

DOING GOOD!!

An E-Publication of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocese of Cleveland



DOING GOOD

is sent monthly.

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St. Vincent de Paul Society Acquires Three New West Side Food Pantries

By Natalie Schrimpf

Effective April 1, 2016, SVDP has assumed ownership and operation of three west side Cleveland emergency food centers previously operated by The Centers for Families and Children: Brookside, 3804 Pearl Road; Community Corner, 8302 Detroit Avenue; and Near West (also known as "St. Patrick Hunger Center") at 3610 Bridge Avenue. The three facilities collectively provide 750,000 meals annually.

In addition to these three west side food centers, SVDP operates five main and several smaller parish-based food pantries, which feed more than 10,000 residents monthly, and form one of the larger networks of hunger centers in Northeast Ohio.

SVDP has been recently looking to expand its services on Cleveland's near west side, said John Litten, executive director.

(Continued on page 2)

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

KENTUCKY DERBY DAY PARTY

Fundraiser for food centers
Saturday, May 7 4-8pm
Great Lakes Brewing Company
2516 Market Ave., Cleveland

BOARD MEETING

All Vincentians welcome
Monday, June 13 Noon
Our Lady of Hope
300 Center Rd., Bedford

INVITATION FOR RENEWAL

July 13-17 Indianapolis, IN

VINCENTIAN

COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 22
St. Patrick (Bridge Ave.)

Every Conference should be represented

OUTDRIVE HUNGER:

INAUGURAL GOLF OUTING

Fundraiser for food pantries
Friday, July 29 8am-4:30pm
Grantwood Golf Course, Solon
Organize a foursome and/or become a sponsor

SVDP NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

August 30-September 3 Columbus, OH

Every Conference should be represented

BOARD MEETING

All Vincentians welcome
Monday, September 12 Noon
Our Lady of Hope
300 Center Rd., Bedford

FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK

Saturday, September 24

BLANKET SUNDAY DRIVE

October 8 & 9 All parishes participate

OZANAM ORIENTATIONS

October date TBA

CONFERENCE ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Monday, October 31

If you need help, contact our office.

INVITATION FOR RENEWAL

November 9-13 Indianapolis, IN

BLESSED FREDERIC

OZANAM FEAST DAY

Monday, December 19

BOARD MEETING

All Vincentians welcome
December 12 Noon
Our Lady of Hope
300 Center Rd., Bedford



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

John Litten, Executive Director

April 1st Is A Reminder of Our Mission to be "Fools for Christ's Sake"

We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. – 1 Corinthians 4:10

Last Friday, April 1st (well aware of the date's connotation) we officially took over operation of the three food centers mentioned in our main article. To some this was an ending, to others a new beginning, and to me, I'd have to say it is both!

April 1 was the culmination of over a year of negotiation and thoughtful discussion, often at what some would call a "high level!" both financially and judging by the titles of those involved. There were certainly times when I wanted to see a light at the end of the tunnel, but didn't. There was doubt, fear, and excitement at times. It was all a process to say the least. From one perspective, this was a happy ending.

April 1 was also a beginning. It begins as a path toward sustainability for these three food centers. As an opportunity to see how we can best serve those in need and a chance to meet many new people who share our mission to help those in need in a face-to-face manner. I have personally been reenergized by the countless volunteers and staff who have made these centers a bastion of hope in their neighborhoods.

Vincentians have always amazed me by their faith in God's providence, while also "meeting God half way" and doing their due diligence. Like fools for Christ, we've made a leap of faith in taking on these food centers because our mission called us to do so, and yet, we are prudent in Christ by how we've prepared ourselves.

Thank you in advance for your prayers as we continue our shared journey!



I have often said that one of the greatest ways we can evangelize to others is by being joyful.

If everyone saw us as being serious and glum all the time, who would want to be a follower of Christ? And I am not talking about silly and giddy joy, but a joyfulness that is reflected in serenity of heart and pleasant interactions with others.

