

# DOING GOOD!!

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



## DOING GOOD!!

is sent monthly.

To join our Doing Good mailing list, view past issues, or to learn more about SVDP, visit us at [svdpcle.org](http://svdpcle.org).

Correspond with us via email at [doing-good@svdpcle.org](mailto:doing-good@svdpcle.org).

Please share this issue with your fellow Conference members who may not have email.

To unsubscribe, simply reply to the email from which you received this newsletter with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.



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](#)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### BOARD MEETING

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

### FOOD CENTERS VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT

Week of April 24-28 / Time TBA

### KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY

Great Lakes Brewing Co.  
Saturday, May 6, 4-8pm

### DIOCESAN SVDP COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Assumption Parish, Broadview Hts.  
Sunday, May 21, 9am mass

### BOARD MEETING

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

### OUTRUN HUNGER 5K WALK/RUN

Saturday, July 24, 9:30am  
Edgewater Park

### GOLF OUTING

Sleepy Hollow Golf Course  
Brecksville  
Friday, July 21, 8am-4pm

### SVDP NATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

August 28-September 2. Tampa, FL

### BOARD MEETING

All Vincentians welcome  
Monday, September 11, Noon  
Our Lady of Hope  
300 Center Rd., Bedford

### FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK

Saturday, September 30/ Sites TBA

### RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE

September/October

### BLANKET SUNDAY

Saturday/Sunday, October 7 & 8

### BOARD MEETING

All Vincentians welcome  
Monday, December 11, Noon  
Our Lady of Hope

## FOCUS ON PRINCE OF PEACE CONFERENCE

by Bob Reuter

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference was started at Prince of Peace Church in Barberton in 1981 and was aggregated in 1985. Rebecca Thomas has been president since October, 2016 and is assisted by co-vice presidents Jane Perino and Chris Deock; Dianne Howell serves as secretary, Larry Lauter is spiritual advisor, and Jerry Lamecker is treasurer.

Currently there are 40 member Vincentians, eight of whom are new in the past year.

The Conference helps anyone in the 44203 zip code area which consists principally of Barberton and Norton. This area is home of approximately 75,000 people. The Conference meets monthly and currently tracks clients served and financial data on spreadsheets. Last year, Vincentians assisted 208 clients with 409 home visits.



(Continued on page 2)

## Fortney & Weygandt Spreads Christmas Cheer at Woodland Food Center

By Natalie Schrimpf

Despite the frigid 19 degree temperature, folks of all ages braved the elements on December 14 to attend the annual turkey give away. Held adjacent to our Woodland Food Center in Cleveland's Central neighborhood, the event was made possible thanks to our friends and partners at [Fortney & Weygandt, Inc.](#), who donated 1,000 frozen Christmas turkeys and bags of potatoes for distribution to local residents. Now in its 13th year, the event featured staff and volunteers from Fortney & Weygandt, SVDP Woodland Food Center staff and volunteers, and CMHA police, who warmed the morning with cheerful smiles, friendly conversation and laughter. Fortney & Weygandt staff even sweetened the occasion with cookies and candy for attendees.



## IN 2017 EXPECT TO FALL

By Mike Birskevich

On every home visit this year, **Expect to Fall**. When we trip or make a mistake, we figure out what happened and make adjustments to not do it again. God designed us to learn from our mistakes and God's merciful love encourages us to learn from our mistakes.

A special part of the Vincentian Charism, through the continued contact we have with the poor, gives us incite and practice to become our better selves. On every home visit, each of us somehow could have been better. But do we slow down enough, pause enough, to look back upon those moments in which we faltered?

Each contact provides an opportunity for us to recognize a personal weakness in our imitation of Christ and after some reflective prayer; determine how best to proceed in the next similar situation. Practice does make perfect and each visit strengthens and improves our imitation of Christ.

Here is a suggested 2017 resolution using a 1-2-3 exercise: Approach every visit or contact: (1) expect to fall, (2) recognize a fault, (3) implement a change. You'll feel better for it!

## January, the Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

While the feast day of the Most Holy Name of Jesus is celebrated on January 3rd, the entire month is traditionally dedicated to His Holy Name. It's a reminder to us that just after we have celebrated the Nativity of the Lord and begin to look toward Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in early February, that an appropriate meditation on these cold winter days is the Sacred Name of Jesus. It is the name to which St. Paul has said that "every knee will bow...and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord" (Phil 2:10-11).



In Hebrew, the name "Jesus" means "God saves" which is why His name so often invoked in times of trial and distress. In our work as Vincentians, we can call upon His Holy Name, especially when we are entering into situations where we will need His assistance and protection. Merely saying the Name of Jesus helps to center us on the work started by Blessed Frederic Ozanam in 1833 to demonstrate the charitable nature of our Catholic Faith. It is a name that should rise to our lips often.



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-Prince of Peace 2017)

Diane Howell is Conference Secretary and the Conference keeps records of home visits, clients served and financial data, primarily on Excel Spreadsheets. They assisted 208 clients with 409 home visits last year. The Conference will be one of 10 in our Diocese that will be experimenting with the Case Management Program that Anelize is spearheading out of the Central Office.

