



Des Moines Council Society of St. Vincent de Paul

VINCENTIAN VOICE

"Friend" our stores on FACEBOOK

First Quarter 2016

www.svdpsdm.org

www.svdpusa.org

(Newsletter can be viewed on-line in color on our Council website)

Dear Friends and Fellow Vincentians,

It is a privilege to be able to write my first article to all of you during the Christmas season. While Christmas has always been my favorite time of year, this year is truly putting the Christ in CHRISTmas for my family and myself. The first several months serving as the Executive Director at St. Vincent de Paul have flown by, and it is a privilege to meet such great people every day.

Each day when I leave work, I leave inspired by the work of the volunteers, staff, and Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul. Every day we see dozens (or hundreds) of individuals in need come through our doors, asking for help to address their basic needs. And each and every day, dozens (if not hundreds) of individuals leave with clothing, food, furniture, Christmas décor, personal hygiene items, continued education, household items, and a sense of dignity.

It is this sense of dignity that inspires me every day. Our volunteers ask for no recognition, they just come in, work, smile, and make St. Vinny's a warmer place. Each day the SVdP team comes to work for so much more than a paycheck. I have seen employees give those in dire straits money from their own wallet, a needed hug, and they treat everyone with respect and dignity.

The number of times in five quick months that I have seen someone come into SVdP distraught, and leave calm, smiling, or peacefully cannot accurately be counted. This is a direct result of the love and dignity these individuals experience every day when they interact with our volunteers and staff. John 3:17 really hits the mark saying, "If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?" It is my heartfelt belief that dignity is the single greatest gift that we can give to another human being.

In addition to the love and dignity shared by those involved with SVdP every day, our staff, volunteers, and Conferences work diligently to provide food baskets, a free meal on Christmas Eve, and toys to over 1,200 individuals who most need them. It is the selflessness and dedication to serving others that leaves me in awe. During December alone, clients of SVdP will benefit from over 1,500 volunteer hours, more than \$100,000 in charity, and dignity and respect from more than 50 volunteers and staff.



Pictured: Store Employees Tammie Wellons, Jessica Daab, Chasity DeMaranville, Nicole Lewis and Jerry LaRue helping at the SVdP 2nd Annual Christmas Eve Chili Neighborhood Luncheon.

Pictured: Thanksgiving food prepared for families assisted by our Council SVdP Social Service office.



This, my friends, is why I bold **CHRIST** in CHRISTmas when talking about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Merry CHRISTmas and Happy New Year,

Steve Havemann
Executive Director

Creating Happy Holidays for All

The holidays are always a difficult time for those most in need. Children need Christmas presents, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners need to be prepared, and sometimes, people just need a friendly smile and a little help.

During the holiday season, the staff and volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul worked tirelessly to provide a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas to hundreds of families in need. In order to accomplish this important work, there have been several specific efforts to help those most in need.

Thanksgiving Baskets:

With the help of more than five volunteers at the store and the many conference Vincentians St. Vincent DePaul Served 364 families, or 1,533 individuals for Thanksgiving this year. At the store we assembled and distributed Thanksgiving meal baskets that contained a Turkey or Ham, canned vegetables, stuffing, potatoes and gravy, pie, and lots of fresh produce, which was generously donated by Capitol City Produce.



Pictured: SVdP employees and volunteers helping to load St. Anthony SVdP Conference produce for Thanksgiving food baskets.

Christmas Baskets:

City-wide St. Vincent de Paul served 295 families, or 1,205 individuals with Christmas food baskets in 2015. The baskets prepared for store pickup by Council Social Service assisted families again included a Turkey or Ham, canned veggies, stuffing, potatoes and gravy, pumpkin pie, jello, and a variety of fresh produce, again donated by Capitol City Produce. All in all, it took about six hours to distribute the Christmas goodies to families in need.

Operation Santa Claus:

This year, with the help of over 30 volunteers, SVdP Operation Santa Claus partnered with the United States

Marine Corps to provide a Merry Christmas with toys to over



1,200 children up to age 14. Working with United Way 211 (local crisis resource number) and the SVdP Conferences, we helped over 450 families.

Pictured:

SVdP Operation Santa Claus Volunteers in action.

Feeding Those in Need, and Having Fun



Who doesn't love chili? It is warm, hearty, and always tastes like football and winter.

Each year, local pantries and shelters struggle to

provide food and meals every day for those in need, especially around the holidays. Christmas Eve tends to be one of the days where food is less abundant, so the team at St. Vincent de Paul decided to step-up and provide a fresh, hearty meal to anyone that is hungry on Christmas Eve around the lunch hour.

The second annual SVdP Chili Dinner was served between 11:30AM-1:00PM, and we saw more than 20 volunteers join the entire SVdP staff to serve 19 pots of home-made chili, sandwiches, fruit, and more.



Pictured: Attendees and volunteers at the Chili Dinner. Circuits were popping with all the crockpots!



Des Moines Bucs Partner with SVdP for 2015-16

In a true act of generosity, the Des Moines Buccaneers Hockey Team selected SVdP as their 2015-16 partner charity, the first organization ever to hold this honor.

As a gift, the Des Moines Bucs have allowed SVdP to host a booth at 26 Bucs home games this season, which will provide SVdP visibility to over 100,000 community members. In addition, two large SVdP banners adorn the walls of the 95KGGO Buccaneers Arena!



Pictured:
Executive
Director Steve
Havemann,
Volunteer Jeff
Witzke, Winger,
63rd St. Store
Supervisor Jerry
LaRue, and three
Bucs
Cheerleaders.

