



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023

THRIFT STORE NEWS

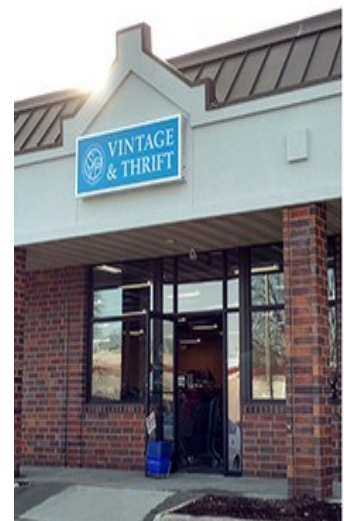


Fall in Love with Fall decor

Fall in love with saving money. We offer a great way to add a seasonal touch to your home without touching too much of your bank account. All of our locations will be ready for you decorating needs starting in August.

BACK TO SCHOOL THE AFFORDABLE WAY

We are ramping up our sales floor to add more great variety of quality, affordable clothing for kids, teens, and college students. Jump back into school by fulfilling all your needs with a new wardrobe, select school supplies, bags and backpacks. There is something for everyone.



Stay cool before the Iowa State Fair by stopping into one of our locations to donate and shop. All stores have had a great summer season. We had Christmas in July and launched the Holiday Shop for July. The stores saw an increase in donations this last quarter. Thank you! This is key to our success and our mission. Did you know.....Part of our community support is to offer those in need a new mattress and box spring. We partner with Polk County General Assistance to provide mattresses of any size to help individuals in Polk County. We provided over 80 individuals with a new bed this last quarter. For more information, please visit one of our 3 locations. The 73rd street location would love to see you again, while navigating the road construction. Though 8th street is blocked off coming in from the south, we are very accessible from I-235 and 73rd street heading south. We would love to have you navigate over soon!



Ways to donate

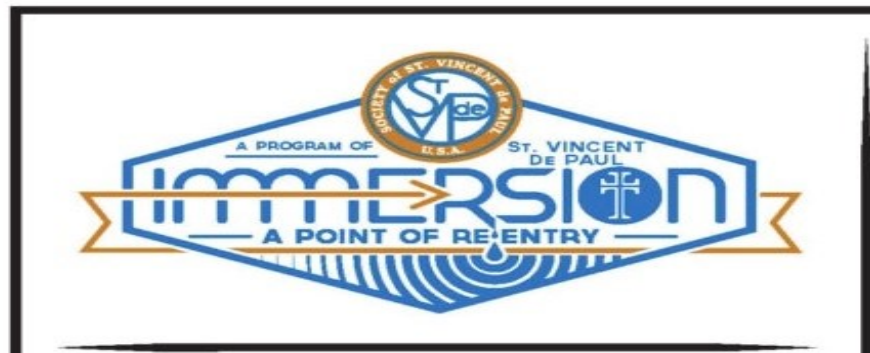
We want to make donating to us easy for you! There are multiple way to give that support the stores and social services

1. Drop off at any one of our 3 locations Monday thru Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM.
2. Schedule a pick up via online or phone. Our website is www.svdpsdm.org or call 515-282-8327. This service is available for all donation sizes.

3. Visiting us online at www.svdpsdm.org and select donate to contribute monetarily. This option goes directly to social services.

Volunteer Needs

Do you have a free weekend and would like to bring a group to volunteer? We could use your help to accomplish larger projects throughout the fall season. Let us know email: dirretailops@svdpdsm.org



Our Immersion Reentry program is constantly evolving. After a slow first quarter, we enrolled 67 new clients into the program during quarter 2. Our services have expanded and now include onsite service at the Polk County Jail and Ft. Des Moines Correctional facility. During this time, the Immersion team can discuss barriers that clients face, and resources available after release. This provides the inmate a jumpstart on their reentry plan and their path to self-sufficiency.