Client intake comes via a dedicated phone line which is monitored daily and also from calls directed to the Rectory. If in any given month the Conference runs out of money to assist local needy families, they post an outgoing voice mail message explaining the situation and advising callers to contact them the following month. During home visits, Vincentians read a short excerpt from the Sunday Gospel, recite a closing prayer, if allowed, and share a written sheet of local resources.

Income is generated from monthly envelopes, which are included in part of the parish collection envelope packet, and the annual pulpit presentation by selected new Conference members. These efforts raises approximately \$30,000/annually. Combining this collection with other special events held throughout the year raise a total of almost \$55,000 annually. Special events include the Friends of the Poor Walk, a baby shower for disadvantaged pregnant women, support for a local free clothing bank, Blanket Sunday collection and a one food pantry, the Knights of Columbus' preparation of "Goody Bags" for a hot meal program. Conference members support these activities by volunteering and making financial donations.

The Conference reports all activities, monies donated, home visits, special events, etc. to their parishioners in the parish Bulletin several times each year.

Conferences that would like more in-depth detail of POP SVDP activities may email [svdppop@gmail.com](mailto:svdppop@gmail.com).

### A REPORT ON OUR CENTRAL OFFICE

This new year is poised to be another time of growth for the St. Vincent de Paul Society in the Diocese of Cleveland. We have elected and appointed a group of talented Vincentians that are bringing new ideas and leadership to our Society.

One of the most significant developments during the past five years has also been the strategic expansion of our Central Office, which exists to serve and support our Vincentians' efforts.

The Central Office staff consists of John Litten, Executive Director; Anelize Nader, Office Manager; Natalie Schrimpf, Marketing and Development Manager; Ed Treat, Controller, and three part-time dedicated volunteers. The office receives 150 to 200 or more calls weekly from individuals in need requesting help, as well as from Conferences seeking guidance and wishing to order beds, mattresses, hoodies, caps, socks and more. Another key role of the Central Office is to generate the necessary funds for our Vincentians. This is accomplished through coordinating annual direct mail appeals and the annual Blanket Sunday drive, applying for foundation grants, organizing on-line social media campaigns and hosting special events that include the golf outing and the Kentucky Derby Party. Money raised is also used to purchase Conference Supply Center items that Vincentians tell us they need for their clients, in addition to blankets for the poor. And with the money collected through the Blanket Sunday drive this year, we purchased 3000 warm, quality blankets that were distributed to homeless shelters such Salvation Army, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries and others.

The Central Office is also responsible for public relations and marketing activities that promote the Society's work across the region. Over time, these efforts – which include publicizing SVDP and its events via news releases and social media –facilitate the Council's ability to attract corporate partnerships, additional volunteers, and increase both in-kind and monetary donations.

For the first time in our more than 150 years of service to the needy and disadvantaged in our eight-county service area, people are finally learning of all the good that you do for others. We are fulfilling Mathew 5:16, "Let your light shine before others, so that they many see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### **DOWNTOWN OFFICE** (1404 E.9th St., Cleveland):

Help one or more days a week with general office work and answering our busy phone. Get to know staff and how it manages Central Office. Contact Anelize at 216-696-6525 x.3560.

#### **WOODLAND FOOD CENTER** (6001 Woodland Ave., Cleveland):

Client check-in: Check-in clients via computer. Training provided. Choose one or more Fridays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Seeds to Read Program: Help clients select books for their children. Choose one or more Fridays, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Pick-up food: Pick-up food via the SVDP truck at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Choose one or more Thursdays, 6:30-9:30 a.m.

Contact John Litten at 216-696-6525 x.3570.

#### **BROOKSIDE FOOD CENTER** (3802 Pearl Rd., Cleveland):

Prepare food bags, register clients and/or help elderly with their bags of food. Choose one or more days a week, 9:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Contact John Litten at 216-696-6525 x.3570.

#### **COMMUNITY CORNER FOOD CENTER** (8302 Detroit Ave., Cleveland):

Help in resale shop, prepare bags of food, register clients and/or help elderly with their bags of food. Choose one or more days a week, 9:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m.

| SVDP DISTRICT MEETING | DATE & TIME                  | PLACE   | SPEAKER | DISTRICT PRESIDENT  |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|---------|---|
| <b>Akron District</b> | January 22<br>8:30am<br>Mass | Nativity of the<br>Lord Jesus<br>2425 Myersville<br>Akron | TBA     | Mike Zorena<br><a href="mailto:akron@svdpcle.org">akron@svdpcle.org</a>                   |
| <b>East District</b>  | TBA                          | TBA   | TBA     | John Patton<br><a href="mailto:eastDistrict@svdcle.org">eastDistrict@svdcle.org</a>       |
| <b>Lake/Geauga</b>    | TBA                          | TBA   | TBA     | Marilyne Brandoni<br><a href="mailto:lake-geauga@svdpcle.org">lake-geauga@svdpcle.org</a> |
| <b>Lorain County</b>  | TBA                          | TBA   | TBA     | Jim Watling<br><a href="mailto:loraindistrict@svdpcle.org">loraindistrict@svdpcle.org</a> |
| <b>West District</b>  | TBA                          | TBA   | TBA     | Jim Beesley<br><a href="mailto:westdistrict@svdpcle.org">westdistrict@svdpcle.org</a>     |