



# † A VINCENTIAN VOICE †

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St. Louise de Marillac

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**Corporal Works of Mercy**

- Feed the hungry.
- Give drink to the thirsty.
- Clothe the naked.
- Visit the sick.
- Shelter the homeless.
- Visit the imprisoned.
- Bury the dead.

**Spiritual Works of Mercy**

- Admonish sinners.
- Instruct the ignorant.
- Counsel the doubtful.
- Comfort the sorrowing.
- Bear wrongs patiently.
- Forgive all injuries.
- Pray for the living and dead.



**A MINUTE MEDITATION**

**A Reflection From Father Ken York, Spiritual Moderator**

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing...

I know my Master is there and that is enough.'

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT...**

Dear Friends,

I would like to ask everyone reading this newsletter to take a moment and say a prayer for our ministry. The needs are so great and we face challenges at every turn. But faith and prayer are the cornerstones of St. Vincent de Paul and we will continue to trust in Divine Providence to provide for our ministry. May God bless our dedicated Vincentians who give unselfishly to serve others, to our volunteers who share their time and talents, to our committed donors who are an ESSENTIAL part of our charity, and to all the suffering poor that share the heart of Jesus.

Peace, Joe



## **BELLEVILLE COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKS**

### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THRIFT STORE**

#### **A Thank You To Gerry Arens!**

Recent visitors to the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store have all been amazed at the changes that have been made since the beginning of the year. Under the guidance and direction of volunteer Gerry Arens, the thrift store has experienced major "housecleaning" and organizational improvements!

The store warehouse has been reorganized and cleaned to maximize available space and provide more organization and efficiency. Standardized procedures have been implemented to improve the process of receiving and sorting donations along with organizing temporary storage of sold merchandise awaiting pick-up or delivery. Hooks, racks, bins, and shelving have been added to help the efficiency, productivity and safety of the warehouse.

Similar changes in the front of the store are improving overall operations and appearance of the thrift store. Better use of space in this area allows more product to be available on the sales floor. Shelving has been added though out the store for linens, house wares and electronics. The shoe and clothing areas have been enlarged and a brand new section for children's clothing has been added. These changes all provide for a greater selection and quantity of merchandise.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is extremely grateful to Gerry Arens. He had a vision for improvements at the thrift store and spent four months making that vision come true. His time, energy, and talents have had a profound impact. **THANK YOU GERRY!** We will continue these efforts to make the store an instrument of our ministry and a beacon of hope to the needy we strive to serve.



### **COSGROVE'S SOUP KITCHEN**

#### **HELP! SATURDAY OPENING**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to extend a grateful thank you to Iva Helf and everyone from Scott Air Force Base who volunteered the third Saturday of the month. Although they are no longer able to provide lunch at Cosgrove's Kitchen, their dedication and kindness will always be remembered!

Because of their departure, **we are in need of a crew to take over the third Saturdays of the month!** Please call 618-799-8505 if you are interested in helping!

#### **KITCHEN REGISTRATION**

A new program was instituted at Cosgrove's Kitchen on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Sister Pat Dalton and numerous other volunteers, we have registered over 400 people who utilize the services of our Soup Kitchen. The purpose of this program is to enhance the safety at our kitchen by allowing us to know those we are serving as well as provide information in case of a medical emergency. Diners are asked to show their registration card when they come for lunch-registration cards & replacement cards are issued daily. The program, which took about three months to develop, is being accepted very positively by patrons & employees.

#### **A "FACE-LIFT"**

With the help of volunteer time and talents, Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen has recently undergone a new "Face Lift" The back wall of the kitchen was moved to allow seating for up to twenty additional diners. A fresh coat of paint and matching floor tile has made the room bright, cheerful and a welcoming place to enjoy lunch and the company of others.



#### **HELP NEEDED TO "Kool the Kitchen!"**

School is out and summer is here. At Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen this means only one thing- more children and greater need. We struggle during the heat of summer to keep the poor fed and cooled off. Cosgrove's Kitchen is a designated cooling center for the community and we provide respite from the scorching rays of the sun. However, our best efforts cost money and the Ameren bill is our worst nightmare. Any assistance to help us "Kool the Kitchen" would be a blessing! Contributions can be mailed to:

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
"Kool the Kitchen" Fund  
P.O. Box 3310  
East St. Louis, IL. 62203

#### **THANKS TO "WEDNESDAY LADIES"**

St. Vincent de Paul would like to recognize the volunteer efforts of our "Wednesday Ladies" from O'Fallon who help at the thrift store & the St. Vincent de Paul Office every Wednesday. We appreciate your dedication and service to others. **THANK YOU!**

#### **MOBILE SOUP KITCHEN**



**A Message from Gerry Hasenstab**



The Mobile Kitchen Ministry is rolling along well. With summer here and school being out and people going on vacations we have a few open nights during the summer months. I would like to thank all of those who work on the mobile kitchens, serve on the committee and who offer their support through donations or prayers. We have a page on the local SVdP website (svdpsouthil.org). It is currently listed under the SPECIAL WORKS tab. The monthly calendar is posted there as well as great information about the ministry. This summer a video will be produced to be put on the website. Keep checking in to see what happening with the mobile kitchen.

