



St. Vincent de Paul  
ASSISTANCE • SHELTER • HOPE  
St. Vincent de Paul Social Services, Inc.  
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St. Vincent de Paul  
ASSISTANCE • SHELTER • HOPE

# THE Vincentian

## Home Again

You gave Justine the support she needed to reunite with her kids.



*St. Vincent Supportive Housing staff provide care for residents through activities like gardening.*

We reported the first part of Justine's story in our previous Thankuary newsletter. Now she is ready to share more good news and gratitude.

Justine lived with her partner for 14 years before, she says, "his true colors came out. He wouldn't help me take care of the kids. He was mentally and physically abusive."

It was a dangerous, messy situation. In the aftermath, her partner went to jail, their two kids went to foster care, and Justine went to St. Vincent de Paul's supportive housing. There she has received the support she needed to find healing from the physical and mental trauma.

Today, she is grateful to finally have full custody of her kids again after more than a year. "Basically, I had to get myself back together," she says. "I was unemployed, I had no income. I went to Artemis

Center for support. I attended parenting classes, and I went to therapy for my mental health. It was a lot. But my goal throughout the whole process was to get my kids back."

Her case manager and supportive staff helped her through it all. Now, she says, "My kids are home! They are happy, they are smiling!" She receives enough social security income that she is able to focus on being a single mom to her kids and taking care of herself.

Her youngest child is autistic, and Justine is navigating how to best support her in the transition back home. They receive additional support from staff and a Children's Services case worker. "I talk to staff if I need anything," she says. "If I am overwhelmed, they help me find solutions. My therapist helps as well."

More than anything, she is grateful to be back with her children in their new home. "It's a lot more peaceful now," she says. "We do a lot of things together. At home, we watch Bluey and play games together. We color as well, but not on the walls. My oldest likes to color on the walls. I have since told her not to color on the walls." She jokes, "I tell you; I have gray hair coming out of my head!"

Jokes aside, Justine has shown incredible resilience and strength. Thank you for you making a difference in her family's life. Your support provides opportunities for families like Justine's to find stability and healing so they can continue to grow in love with one another.

Donate Your Vehicle  
937.222.5555 Option 3



DRIVE DAYTON FORWARD

The Vincentian Newsletter - Spring 2025



### 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](http://stvincentdayton.org)

### FURNITURE PICK UP

Please call 937.425.0592.

### WE ALL GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS.

#### WILL YOU BE OURS?



Become a Steadfast Friend with a monthly gift to support St. Vincent de Paul's ministries. Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting [stvincentdayton.org/friends](http://stvincentdayton.org/friends).

### 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

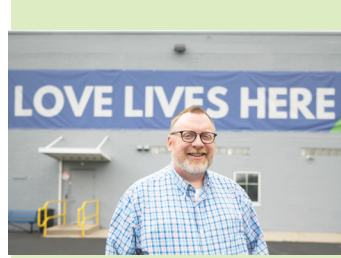
Our mission is to, with Christian purpose, accompany those in need one person at a time by focusing on shelter, food, and clothing.



@STVINCENTDAYTON



## 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,

This year I've been talking to civic groups about what I believe to be the solution to homelessness: Love One Another!

It's a simple expression, but among life's most difficult activities. It's not a government housing program, it's not a financially lucrative venture, it's not at all efficient, and it seldom gets the attention it should. After all, it is the centerpiece of Christian activity: knowing, loving, and serving God is our very purpose in life (Mt 22:37), and God challenges us to know, to love, and to serve each other (Mt 22:39), since we are all one body in Jesus Christ.

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

## 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 Bob and Carolyn, Steadfast Friends of St. Vincent de Paul. They believe St. Vincent de Paul's mission puts their faith in action. "We are really committed to the gospel message of taking care of the poor and housing the homeless. It's a mandate, that's a primary part of our religion," Bob says.

For them, becoming Steadfast Friends was easy. They say, "We chose to do it monthly. It's easier to give a little at a time. It comes out automatically, we can trust it, and it's easy to change."

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](http://stvincentdayton.org/friends). You can give a neighbor in need one night of shelter with a gift of \$38 per month.

Thank you for loving your neighbor!



*Bob and Carolyn are some of our Steadfast Friends!*

## Serving With Humility

You are walking with Greg as he is getting back on his feet.

"This is my first and last time being homeless," Greg states. "I had a good life. I had a job, a wife, and two kids. I was using and dealing drugs, but I didn't let it control me. I lost control when I got onto crack."

That's when his life began to unravel. "I ran with it. I started to rob and steal. I spent over half of my life in addiction. I grew tired of it. I was killing myself. I lost my job, my house, my wife, and I had nothing."

He went to rehab and spent two years living in recovery houses. When it was time for him to move on, he came to St. Vincent's shelter. He has been here for several months while working to start a new life.

"St. Vincent has given me shelter, food, clothing – they have given me everything. I credit the staff for their support. Ever since I got here, the staff have helped." Greg is working with St. Vincent staff and Goodwill to find employment and housing. He also started serving meals at the shelter.

"I needed to give back," he insists. "If not for here, I would have nowhere else to go. There's no telling what I'd be doing if it wasn't for this place. I don't feel alone."



*A mutual blessing: Joe, the shelter manager, expresses his gratitude for Greg's help during his stay in shelter.*

Shelter manager Joe Gebhart recalls, "Greg came to me humble and willing to assist the shelter with daily tasks to help him keep busy, find a way to give back, and support the staff, who he recognized were working hard to support him and the other guests. I felt as though God brought him to us with a heart to serve at the appropriate time."

There was a great need for help in the shelter's kitchen at the time, and Greg had a background of kitchen experience. Joe says he played an instrumental role in assisting staff and guests with the changes.

"I am grateful for his service," Joe says. "He displays a pleasant, professional attitude and is respected by the guests and staff. It has been a joy having him as a guest at our shelter. We are all praying for his successful transition into housing soon."

As for what he will do when he leaves, Greg says, "When I get out of here, I want to give back. I see myself helping others, passing the friendship of God onto others."

Thank you for walking with guests like Greg and providing shelter, food, and clothing as they work to transition into housing.



*Greg helps serve meals to other guests in shelter as a way to say thank you for the help he receives.*