

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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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](#)

SVDP ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR (October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016)

Look at the amazing statistics of your accomplishments last year. The report is generated from your Conference Annual Reports you forward to the Central Office. Congratulations to all of our 1,233 Vincentians who made this possible. You've got to be very proud of all you did for the disadvantaged in our eight-county service area. Think what could be accomplished if more parishes had Conferences.

CONFERENCE

People assisted	126,995
Visits to People in Need	14,886
Spent for food and emergency help	\$1,666,986
Spent on disaster relief, special works	\$88,336
Value of donated goods & services	\$2,284,398

HUNGER CENTERS (7 in Cleveland* and 1 in Akron)

People Assisted	128,150
Pounds of Food Distributed	1,224,695
Spent on Food & Other Services	\$ 143,358
Value of donated food, clothing, etc.	\$1,787,637

*We acquired three hunger centers from the Centers for Families and Children on April 1, 2016

CENTRAL OFFICE

Grants to needy Conferences	\$27,250
Spent on disaster relief, back to school items, Seeds to Read books, incarcerated ministry	\$13,984
Other assistance	\$80,552
Value of Blanket Sunday Collection	

SVDP members spent approximately 114,169 hours in this ministry and service worth more than an

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OZANAM ORIENTATION

Thursday, March 9
St. Mary in Hudson
8:30 am- 2:00 pm

BOARD MEETING

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

KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY

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

DIOCESAN SVDP COMMUNION BREAKFAST

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

BOARD MEETING

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

MID EAST REGIONAL MEETING

June 2-3, Notre Dame, IN

5K RACE TO "OUTRUN HUNGER"

Saturday, June 24, 9:00am
Edgewater Park
Benefits SVDP Hunger Centers
Get a group of friends to run with you!

GOLF OUTING

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

INVITATION FOR RENEWAL

August 9-13 and December 6-10
Florissant, MO

SVDP NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

August 29-September 2, Tampa, FL
For all Vincentians

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



Director's Corner

John Litten, Executive Director

COMBINED IMPACT

While I know that all of you do what you do for much more noble reasons than for accolades or thanks, this time of year is always special to me as your many annual reports and hunger center data get combined together so that we can see the combined impact of our Conferences and Hunger Centers (as shared above). To serve more than 260,000 people in the myriad ways that you do is no small task. To know that it was done nearly 100% face-to-face and person to person is nothing short of amazing! That's hundreds of thousands of people who found a friend in you.

I also like to point out how our hunger centers have now doubled down on the health of our clients. Over 87% of the food we distribute is categorized as nutritious by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, and almost 300,000 pounds (298,953 to be exact) of fresh produce was distributed by SVDP last year alone. We are feeding people, yes, but we are also doing so in a way that teaches the right eating habits, and avoids foods that may cause health issues down the road. Thank you for your efforts to be proactive for those we serve, both last year and beyond!

"ARE WE THERE YET?"

Sometimes I feel like a little kid on a long car ride: "Are we there yet?" We're in that time of year when we may be asking ourselves, "Is it Easter yet?" "Is it Spring yet?" And even though this winter has not been that difficult and we are not especially far into Lent, we may find ourselves looking toward the future with expectation, looking for some relief from Lenten practices and from the drudgery of winter. And once the glorious celebration of Easter happens and the warming days of Spring become regular, we may find ourselves then looking forward to Summer and to the end of school.

You see, we can get so caught up in looking forward that we don't see the beauty and peace of the current day. We become focused upon an imaginary future that we forget the blessings of each day. Someone recently told me about a poster they saw with words that could be attributed to God: "Do not focus on the past; My Name is not 'I WAS.' Do not focus on the future; My Name is not 'I WILL BE.' Live in the present moment, for My Name is 'I AM.'" Make it a great Lent!



Yours in Christ,

Father Doug Brown
Spiritual Advisor

ANELIZE NADER PROMOTED—John Litten announced last week that Anelize has been promoted to Program Director. Her revised title reflects the increased responsibilities she has been undertaking gradually since she started at SVDP two years ago, in addition to now supervising hunger centers staff and their daily operations. Anelize can now be reached at 216-696-6525 ext. 3560.

Above all let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. The greatest demand love makes on us is that we help one another
 Psalm 36



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estimated \$2,518,568. The eight hunger centers had about 2,276 volunteers who spent 50,979 hours helping people worth an estimated \$1,124,597 for a total value of \$3,643,165 for donated volunteer help.

