



May 2024 Newsletter SVdP Des Moines



A letter from Father John Bertogli

We find ourselves in these fifty Easter days. It is a time of renewed hope in the power of the Risen Lord. Our lives we touched and moved by Christ's resurrection. Baptized into His dying and rising we are called to share the Gospel – to be missionary disciples. We are to find Jesus in unexpected places and people. We are summoned to accompany others on their journey as we walk together recognizing Christ's presence in one another.

This year celebrates the 100th anniversary of the labors of the St. Vincent De Paul Society in the Des Moines area. Through our efforts and of those who have gone before us, the words of the Master have been enfolded to those in need. "I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was naked, and you clothed me. I was in prison, and you visited me. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." Patience, compassion, and kindness have allowed Vincentians to see the face of Christ in those they serve. In gratitude for all that has been done and will continue to be done in God's name, we are thankful.

This summer the Midwestern St. Vincent De Paul Convention will be hosted in our metro. We will welcome Council members from various states. It will take place June 28 and 29 at the Embassy Suites. Anniversary events will take place in September. Plan to attend these special occasions.

Continue to pray for the work of our society and for one another. Thanks for being a missionary disciple.

A Blest Easter Season to all!

Fr. John O. Bertogli, Chaplin



THRIFT STORE NEWS

We just wrapped our second quarter and are half way through our fiscal year already. In taking a moment to reflect on the second quarter I wanted to include the store managers in my updates and thank them for their hard work and focus on our mission. Starting off at the 6th avenue location, In a touch base with Jessica, the store manager of this location for over 20 years!!! Jess shared the excitement of a recent younger crowd popping into her store to find vintage 80's t-shirts and shoes. Bringing the next generation of shoppers into her store. It's really great to see the new customers stop in and really get excited for the hunt. Thank you, Jessica for the great work you do for all these years. Heading over to Army Post I want everyone to welcome our newest store manager, Rachelle. Rachelle has successfully completed a full quarter with great results. Please stop by the Army Post store to see the fresh updates Rachelle has brought to the store. Rachelle has a great passion for our mission, and it shows through all her work in the store. It shows through how nice the store and stockroom look. We appreciate the hard work and dedication to our mission. Thank you, Rachelle! Last, but not least is our 73rd Street location. Liz, our store manager, invites you to stop by her location to shop unique items we regularly pick up from estate and tag sales, The estate donations offer some great pieces that we affordably price throughout each month. Liz and team do a great job showcasing all their great donations. It really makes a difference shopping a clean, organized, well displayed store. Thank you, Liz for your hard work found in your store and with your staff. We appreciate it!





Vinny's Rewards & Email

Thank you all for your ongoing support of all our locations. The more we succeed in our stores, the more success we have in helping the community. Join our rewards program. Vinny's Rewards offer a great perk for shopping affordable items in our stores. Earn points on purchases that add up fast. Utilize your points to add saving to your purchases and earn free items. Don't forget to add yourself to the email program and learn of great upcoming events.



Ways To Donate

We want to make donating to us easy for you! There are multiple ways to give that support the stores and social services. Drop off at any one of our 3 locations Monday thru Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM. 1. Schedule a pickup via online or phone. Online at www.svdpsdm.org or call 2. 515-282-8327. This service is available for smaller or larger donations. 3. Visit us online at www.svdpsdm.org and select donate to contribute monetarily. This option goes directly to social services

SUMMER ESSENTIALS



SUNDRESS



GOLD JEWELRY



CHUNKY SANDALS



STRAW BAG



BATHING SUIT



DENIM SHORTS



SUN HAT



MINIMALIST SANDALS



ROMPER



TOTE BAG



SUNSCREEN



SUNGLASSES

[SHER\\$HEGOES.COM](http://SHER$HEGOES.COM)

Donation Needs Please

We are far ahead of schedule putting out great spring and summer apparel. We need your help to provide gently worn women's and men's summer apparel to make the rest of spring of summer great here at St. Vincent de Paul. All locations need your help