Two years ago the mobile kitchen was on display in St. Louis at a national meeting and the Portland Oregon council was greatly interested in this program. They had to shut down their soup kitchen. Our mobile kitchen concept seemed to be what they needed. They went and developed a mobile kitchen and it is doing well. Our ministry has gone national. Ours is no longer the ONLY mobile kitchen, we are now the FIRST. If you would like to see their bus, go to their website to view a videosvdppdx.org. We hope to have the bus on display again at the national meeting to be held in downtown St. Louis in September. Plans are being made to offer a noon feeding so that some of the young Vincentians attending can experience the program. We will have pictures on the web site if it happens.

**GEAR UP!**



**A Partnership Between Poverty Services and  
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Gear Up Provides Free Clothing for Men  
Seeking Job Opportunities**

#13 Vieux Carre, East St. Louis, IL 62203 398-0608

**Hours**

**Mondays- 9am-1pm  
Tuesdays- 12pm-3pm  
Wednesdays-9: 30-noon  
And by appointment**

Gear Up is excited to report that in the month of May, we served more than 25 men a week and helped them to "Gear Up" for new job opportunities. These clients would otherwise have no other way to obtain the professional attire needed for a job interview. Beginning in July, we will also be offering a monthly class to help

with resume writing, interviewing skills and related job skills. Brian Ford will be presenting these classes.

We are extremely grateful to our dedicated Gear Up volunteers who are giving of their time, energy and talents to make this program a huge success: **Corrine and Jim Wright, Mary and Tom Molitor, Evelyne and Robert Dodson, Mary Ann Burroughs and Lorraine Sugent!**

**IN NEED**

Gear Up is in need of gently used suits, shirts, pants, shoes, and belts, and new socks, and underwear. Donations can be brought to Gear Up during open hours or to the St. Vincent de Paul Office during regular Office Hours.

Gear Up is looking for a few more volunteers to join our team. Please call Pat Hogrebe at 618-799-8505 if you are interested in helping.

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**COOKBOOK GOING TO PRESS!**

The long awaited St. Vincent de Paul Cookbook is going to press! We are so grateful to everyone who submitted a recipe for our book. We are also extremely grateful to a great group of ladies who were in charge of collecting, proofing & organizing all the recipes for the cookbook. **A huge thank you goes out to Patsi Seibert-Padgett & Pat Wade and their volunteers-Fonda Rodriguez, Jan Warnecke, Mary Therese Hoffmann, Stephanie Jones, & Bonnie Souders.**

This cookbook project will allow conferences to raise funds. All proceeds from sales from a conference go right back to that conference for their charity. The remainder of proceeds will go to the Council & 100% of the proceeds will be used for ministry!

**Look for the cookbook to be on sale in October-it will make a wonderful Christmas present!**

**"NO GUN SMOKING"**

Co-sponsored by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Western Catholic Union, "No-Gun Smoking" Dinner Theatre was held on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Die Laughing Dinner Theatre Troop entertained a packed house and more than \$28,000 was raised to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul feeding Ministries. The efforts of Mary Ann Klosterman and the Special Works conference raised \$4,870 with their "Chuck Wagon To Feed the Hungry" & the winner of the raffle was Marilyn Layman from St. Mary's, Belleville. A huge THANKS YOU to ALL who helped to make this event a huge success!



## **VOICE OF THE POOR**

**Belleville Council, Committee Chair, Father Clyde Grogan**

### **Mission Statement**

In the spirit of Christian love and justice, the Voice of the Poor Committee upholds Catholic values by researching, validating, documenting, advocating, and promulgating issues related to the condition of the poor and disenfranchised for the purpose of helping Vincentians to live their faith by acting knowledgeably and credibly as a unified body speaking with one voice for the purpose of building up the Kingdom of God.