We instruct Healthy Relationship class to both the guests receiving treatment and their support team through our continued partnership with Bridges of Iowa. This quarter we have received notes of appreciation from family members of those in treatment. Program success is measured in many ways. These are quotes from family members who participated in the classes:

"I found the class helpful and enjoyed your examples of how you apply the tools to your life."

"Thank you for taking time to run this course. It was very informative and a positive thing!"

"I just got done with the reentry class, it was insightful on the pillars and it gave me a lot to think about."



The goal of the Back2Work (B2W) Program is to help unemployed or underemployed individuals work their way toward self-sufficiency using a wholistic learning approach. Through classroom learning, internships, and individualized case management individuals will be ready to be successful in the workplace as well as the other components of their life. The ultimate hope of the B2W program is self-sufficiency for our clients, thereby fulfilling the primary mission of St. Vincent de Paul.

Following each classroom experience, participants will either complete an internship or proceed to direct employment depending on their individualized career plan. If participants complete a four-week internship, they are putting into practice what was taught during the classroom experience. If they choose direct employment, they continue to meet with the classroom facilitator and give progress updates.

SVdP has employer partners who we work with based on what participants are interested in. SVdP program partners with over thirty Employer Partners that place our participants in their organization. We have had great success with several of our Partners who have hired our participants long-term.

Our recent success story is Jamie Peterson. We are excited to welcome Jamie Petersen to our Social Services team here at SVdP. Jamie will be training and will be housed at our Army Post Pantry. Jamie was a participant in our Back2Work program over a year ago. She was hired by SVdP following her internship at our 6th Ave location. She then was part of the team that helped open the Windsor Heights location. Jamie was most recently a key holder at Windsor Heights when the pantry position became open. Jamie is also returning to college to take courses in social work. Jamie is very excited to learn her new role and jump in!

Cohort leaders follow-up with all participants and their employers follow program completion. Data is collected for up to one year following the program. Data shows that in two of the groups since in-person B2W restarted, all the participants that completed class are now employed at a livable wage. Long-term data shows a strong completion rate of the participants that enrolled into the class, as well as a majority of participants maintaining employment for a significant period of time following the classroom portion of B2W.

Since 2023 3 full classes of Back2Work. 95% of the participants are either working or continuing their education or both. Over half were offered direct employment. 3 completed internships and were then offered employment. The program continues to have great outcomes and successful participants who are able to become self-sufficient.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD

St. Vincent de Paul Des Moines (SVdP) has two food pantries that both sit in what use to be called a “food desert.” The definition of a food dessert is an urban area in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good -quality fresh food. Fortunately, SVdP worked to address the problem with Polk County leadership.

Between both locations, clients have access to food six days a week. On average, each pantry serves at least 15 households a day. Clients can receive food, clothing, personal hygiene or household items that they are in need of at absolutely no cost to them. The pictures to the left show some of the household, and personal hygiene items as well as essential infant items that our clients have access to.

The need for serving individuals in need of food only continues to grow. On average between our two pantries, we serve over 1400 individuals a month. As the need for assistance has increased, so has the cost of food. We are grateful for the Conferences that continue to support our pantries monetarily on a monthly basis. We are also grateful for the Conference members who donate eggs and make the bread runs on a weekly basis, and volunteer in our pantries. We could not do it without all of you!

We are grateful to the different Food Rescue partners that we pick up food from on a daily

basis. That helps cover some of the needs of our clients. We also receive fresh produce once a week from Capital City Produce which provides clients healthy options.

Our staff works hard to address the needs of the clients that come through the doors of SVdP. Over 65% of our clients are a dual income home. Over 40% of our clients also receive SNAP (Food Stamps) monthly. Clients can make an appointment 15 days after their last appointment. Staff is able to work with participants and help them get the resources they need to become self-sufficient. A recent example of a success story Includes a staff member that had been working with a client who came to Iowa May 16th from San Diego. He had 10 1/2 years sober when he relapsed Nov. 2022. He battled with his addiction and was homeless until finding shelter at the Bethel Mission. SVdP helped him apply for food stamps, offered resources for a free phone, clothing, hygiene, and a bus pass to find employment. This client came in hopeless and feeling defeated. He now has two jobs and is two months clean and sober! He would like to express his gratitude for the support he received when he needed it most, and say Thank You to SVdP.