REFLECTIONS –

**From the Desk of
Fr. John Bertogli**

Council Spiritual Director

Christmas calls us to celebrate the Spirit of Jesus. His Spirit dawns on us as the light of the world that gives vision towards His Father's Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven." The Spirit of Jesus grows within us as it did for Mary, Joseph and the shepherds who saw the "word made flesh" in their midst. The Spirit of Christ is peace the angels proclaimed as they praised God singing "Glory to God in high heaven."

What does the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of Christ's Mass, Christmas, have to do with our Spirits, Spirits that get tired, discouraged, lonely and confused; longing for the Spirit's fruits of peace, joy and hope? The answer can be found in the words of St. Bernard whose words are really our own. "Lord Jesus, you came, renewing life within our darkest night. Touch, hear, heal and gaze upon our human plight, so full of fears and say, "peace be with you". Let us learn the quiet surrender of Joseph's faith and Mary's full surrender to divinity. Be star, be bread, be home, O Christ for all humanity."

"I come to proclaim good news to you, tidings of great joy to be shared by the whole people." This day in David's City, a savior has been born for you." A blessed Christmas to all and a holy year of grace, mercy, and peace from the Lord in 2016.

Father John O. Bertogli
St. Vincent DePaul, Metro Chaplain

Friends of the Poor Walk:

"Walk a Mile in Our Shoes" "Help Us, Help Others" is the motto of St. Vincent de Paul. Unfortunately, it can be a challenge to effectively help others without needed sufficient financial resources,

both as a District Council and at the Conference level.



As a result, on October 4th, over 100 Vincentians took to the walking trails of Pete

Crivaro Park in Des Moines to raise funds for the District Council and their conferences.

With nine Conferences and the District Council participating, nearly \$7,100 was raised towards the charitable work of St. Vincent de Paul. St. Elizabeth's raised over \$1,000 for their Conference, with the District Council coming in second with nearly \$500.

Walk chair Moe Kauzlarich shared, "Thanks to all volunteers & sponsors for all of their time and talents/donations!"

Volunteer Opportunities

Office Support: We are looking for volunteers to help answer phones and provide clerical support in the administrative offices. Please contact Mary Beck at 515.282.8327 ext. 10

Be a Mentor: The Tom Varilek Education Center is looking for volunteers to mentor students in the HiSED and other classes. Please contact Andrew Gross at 515.282.8327 ext. 17

Social Services: Social Services is looking for help during upcoming food pantry nights and with data entry. Please contact Chasity DeMaranville at 515.282.8327 ext. 14

Store: The store is always in need of help sorting, stocking, and displaying the quality goods we receive. Please contact Jessica Daab at 515.282.8327 ext. 11

What's New

Education Center:

1. HiSED (High School Equivalency Diploma) classes begin January 19th.
2. First Friday Financial Literacy is held the first Friday of each month from 9:00AM-11:30AM
3. Healthy Relationship Training and Dress for Success sessions will begin in 2016.

Social Services:

1. We are in need of additional shelving and large, high-quality refrigeration units
2. The 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month are food pantry nights from 5:00PM-7:30PM, we'd love to have your help
3. Donations are always needed

Stores:

1. 63rd Street has all clothing for \$2.00, and children's clothing for \$0.75
2. We are now partnering with United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants to help cloth those in need
3. We are now on Facebook. Please like our Facebook pages for updates on sales and specials

Please give us a call and come down and visit us, we'd love to show you around!

SVdP Has a National Vehicle Donation Program

It's a tax deductible donation. 1. Fill out an on-line form on our national website (www.svdpusa.org) or call 800-322-8284, available 24hrs/day, 7 days/wk. It takes just a few minutes. 2. We'll have the vehicle picked up within 24 hours. 3. We'll fill out all the tax forms and send them to you.

Contact Us

We welcome your suggestions to improve our services. Feel free to contact us:

President Jim Wachuta:

president@svdpdsm.org

Executive Director Steve Havemann:

execdir@svdpdsm.org or 282-8328 ext. 12

Office Manager Mary Beck:

secretary@svdpdsm.org or 282-8328

Retail Operations Director Jessica Daab:

retaildirector@svdpdsm.org or 282-8328, ext. 11

Social Services Director Chasity DeMaranville:

socialservices@svdpdsm.org or 282-8328, ext. 14

Education Center Director Andrew Gross:

agross@svdpdsm.org or 282-8328, ext. 17

2015-2016

Dates to Remember

December 24 Thu:	SVdP Annual Neighborhood Chili Dinner 11:00AM - 1:30PM
December 25 Fri	Merry Christmas!
January 1, 2016	Happy New Year!
January 5 & 19 Tue	Evening Food Pantry 5:00PM – 7:30PM
January 10 Sun: 8:30 AM mass	Quarterly Breakfast Meeting All Saints Catholic Church
January 21 Thu: 5:30PM	Exec Committee Meeting
Feb 2 & 16 Tue	Evening Food Pantry 5:00PM – 7:30PM
Feb 18 Thu	Full Board Meeting 5:30PM
March 1 & 15 Tue	Evening Food Pantry 5:00PM – 7:30PM
March 17 Thu	Full Board Meeting 5:30PM
April 17 Sun: 8:30 AM mass	Quarterly Breakfast Meeting St. Anthony's Cath Church

Check out our new website:

www.svdpsdm.org

Find us on Facebook at:

Sixth Avenue Store:

<https://www.facebook.com/svdponsixth>

63rd Street Store:

<https://www.facebook.com/svdpon63rd>