

Holy Moments



VINCENTIAN NEWSLETTER
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A Publication of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocese of Cleveland

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Give Hope

DONATE A CAR
GIVE HOPE TO THOSE IN NEED

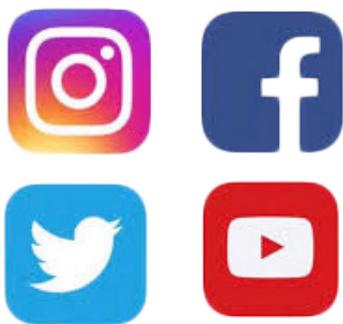
Donate old vehicles to SVDP by calling 1-800-322-8284 or by visiting the webpage: [Click Here](#)

Leave a Legacy

Please remember SVDP Cleveland in your will and estate planning.



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Annual Matching Gift Appeal for SVDP's Hunger Relief Program

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul operates one of the largest hunger relief programs in the region via its Ozanam Centers/hunger centers and parish-based food pantries that are conveniently located within neighborhoods of people in need. Each year, the Society prevents hunger among some 120,000 men, women, children and seniors. Individuals and families rely on SVDP pantries when there is no place else to turn for emergency food supplies, that include fresh produce and protein-rich meats and dairy, as well as hot meals.

As more individuals and families are adversely impacted by inflation and the increasing cost of living, we anticipate that the need for food at our centers will only increase. Unfortunately, this growing need surpasses the funding available. The Society's annual **Race for Hunger Relief matching gift** appeal kicked off April 18 and runs through May 7. The campaign is crucial to SVDP's ability to provide food to neighbors in crisis.

Race for Hunger Relief Matching Gift Campaign



Please donate: svdpcle.org 

Thanks to an anonymous donor, every dollar donated will be doubled to nourish families in need.

In addition to individual donations, we are seeking sponsorships. Please help us spread the word among your family, friends, colleagues and fellow Vincentians.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Board Approves New Treasurer: Eoin Herlihy, MBA

The Board of Directors recently approved Eoin Herlihy, MBA as Treasurer. Eoin replaces Mike Cuellar, who was unable to continue in this position due to his expanding work-related responsibilities.

Eoin has been supporting SVDP behind-the-scenes over the past few years by providing help with both the Council's strategic planning and its Growth and Revitalization program, according to Ed Leszynski, SVDP Board president. He currently serves as Business Development director at BlueCrest and has worked in computer hardware and print fields throughout his career at businesses that include Canon and Pitney Bowes.

He holds both a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Baldwin Wallace University.



Eoin Herlihy, Treasurer

Eoin and his wife, Debbie, have five children and eight grandchildren. They are members of Assumption Parish in Broadview Heights and are very active supporters of Padua High School. In his spare time, this Dublin, Ireland native enjoys sailing and bike riding.

New Board Member & Disaster Representative: Mark Straub

Because disasters can strike anywhere at any time, the National Council's National Disaster Services Corporation recommends that each Council in the United States have a local Disaster Representative to lead that response. Mark Straub has been elected as a new Cleveland Diocesan Council Board member who will serve as the Council's Disaster Recovery representative.

Mark's desire to give back was cultivated in his youth when he joined his parents' volunteer activities at the newly-established Brookside hunger center during the 1960s. Little did he realize that the painting and other odd jobs he accomplished as a teenager would one day inspire him to partake in leadership roles as an adult that impacted the hunger center's operations. In 1991, when Brookside was still operated by the West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM), Mark joined the pantry's volunteer board and has served since this time. His commitment to hunger relief in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood was recognized in 2003, when he received WSEM's volunteer of the year award.

“God told me to ‘Go down there and find a need and fill it,’” he said. “I have been striving to do that ever since.”

Over the decades, Mark has supported not only Brookside, but all three former WSEM hunger centers (Brookside, Community Corner and St. Pat's), including their transitions from WSEM to The Centers for Families and Children, and finally to SVDP. He has served as the west side hunger centers' volunteer Board president for most of this time.

A Message from our Spiritual Advisor



I can't watch the news at night without remembering the words to that song by John Michael Foley, S.J.



Mark Straub, Board Member

Although his parents have since passed on, the Straub family tradition of volunteerism remains constant at Brookside center and spans three generations.

