Blanketing Neighbors in Need with Warmth and Compassion

Thanks to all who have already helped promote and/or contributed to the Society’s 34th Annual Blanket Sunday campaign, which kicked off October 10. As a result of financial gifts received to date, we have started the first round of blanket distributions to local agencies.

The need for financial donations will continue throughout the fall and winter, as Blanket Sunday funds allow our Diocesan Council to purchase warm blankets and other necessities in bulk to distribute to neighbors across Northeast Ohio. Last fiscal year, the Society provided more than 6,000 winter blankets to the homeless and 200 beds and mattresses to low-income individuals and families through our Ozanam Centers, Catholic Charities agencies and homeless shelters in the Cleveland, Akron, Lorain/Elyria and Lake/Geauga metropolitan areas.

We anticipate a great need this year for these items, as so many more individuals and families are suffering financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Akron Seeks to Rebuild Its Furniture Ministry

This ministry was very successful. As we know, the need for furniture is great and there are many generous people willing to donate items. If we are able to connect the two once again, it will continue to be a worthwhile endeavor.

The Akron District is planning to rebuild its furniture ministry that was part of Fr. Hilkert Ozanam Center. The ministry was halted when the building that housed the furniture was deemed unsafe more than a year ago. St. Francis de Sales Conference and others were highly involved and would like to bring it back. We are confident that others will welcome the opportunity as well.

If you know of any others willing to help with pickup and delivery, please feel free to call us. We are also looking for approximately 5,000 square feet of (ideally) donated space in the Akron area, preferentially in downtown Akron for a centralized location. If you know of a space that would fit this ministry, please contact Bill Leahy at wleahy57@gmail.com or 330-714-6731.
November begins with the Feast of All Saints and ends with the celebration of Thanksgiving. And so this month we pray in thanksgiving for: the faith of those who have gone before us and for the encouragement that those around us offer day by day; for your presence Lord, whenever two or three of us gather together in your name; and for those whose efforts and financial sacrifice make our Vincentian ministry possible. Together we pray: Help us to love You with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are grateful that we are able to love others as you have loved us. Bless us as we continue our mission. Amen

Prayer Corner

Please keep the following individuals in your prayers:

Juan Saul
Mary Ann Cowling
Cheryl Davis
Paul M.
Al Schiazza
Sr. Cheryl Keehner

St. Vincent de Paul, pray for us.

Prayer is a surge of the heart, it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.

- St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Annual Reports Reminder

Thank you to those Conferences that have already submitted their reports, whether on paper or online! The deadline is November 13, so in case you have any questions or need any help completing it, contact Gary Sole at gsole@svdpcle.org or 216-696-6525 x. 3590.

Again, this is our opportunity to gather all the data from our collective work to share our story and impact!

SVDP to Participate in #WeGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will once again participate in the annual #WeGiveCatholic online fundraiser on Tuesday, December 1st – also known as Giving Tuesday.

Celebrated annually on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #WeGiveCatholic launches Advent and the charitable season by bringing the Catholic community together to give thanks and give back.

#GIVINGTUESDAY
December 1, 2020

Additional Funding Available

Is your Conference struggling to help all those around you? Do you sometimes wish your Conference was able to increase the financial amount it usually provides to your neighbors in need? During this unprecedented pandemic, some families just need extra relief. Can we assist? For more information, contact Anelize Nader at anader@svdpcle.org or 216-696-6525 x. 3560.

Walmart School Supplies Donation

Thank you to our friends at Walmart for donating 10 pallets of school supplies! These and other supplies have been distributed to several schools in need in Lorain, Cleveland and Akron areas.
Every month, we will try to feature a Vincentian from one of our Conferences, sharing what he/she does and the impact of this work on those we serve. Feel free to submit stories about your fellow Vincentians by contacting nschrimpf@svdpcle.org.

Vincentian Spotlight

"Buzz" Pelland by Thomas Segatta, St. Hilary Conference - Fairlawn

The St. Hilary Conference performs the typical outreach to our neighbors in Summit county, like assistance with rent, utilities and furniture. Our assistance is often needed as the result of a lack of employment. One of our members, Lawrence Pelland or “Buzz,” as everyone calls him, maintains a vast network of employer contacts which he leverages to help find gainful employment for those we serve.

Buzz willingly offers his personal cell number to individuals needing help finding work. When one of our neighbors contacts Buzz, he spends time to understand their skills and their personal situation. Some people need to work from home to help take care of a family member, so he gets them work that can be done from their home. Some have limited transportation, so he finds them jobs along the bus line and provides some bus passes to boot. Others have just gotten out of prison and don’t have an ID or social security card, so Buzz meets them at the courthouse and pays for new IDs and cards so they can get hired.

It is very inspiring to our members to receive letters from some of those we have assisted, and they typically include how Buzz helped them find work and how it has turned their life around! It is amazing how the right job can help lift a whole family out of poverty. Buzz knows this well and works to match those wanting to work with good employers needing their skills.

Upcoming Events promoted by our National office

These information-packed presentations are well attended. We encourage you to participate, learn and share!

1. Effective Servant Leadership: Conference Meetings
   What makes effective Conference meetings? Balancing spiritual growth, friendship and service while handling conflicts and making decisions. Nov 4 @ 7:30 PM

2. A new webinar series focusing on Growth & Revitalization
   Join other Vincentians from around the country on the 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 pm for discussions and conversations of Best Practices and Lessons Learned: a new webinar series focusing on Growth & Revitalization.
   • 3rd Tuesdays: focus is on growing Conferences
   • 4th Tuesdays: focus is on revitalizing Conferences

Upcoming Sessions (Click the link to register for each individual webinar)
• November 17: Growing Conferences: Incorporating Conferences or Not with special guest, Tom Fahl
• November 24: Conference Revitalization: Involving Spiritual Advisors with Tim Williams and Mike Murphy

Webinars are recorded and available for on-demand viewing at: https://www.svdpusa.org/growth-revitalization/growth-and-revitalization-webinars.