### **A PARTNERSHIP TO HELP**

### **CATHOLIC & COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION**

**&**

### **THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

The Belleville Council Society of St. Vincent de Paul is steadfastly dedicated to extending both arms of charity-direct service and advocacy- to try to address the root causes of social injustices. We are committed to speaking out to protect the rights of the underprivileged and to advocate for the marginalized, focusing on issues that negatively impact the poor. Over the past year and a half, the *Voice of the Poor Committee*, has been campaigning against "Pay Day Loans" and looking for viable alternatives. In January, The Belleville Council approached area bankers to explore the idea of starting a SVdP Credit Union. Finding that the application process would be cumbersome and costly, we approached the Catholic Community Credit Union (CCCU) with our ideas of establishing an account through them to assist the poor. They were very receptive and we have proceeded to begin implementation of this credit union concept. This would allow establishment of small loans (\$300 maximum initially) to the needy, nurturing responsibility to the individual, and hopefully avoiding the high usury rates of title and pay day loan facilities. If small loans can be made to people under normal lending institution guidelines, then these individuals can be prevented from going to title and pay day loan stores for loans at exorbitant rates. Additionally, the ability of a credit union member to cash a payroll check without

being charged \$5.00 and up from a currency exchange will greatly benefit the client.

As was set forth, St. Vincent de Paul will deposit funds in an account in the CCCU. These funds will be the security against the loans we will authorize the CCCU to extend. St. Vincent de Paul will screen applicants, and then authorize the CCCU to lend a stated amount. A brief application will be done at the CCCU; the client will have to open an account, thus becoming a member of the CCCU. The loan repayment schedule will be agreed upon with the client with an interest payment of 3%. The CCCU will keep St. Vincent de Paul informed of the loan repayment process or loan delinquencies. We are well aware that the repayment rate may not meet full compliance, but we feel with proper screening and monitoring, it can be successful.

Blessed Sacrament Conference has generously given this program with seed money and we are asking other conferences to also consider contributing to this worthwhile cause. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. All donations are greatly appreciated.

**All conferences can refer clients to this program. Applicants will be screened by the Credit Union Committee for loan approval and required to fill out a loan application. It is the goal of this program to foster fiscal accountability and responsibility. To refer a client for a St. Vincent de Paul Loan, contact the St. Vincent de Paul Office at either 618-394-3568 or 618-799-8505.**

### **VOICE OF THE POOR COMMITTEE MEETING**

*The Belleville Council Voice of the Poor Committee meets the second Tuesday of the odd numbered months. We invite you to join our efforts to defend the rights of those who are suffering from injustice at our next meeting on **July 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM** at the Mount Carmel Cemetery Peace Chapel located at 10101 West Main.*

### **NEW SVDP WEBSITE: CHECK IT OUT!**

Effective March 3<sup>rd</sup> the Belleville Council has a brand new website! Log on at [www.svdpsouthil.org](http://www.svdpsouthil.org) & check it out.



# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PROGRAMS

## Belleville Council



### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL RX. DRUG OUTREACH PROGRAM

Inadequate healthcare is a huge problem that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is forced to confront on a daily basis. The poor are victimized by their poverty because they cannot afford to pay for basic medical services. As an advocate for justice, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been searching for ways to help the underprivileged get access to decent healthcare. Prescription drugs pose a significant challenge because of cost. And the inability to access prescription drugs can greatly affect the health of an individual. For this reason, the Belleville Council has decided to pursue a Prescription Drug Program that will allow us to provide needed medications that treat chronic illnesses for the poor. The plan is being administered through Express Scripts in St. Louis. Marsha England from Express Scripts has been working closely with us to develop the program and will provide training to all conferences later this summer.

A healthcare foundation has pledged initial funding with the contingency that a matching grant in the amount of \$10,000 is provided. The Office of Development is working on completion of securing these funds. The Drug Outreach Program will be ready for implementation in July 2009 and will be a valuable addition to our council programs.



### “MONEY TALK”

“Money Talk” is a free budgeting class offered by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to help people deal with the serious challenge of managing money during these hard economic times and conferences are urged to refer clients to these classes. Attendees will receive a \$5 grocery gift card upon completion of the class made possible by a grant from Wal-Mart. The Council would like to thank Evelyn Weber for volunteering her time, energy and talents to help with this project!

### Class Schedule

**Cahokia Public Library 140 Cahokia Park Dr.**  
Cahokia, IL  
5:15pm June 25, July 30, August 27, September 24

**Belleville Public Library 121 East Washington**  
Belleville, IL  
5:15pm June 18

**Community Interfaith Food Pantry**  
**205 W. B Street**  
Belleville, IL  
**3:00 pm the second & fourth Wednesdays/month**  
July 8, July 22  
August 12, August 26  
September 9, September 23

To register, please call SVdP Office at 618-394-3568 & leave name, address & phone number on extension 3.

### VINCENTIAN GIVING PROGRAMS

*Donations (payable to SVDP) can be mailed to:*  
*St. Vincent de Paul Office PO Box 3310*  
*East St. Louis, Illinois 62203*

### “SVDP GIFT & MEMORIAL FUND”

#### HONOR SOMEONE IN A SPECIAL WAY

The Belleville Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has a program that allows you to honor someone you care about with a contribution in his or her name. The “*Gift Fund*” honors a special person for an event: birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, holidays or any occasion. A donation to the St. Vincent de Paul “*Memorial Fund*” honors the memory of a deceased friend or loved one. A special card will be sent to the family of the person honored. Your name as donor will be designated-the amount will not be disclosed.