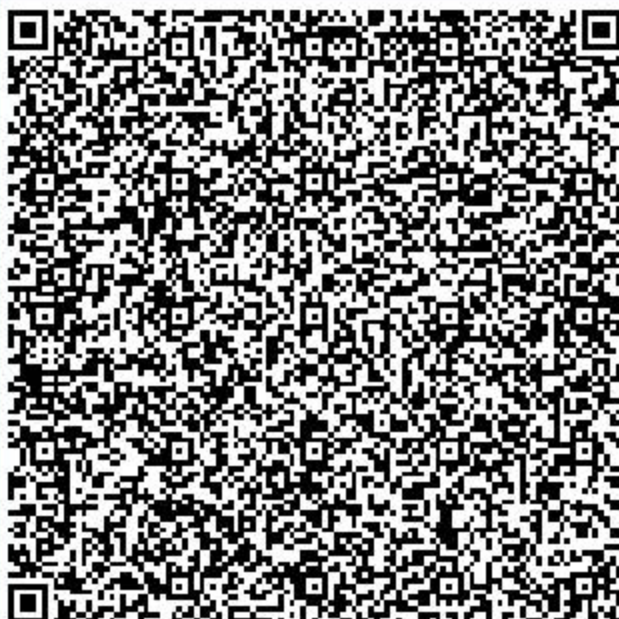
St. Vincent de Paul Des Moines is turning 100!

Save the date for a gala celebrating SVdP 100th anniversary of service in Central Iowa.

When: 100 Year Anniversary Gala (Paris Themed) September 26th at Des Moines Golf and Country Club and September 27th (The Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul) morning mass and brunch

Tickets: We don't have final pricing for tickets, so stay tuned for more information

Scan to register for Midwest Regional



Did You Know...

St. Vincent de Paul Des Moines is hosting the MidWest Regional meeting this year?

Please join us June 28th-29th for friendship, spirituality, and great information on the National and Regional work of SVdP

Please register at: We want to make donating to us easy for you! There are multiple ways to give that support the stores and social services. Drop off at any one of our 3 locations Monday thru Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM. 1. Schedule a pickup via online or phone. Online at www.svdpsdm.org or call 2. 515-282-8327. This service is available for smaller or larger donations. 3. Visit us online at www.svdpsdm.org and select donate to contribute monetarily. This option goes directly to social services

Or scan the QR code to register



Volunteers

St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) has AMAZING Volunteers that support the mission daily. Recently, we celebrated our volunteers with a volunteer appreciation luncheon. It was a great time of fellowship as well as fun with a game helping us gear up for our 100th Year Anniversary Paris themed celebration.

Harvest Academy participants are a great partner in our volunteer events at all of our locations. We are always grateful for their participation. They do a great job sharing our mission with customers as well as providing us the extra help that is needed at our different locations.

We continue to do monthly onboardings for new volunteers. This is part of our National Safeguarding Policy requirements. All Conference members, board members, and volunteers must complete this training prior to volunteering at any of our locations.

We want to say thank you to all of our volunteers for all your hard work and dedication to our mission. We can't do it without you. We welcome anyone who has a few hours to give.

You can volunteer an hour a week or 40 whatever you want! Currently we have over 125 volunteers that help between our three locations. For more information on volunteering please contact Holly Dommer at holly.dommer@svdpdsm.org.



St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantries

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. Clients are able to access food and one other service(personal hygiene, household, or clothing) at their appointments.

The need for serving individuals in need of food only continues to grow. On average between our two pantries, we serve close to 1600 individuals a month. As the need for assistance has increased, so has the cost of food. It was recently stated that the cost of food has increased 3% last month alone. 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. Many of the clients that have come to our pantries have also ben funneled into our Immersion and Back2Work programs just from the conversations with the staff in regards to their current situations. This shows how SVdP is helping others work towards self-sufficiency.



Introducing Tonya Gordon, our new Director of Community Services

My name is Tonya Gordon and I am excited to join the St. Vincent de Paul team as The Director of Social Services. A primary role of my position will be overseeing social service programs such as Back 2 Work, Immersion, and the Food Bank. I also look forward to engaging in community outreach to enhance and establish partnerships and support.

My background in the field of social services has been in various professional roles such as mental health counseling and rehabilitation, family advocacy, career counseling, and mentoring. I am thrilled to be part of an organization also driven by a desire to support self-sufficiency, empower communities, and create opportunities for positive change.

When I am not serving in this new role, I can be found thrifting (at St. Vincent of course), trailriding and camping with my horses, and working on home improvement projects. I love nature, the outdoors, and connecting with others. I hope to cross paths with many of you as I grow with St Vincent de Paul. But if you see me out in the community engaging in any of these roles feel free to introduce yourself!