The total value of SVDP assistance to 255,145 individuals was approximately \$6,065,251 plus the \$3,643,165 in volunteer service for a grand total of **\$9,708,416 worth of assistance.**

Expenses of the Central Office are less than 5% of the total annual financial figures. The Central Office, under the direction of the Executive Director, manages the daily affairs of the Corporation, implements the policies and directives of the Board, raises funds to cover its expenses, represents the Society to the public, and supports and expands Conferences. It also holds training sessions for Vincents, manages hunger centers and publishes a monthly e-newsletter, all under the direction of the President and Board of Directors.

Medina Conference Helps Fire Victims



The St. Francis Xavier St. Vincent de Paul Conference in Medina was one of the first organizations to respond when a large and deadly fire ravished an eight-unit apartment complex. The February 9th fire completely destroyed one building which contained 8 units. An adjacent apartment unit also had significant water damage. Two residents have died as a result of the fire and one remains hospitalized.

SVDP Conference President, Rick Niese, said, "On the day of the fire, the St. Francis Xavier church received a plea that help was needed. Father Tom Kowatch suggested that St Vincent de Paul Society take the lead for the parish and we responded." The Conference joined forces with other Medina residents and organizations to start a campaign to assist victims.

A local young mother of two not affiliated with St Francis Xavier, Ashley Gazzo, felt compelled to help and took to Facebook to generate support for the victims. The response from the Medina community was immediate and far exceeded everyone's expectations, especially Ashley's. Since Ashley had no other support she quickly said "Yes" when St. Vincent de Paul Society offered their assistance. Local Vincentsians were quickly recruited and assisted in the movement of over 150 boxes and bags of clothing. Mr. Niese went on to say "The apartment complex made available a unit in an adjacent building that was untouched by the fire and we moved all the clothing there for easy access by the needy residents." Cash donations and gift cards also poured in to both Ashley and St Vincent de Paul Society. The Conference opened a separate account at a local bank, so that the monetary donations collected could be kept separate from Conference funds and used exclusively for the fire victims.



Since St. Vincent de Paul Society has established procedures for discerning and addressing client needs, Ashley and St. Francis Xavier Conference have joined forces to reach out to those impacted, meet with them to assess their current and future needs and most importantly offer compassion and support during this difficult time.

The St. Francis Xavier Conference expects that they will probably be involved with apartment residents for many weeks to come. In addition to the clothes and money collected, they have already purchased replacement beds for a woman whose beds were destroyed in the fire. They believe they may be asked to help with a variety of expenses as they try to meet the individual needs of those affected by this tragedy



The St. Francis Xavier St. Vincent de Paul Conference also runs a food pantry which is open Monday and Thursday evenings and helps 20 to 30 families weekly. In addition, they have a furniture pick up and delivery ministry for needy area families. The Conference meets the third Monday of each month immediately after the evening mass. The Conference has 57 members. Pictures are of the church and members giving out food at their Hunger Center.

For more information, contact Rick Niese at rickeniese@gmail.com.

Ozanam Orientation
Thursday, March 9
St. Mary in Hudson
8:30 am- 2:00 pm

We reminded you last month about tomorrow's Orientation and a good number of you have signed up to attend the Ozanam Orientation at St. Mary's Church in Hudson, Thursday, March 9th from 8:30 am to 2 pm. This is the first time we have held the Orientation on a week day. If you haven't reserved a space, just show up tomorrow. All Vincentsians should attend an orientation.

17th Annual
 Kentucky Derby Party
 Presented by Community West Foundation
 Illuminating Hope
 GREAT LAKES
 Click [here](#) for more information.

We Want to Hear from You

We want to make DOING GOOD the Society's information source for YOU. We'd love to hear your suggestions on how we can improve this monthly publication with items that YOU would like to hear about. Please feel free to send us your ideas, suggestions, and advice anytime. Whether it's good or bad we'd like to hear from YOU Vincentsians.

Send your comments to bob-reuter@svdpcle.org.

SVDP DISTRICT MEETING	DATE & TIME	PLACE	SPEAKER	DISTRICT PRESIDENT
Akron District	April 23rd Mass at 8:00 am	St. Augustine/ Barberton	TBA	Mike Zorena akron@svdpcle.org
East District	March 15 6:00 pm	St. Therese	TBA	John Patton eastDistrict@svdpcle.org
Lake/Geauga	March 8 7:00 pm	Immaculate Conception Willoughby	Big Brothers Big Sisters	Marilyne Brandoni lake-geauga@svdpcle.org
Lorain County	May 11th 6:00 pm	TBA	TBA	Jim Watling loraindistrict@svdpcle.org
West District	June 6th 7:00 pm	St. Ladislus	TBA	Jim Beesley westdistrict@svdpcle.org