As in our interactions as Vincentians, there are many opportunities we have to practice joyfulness of heart. At those times when we may be stretched thin in our commitments, when we may feel frustrated in assisting particular clients, when we may just be weary from the pace of our day, is that time when we are most called to be joyful. Christ has risen from the dead for the forgiveness of our sins! Everything else here is transitory. The gladness of the Resurrection should fill our hearts and souls with the joy of Jesus Christ.



Yours in Christ,

Father Doug Brown
Spiritual Advisor

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven”

MATTHEW 5.16



(Continued from page 1-SVDP Acquires three new west side food pantries)

“Society’s mission is hunger prevention, and we’ve been able to build a sustainable path for the future operation of these additional food centers,” he explained.

Originally established by the West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM), the food pantries have been owned and operated by The Centers since 2011, when it merged with WSEM and El Barrio to expand its services to Northeast Ohio residents. In addition to distributing emergency food, hot meals are also served at the Near West center, and Community Corner offers a resale shop to its clients.

SVDP’s five main food pantries are located at: 2145 Broadview Road, Cleveland; 6001 Woodland Avenue, Cleveland; Holy Name Church, 8328 Broadway Avenue, Cleveland; St. Philomena Church, 13824 Euclid Avenue, East Cleveland; and Visitation of Mary Church, 93 Kent Street, Akron.

“St. Vincent de Paul Society is committed to ensuring continuity for clients served by these three additional food centers. Throughout the transition, food services and hot meals will continue as they currently operate without any service disruption to families,” Litten said.

SVDP DISTRICT MEETINGS	DATE & TIME	PLACE	DISTRICT PRESIDENT
Akron	April 24 9 am	St. Francis de Sales, Akron	Mike Zorena Akron@svdpcl.org
Lake/Geauga	TBA	TBA	Marilyne Brandoni Lake-Geauga@svdpcl.org
East Cuyahoga	TBA	TBA	John Patton EastDistrict@svdpcl.org
Lorain County	May 12 7 pm	Sacred Heart Chapel, Lorain	Jim Watling LorainDistrict@svdpcl.org
West Cuyahoga	June 7 7 pm	Assumption	Jim Beesley WestDistrict@svdpcl.org

Kentucky Derby Day Party to Benefit SVDP Food Centers Saturday, May 7

By Natalie Schrimpf

As part of the Society’s recent acquisition of three west side food centers that were previously operated by WSEM and The Centers for Families and Children, it has inherited an annual important fundraiser. Now in its 16th year, the **Kentucky Derby Day Party**, presented by Community West Foundation, will be held Saturday, May 7 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Great Lakes Brewing Company.

Individual tickets are \$75 and include valet parking, hors d’oeuvres, Great Lakes Brewing Company beer, wine, one mint julep, race day wagers, a cash raffle, prizes, the race on a big screen and even a hat contest.

Your support as a patron or sponsor will help nourish the 2,500 residents of Cleveland’s west side who visit these three food pantries each month.

For details regarding event and raffle tickets, sponsorships and on-line reservations, [CLICK HERE](#) or contact Natalie Schrimpf at 216-696-6525 x. 2520 or nschrimpf@svdpcl.org.



Vincentian Communion Breakfast

What: Commissioning mass followed by a communion breakfast and awards ceremony

When: Sunday, May 22, at 8:30am

Where: St. Patrick on Bridge Ave.

This commissioning mass is for both new and current/seasoned Vincentians to officially enter into the Society and be welcomed as Vincentians in the Diocese of Cleveland. Any member of a Conference or a volunteer at a food pantry will receive a pin in celebration of their commitment to Service, Friendship and Spirituality. The mass will be followed by a breakfast and awards brunch to honor Vincentians we have lost, as well as those still in active service. All Vincentians and their families are encouraged to attend, and you should encourage your newest Conference members to come and be commissioned.

We also ask that you consider nominating both a Vincentian and a Conference to be honored for their extraordinary work in service to the poor.