Not only does his wife, Claudia, share her time and talents with Mark at Brookside, but their daughter, Laura, has been a dedicated volunteer over the years as well.

“God told me to ‘Go down there and find a need and fill it,’” he said. “I have been striving to do that ever since.”

Prior to retiring from his career in 2019, Mark operated his own company, Alpha Communication Technologies. The firm offered telecom services to small and medium-sized businesses in the Greater Cleveland and Akron areas.

Mark resides in Broadview Heights and is a member of St. Matthias parish in Parma.

by Sister Cheryl Keehner, CSA

SVDP Launches New Website



The Diocesan Council recently revamped its website. Unlike its previous website, which was revised back in 2015, the new version is now mobile optimized (allowing users to view and interact with the site on their tablets and cell phones). Other important features include the ability to install timely, important updates (necessary to prevent hacking), in addition to the capability of tracking website traffic via Google Analytics. The fresh design also facilitates the ability for users to better navigate the site for information.

[Click here](#) to visit the redesigned site!



Save the Date: 2022 National Assembly



Come to the Water
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
2022 National Assembly
BALTIMORE • AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 3

Conference Spotlight

The following article highlights one of our Conferences to share what they do and their impact of their work on those we serve. Feel free to submit stories about your fellow Vincentians by contacting nschrimpf@svdpcle.org.

St. Augustine, Barberton

by Mike Moore – Vice President

Through our outreach projects in the Barberton community, the Vincentians at St. Augustine parish launched a free laundry service in partnership with a local laundry facility. This program supplies the needy residents of Barberton with free use of washers and dryers at our local laundromat, Laundry Time, for two hours on the last Wednesday of the month. This service was encouraged and supported by our pastor, Father David Magikas.

We heard of this program through our friends from Faith Lutheran Church in Akron, who had started a project in an Akron neighborhood. After shadowing this church one evening while they provided this service, we were very impressed with the gratefulness of the recipients and the dialogue with a former homeless couple. We take so much for granted in our blessed lives!

This inspired us to take the next step and start our own program in Barberton.

After purchasing \$300 worth of laundry cards, three Vincentians and our office manager arrived at the laundromat and

explained to customers that St. Augustine parish and St. Vincent de Paul Society were providing free use of the washers and dryers for the next two hours. We were met with disbelief and immense gratitude.

The time was well spent. One family shared that they attend a Baptist church regularly. Recently, the husband told his wife that he was raised Catholic and would like to return to the church. This information was unbeknown to the wife. She stated that this act of kindness from a Catholic church had to be a message.

While leaving the laundromat, from across the parking lot a young lady called me over to talk with her. I thought maybe she needed help loading her clothes in her car. But to my surprise, she exclaimed that she couldn't believe that others cared about strangers like her. She professed to being raised Catholic but had wandered away from her faith. She asked for directions to our church and information about mass times. She said that she believed God was calling her back through this outreach program.



Laundry Love Outreach

Afterwards, our Vincentian team shared different stories of appreciation from our recipients and the results from a simple act of giving and making a difference.

We have since registered our laundry ministry with a national program, [Laundry Love](#), which is attempting to create programs of this nature on a nationwide basis. Information on its website may assist you in developing your own Conference laundry ministry program.

Understanding Food Insecurity:

SVDP Participates in Community West Foundation Community Partner Forum



COMMUNITY WEST
FOUNDATION



Julie Johnson,
CEO @Hunger Network



Julie Chase-Morefield,
President and CEO
@Second Harvest Food Bank



Gary Sole,
CEO @St. Vincent de Paul



Kristin Warzocha,
President and CEO
@Greater Cleveland Food Bank

The pandemic has shown a spotlight on food insecurity throughout Northeast Ohio. Local access to high-quality and affordable food has been a challenge for many individuals and families, particularly those living in communities of color, low-income neighborhoods and rural areas. Today, hunger exists where you likely least

expect it: in the suburbs, the homes of senior citizens and on college campuses.

Together, funders, food banks and local pantries are working to strengthen the food distribution network in our region. As part of this effort, Community West Foundation recently hosted a virtual community

conversation, "Nourishing Communities Together," with its partner agencies in an effort to achieve a deeper understanding of food insecurity and the resources needed to help them achieve their missions. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a partner agency, was represented by Gary Sole, its CEO.