WELCOME OUR NEW TEAM MEMBER

St. Vincent de Paul welcomes new Director of Programs, Kyle Savage, to the team.

Kyle is an attorney serving Iowa since 2020. Kyle has seen how incarceration impacts his clients and is excited for the opportunity to work with individuals re-entering society. Kyle will be overseeing our Immersion program, Back2Work, pantries, and other programs at St. Vincent de Paul.

Prior to law school at Creighton, Kyle ran his own companies, primarily working in telehealth and e-publishing. St. Vincent de Paul is excited to have Kyle's unique experience on our team.



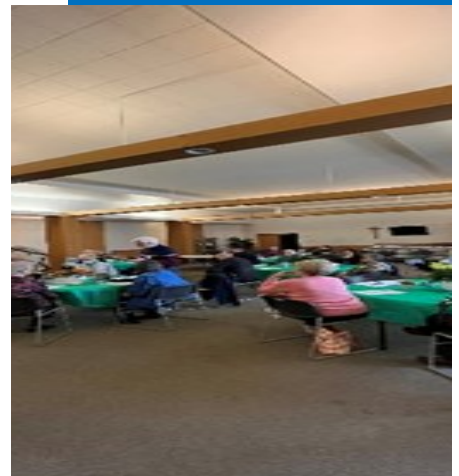
VOLUNTEERS

St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) has AMAZING Volunteers that support our mission daily. Recently, we celebrated our volunteers with a volunteer appreciation brunch. It was a great time of fellowship as well as, fun with a little history of SVdP game. Harvest Academy participants are a great partner in our volunteer events at all of our locations. We are always grateful for their participation.

National SVdP is implementing a National Safeguarding Policy to keep our staff, volunteers, participants and client safe. Starting in October all the current volunteers as well as our Conferences, and SVdP Board members, will all go

through an updated SVdP Safeguarding Orientation. We currently have a volunteer onboarding that is held once a month for anyone who is interested in learning more about volunteering.

You can volunteer an hour a week or 40 whatever you want! Currently we have over 150 volunteers that help between our three locations. For more information on volunteering please contact Holly Dommer: holly.dommer@svdpdsm.org



A WORD FROM FATHER JOHN BERTOGLI

We find ourselves in the most mature of the four seasons of the year – summer. It initiates with the remembrance of all who have given their lives in service to our country with Memorial Day. It continues with Independence Day as we celebrate the gift of freedom. It closes with giving thanks for all who share their God given talents and gifts with various forms of industrious works on Labor Day. The temperatures are warmer, the nights longer. Long weekends and vacation times are enjoyed. Retreat centers make room for those who seek reflection and recollection. It is a time for rest and recreation. Not always so for the minimal and marginal in our midst.

The poor lodge in our streets and at stop signs. The homeless come to our churches seeking assistance. The abused and dependent in all forms look for safety and direction. The spiritually lost seek more than organized religion and piety. The litany goes on and on. Our response as SVDP members is prayer and action. We pray God grant us wisdom, insight, courage, and compassion to serve the afflicted in our midst. Our action emphasizes the corporal and spiritual works of Mary, our Lord lays out for us in the gospel. It is asking for the grace to see His face in those we attempt to serve. We support each other, lift up the burdened as we build the Body of Christ. We fill our cups with the sacramental life of the church. This allows others to drink fully from what we have received as a gift. Our major and minor efforts make a difference in the lives of those we trust and reach out forward. God is grateful for our apostolates of being agents of His Son's good news.

A Blessed Summer to us all!

Fr. John O. Bertogli, Metro SVDP Chaplin

