of mind.”

Joseph has been a hard worker his whole life, working in shipping and receiving in warehouses since he graduated high school. He is currently working part-time, and his case manager is helping him look for full-time work. He is thankful that his case manager assists him as he works to improve his circumstances.

Thank you for giving Joseph the peace and comfort of his own place!



Your support is helping Joseph improve his circumstances.

A Life Changed by Love

You were there for Chelcie when she needed you.

After years of reckless living, Chelcie hit rock bottom. “I wasn’t working. I was drinking, staying out late, and hopping from place to place with friends who did the same,” she explains. She grew tired of that lifestyle. Something had to change.

She decided to go to St. Vincent’s shelter. “I was thankful to have a bed to sleep in and a roof over my head,” she says. “They always had what I needed.” But change did not happen overnight. Being without a home left her feeling abandoned and lost. She began spending time in the shelter’s chapel. There, she found God. “Prayer and meditation helped me get out of that lifestyle. They changed my life.”

With a newfound faith, she stopped drinking, got a job, and found a home of her own. “It is a blessing,” she insists. “I am so grateful for the help I received to get here. I found so much inspiration from the staff and other guests. If I didn’t go to the shelter, who knows where I’d be now. I didn’t get here on my own. Through all the difficulties, St. Vincent was there for me.”

Thank you for being there for Chelcie when she needed you!



Chelcie turned her life around, thanks to you.



St. Vincent de Paul

ASSISTANCE · SHELTER · HOPE

St. Vincent de Paul Social Services, Inc.

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DRIVE DAYTON FORWARD

The Vincentian Newsletter - Fall 2024



**YOUR GIFT OF GOODS HELPS
YOUR NEIGHBORS!**

Your donations of clothing, toiletries, household items, and furniture are sorted and prioritized to meet the needs of shelter guests, families moving into their new homes, and households assisted by our neighborhood ministries. Items not immediately needed by our neighbors are sold in our CityThrift store where all sales go directly back to supporting our ministries!

DROP-OFF DONATIONS AT

CityThrift Donation Dock
945 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd.
Mon – Fri 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sat. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FURNITURE PICK UP

To schedule a free 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**

Our mission is to, with Christian purpose, accompany those in need one person at a time by focusing on shelter, food, and clothing.