### “LOAVES & FISHES”

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Just as Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes in love to feed the hungry crowds, so too can love enable us to multiply our giving to feed the hungry and serve the needy that knock at our door. St. Vincent de Paul is inviting you to help provide a miracle for our special ministries by participating in “Loaves & Fishes.” Your monthly contribution, no matter how large or small, multiplied by the monthly contributions of others will help to keep our programs operational.



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Belleville Council  
#13 Vieux Carre Drive, Suite 2  
East St. Louis, Illinois 62203**



**Volume 6, No.2**

**Spring, 2009**

THE BELLEVILLE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND ITS DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, PARISHES, & BUSINESSES WHO MADE MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS OR PARTICIPATED IN THE SVDP "LOAVES & FISHES" OR GIFT & MEMORIAL FUND FROM MARCH THROUGH MAY 2009.

We will remember you & your loved ones in our prayers and works.

FOUNDATIONS/BUSINESSES

Catholic Social Services/ South IL  
Fisher Pharmacy  
George Renner & Son Funeral Home  
Gleeson Asphalt, Inc  
Helen Brach Foundation  
Holy Family SVDP  
Kassley Mortuary  
K of C St. Augustine Council #260  
Kurrus Funeral Home  
Laborers Internat'l Union of N.A.  
Laborers Internat'l Union 231  
Laborers Internat'l Union 751  
Laborers Internat'l Union 393  
Leggett & Platt Inc.  
Macelrie & Associates, PC  
Millstadt Consolidated School  
Norman Kutterer Family Found.  
Norrenberns Food, Inc.  
Officer Funeral Home  
SIHF  
St. Clare Country Club  
St. Edwards Catholic Church  
St. Clare St. Nicholas SVDP  
St. James SVDP  
Tribouts  
Verizon Matching Gifts  
Wal-Mart Foundation  
Wartburg College  
Weiss Monument Works

PRIVATE DONATIONS

Spencer Aubuchon  
Marcia & Bruce Balonick  
Elizabeth Barrett  
Gregory & Delores Bayley  
Ronald & Sandra Becherer  
Karen & Mark Brigman  
Barbara Leavitt Brown  
Marshall & Joyce Bush  
James & Theresa Carroll  
Mr. & Mrs. Doyle Clubb  
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Diedre Darnall  
Bill & Joyce Day  
Robert & Evelyne Dodson  
Douglas & Anne Dougherty  
Ralph & Mary Eilermann  
Lynn & James Ellison  
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Marilyn Trainor  
Milton & Christine Vodor  
Gilbert & Patricia Vollmer  
Joseph & Laneal Weidenbenner  
James & Corrie Wright

Mary Dolores Wurth  
Rev Ken York

*Every effort has been made to recognize the generosity of all donors. If we made an error by omission or spelling, we offer our sincerest apologies.*

THE BELLEVILLE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXTEND ITS DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO THOSE WHO DONATE THEIR TIME, FOOD, ITEMS FOR THE THRIFT STORE AND FOR ALL OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS.

We will remember you & your loved ones in our prayers and works.

Charity is the name you bear.

Charity it is the robe  
In which you are clothed  
With its three parts:

Love of God,  
Love among yourselves and  
Love of the Poor.

-St. Vincent de Paul





Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Belleville Council  
#13 Vieux Carre Drive, Suite 2  
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Volume 6, No.2

Spring, 2009

## *Values from St. Vincent*

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is committed to having ears to hear the cries of the poor, eyes to see the injustice of their circumstances, and the heart of Jesus to feel their pain. The Belleville Council has been ministering to the needs of the broken for nearly 100 years and we will remain faithful to this charity. But times are difficult and expenses are soaring.

**In an attempt to raise funds to continue our ministries,  
we are starting a new St. Vincent de Paul catalog program.**

We will be praying for God to bless our ministry,  
all those who support our efforts, and the poor we serve.

We are pleased to announce a new program

**“Values From St. Vincent”**

**A Catalog Program sponsored by the Belleville Council of the  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

Why shop the “Big Box” stores when you can shop St. Vinnies?

**100% of the proceeds to benefit St. Vincent de Paul Ministries**

**Quality, New Products**

**Great Prices!**

**Help the Needy!**

1. Browse Our Sale Flier (new flier quarterly-spring, summer, fall, winter)
2. Complete the Order Form
3. Send in your order with a check to St. Vincent de Paul

**Your order will be sent directly to your home!**

**Go to our St. Vincent de Paul website to view the products**

**[www.svdpsouthil.org](http://www.svdpsouthil.org)**