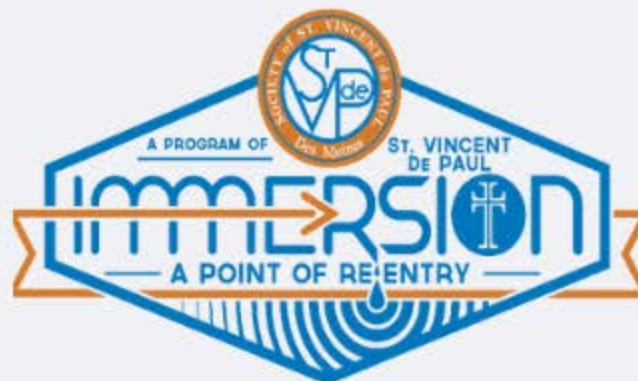


The goal of the Back2Work (B2W) Program is to help unemployed or underemployed individuals work their way toward self-sufficiency using a wholistic learning approach. Through classroom learning, internships, and individualized case management individuals will be ready to be successful in the workplace 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. Back2Work facilitators follow-up with all participants and their employers following 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.

During fiscal year 2024 Back2Work has hosted 6 full classes. 93% of the participants are either working or continuing their education or both. Over half were offered direct employment. Others completed internships and were either offered employment at that time or were coached in supervised job search. The program continues to have great outcomes and successful participants who are able to become self-sufficient.



Second chances are very important at SVdP. Not only do we provide second chances for the items sold in the retail store, but we also provide second chance services for those who have been affected by incarceration and their families. Our Immersion Reentry program, which is Nationally replicated, has expanded not only the number of participants enrolled in the program, but also expanding where we provide services. Immersion staff now makes monthly appearances at the Polk County Jail, Ankeny Community Connection Center, Beacon of Life (women's residential program) Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter, Iowa Correctional Institution for Women and the Newton Correctional facility. Staff are available to determine clients' needs and to help them navigate through obstacles to gain the necessary resources. We are always looking for volunteers. If you have interest in learning more about the program, or interested in helping serve those in need, please reach out to Randi.radosevich@svdpdsm.org.

Join us at Copper Creek Golf Course on Thursday, May 23 as we tee up our annual Fight Food Insecurity golf fundraiser. All proceeds will go directly to support our food pantries so we can provide healthy food options to those we serve. This is a big year as it is our 30th annual golf fundraiser and our 100 yr. anniversary being in the Des Moines area. Whether you are a golfer, interested in being a sponsor or want to donate you can find all of the information needed on our website: www.svdpsdm.org. If you have any questions feel free to email Randi.radosevich@svdpsdm.org. We look forward to seeing you there.



Newsletter Update for Conferences

As the SVDP Conference Liaison, my job is to provide support from the council to the fourteen Des Moines area conferences. I help by attending conference meetings a few times per year to answer questions, offer clarifications, provide ideas for recruitment, create documents that may help make their work easier and encourage them to be the best they can be.

I have focused the last several months on the spiritual and friendship values which are two of the three core values of SVDP. The third is service, which happens easily when a conference is grounded in friendship and spirituality. When there is trust among the members and they are grounded in Gospel values, they know and believe that they are called to serve the poor and the good works of the conference flow from these values.

St. Vincent de Paul USA's new National President, John Berry, is focusing on a two year effort called Vision SVdP, a series of listening sessions to help our Society move forward for future generations. There will be much more to come.

The quarterly breakfasts, the monthly president's meetings, and the support of the liaison has helped our conferences stay connected, be consistent and feel appreciated for all they do in their parish and in the community. We have created a best practices list to help conferences achieve excellence in how they operate and how they serve the poor.

We have two major challenges ahead. One is to get more parishes in the Des Moines area to have a SVDP conference, while the second challenge is recruitment. I have had the wonderful opportunity to speak to parish committees to give an overview of SVdP. It always surprises me to find out how many folks in our community do not know about SVdP not only at the parish level, but they don't know about our thrift stores, donation pick up, or the programs that SVdP offers. From these presentations we have not only educated those present about our Society, but we have also recruited new membership.

Invite, invite, invite! The best and proven way to get new members is to talk about the good works of the conference with your friends and parishioners. A personal invitation continues to be the best way to get new members. The first step is to ask someone to help you with a project. If they liked it, ask again. If they seem engaged, invite them to come to a meeting with you to hear about all the other projects that are happening and see if they want to get more involved. It is better to invite to a project rather than invite to a committee meeting. It is also important for members to know about all the projects and programs that are happening at the council level so they can share with folks that SVDP is not just a parish program, it is also a community, national and international program reaching out and helping folks in need across the world.

Laurie Ready, SVDP Conference Liaison