St. Pat’s Hunger Center on 3610 Bridge Avenue is in Desperate Need of a New Freezer

The existing stand-up freezer at the St. Pat’s Hunger Center has failed and there is an urgent need to replace it. Adequate freezer storage is vital to ensure our pantry is fully stocked and ready to help. It also ensures that our food pantry clients have access to fresh, wholesome food when they visit. Anyone wishing to contribute to this important request, please contact Cathie at 216-749-4295 or 440-503-2462. Thank you!

The Brookside Family Center is Accepting Donated Items for Resale

As the Brookside Family Center prepares to open the doors of its new thrift shop (anticipated opening in March 2019), the location is currently accepting donations of gently used clothing, shoes, outerwear and small household items including pots, pans, dishes, throw blankets, flatware and other essentials (no furniture, please). Please drop items off directly at the Brookside Family Center between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Food Donations Needed!

In the wake of the government shutdown, local food banks and hunger centers across the country are reporting a significant uptick in traffic. SVDP’s own hunger centers are no exception. The need is especially great right now at St. Patrick’s Parish (3610 Bridge Avenue). Donations of food and canned goods are being accepted at St. Pat’s on Wednesdays and Fridays between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Brookside Family Center (3764 W. 25th Street) is also accepting food donations, on behalf of St. Pat’s, five days a week between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Both SVDP locations are also accepting personal care items, including diapers, shampoo, tooth paste, deodorant, toothbrushes and soap. For more info about these hunger centers, please contact Cathie at ckovacik@svdpcle.org or 440-503-2462. Thank you for your generous support!

SVDP is Seeking Volunteers!

The Brookside Family Center (3764 West 25th Street) is seeking volunteers at its new facility! Tucked into the heart of the Clark/Fulton neighborhood, the Brookside Family Center provides emergency food and clothing assistance to members of the community. The site will also feature a resale thrift shop, with the proceeds supporting the center’s operations.

Currently, the Brookside Family Center is seeking volunteers specifically to assist with sorting donated clothing for the thrift shop. Giving of your time is one of the greatest gifts you can give to SVDP; last year an estimated 1,172 SVDP volunteers spent 122,249 hours in active service throughout the Cleveland Diocese. This service touched 104,320 individuals and families! If you are interested, please contact Cathie at: ckovacik@svdpcle.org or 440-503-2462.

The Woodland Hunger Center (6001 Woodland Avenue) is in need of volunteers to help with food distribution any Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. If interested please contact James at 440 990-7743 or jbruening@svdpcle.org.
Seminarians Prevail over Priests in Annual Basketball Game

Ties rivalry one a piece

Hundreds gathered in LeBron James Arena at St. Vincent-St. Mary’s High School in Akron on Jan. 27 to watch the priests of the Diocese of Cleveland take on seminarians from Borromeo and Saint Mary seminaries in the second annual priests vs. seminarians basketball game.

The game had a twofold purpose since it was an opportunity to raise awareness for priestly vocations and to support charity. Proceeds benefited the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

There was a recommended donation of $2 for admission, a 50/50 raffle and concession proceeds that helped support the cause.

The game was streamed live on Facebook at clepriesthood and is still available for viewing.

Save these dates for the next Ozanam Orientations!

Tuesday, February 26th at 9:00am
St. Therese | 5276 East 105th St | Garfield Hts.
Saturday, March 16th at 9:00am
Sacred Heart of Jesus | 260 Broad St | Wadsworth

A light breakfast (8:30am) & lunch (noon) will be available at both locations.

The workshops go from 9:00-3:00pm at the latest. Even if you might be a little resistant to spend a full day at an Orientation, I can assure you that you will find it highly worthwhile. Every participant leaves inspired, re-energized, with a deeper understanding of what it means to be a Vincentian, and with a broader picture of what is possible. And… the sharing among attendees in different Conferences is always a big hit! Do come join us!! To RSVP for any Ozanam Orientation, call Anelize at 216-696-6525 x. 3560 or email anader@svdpcle.org. Thank you!

Other Trainings

In addition, participants who have attended our recent Ozanam Orientations have asked for a Home Visit Workshop, in which to discuss this topic more in-depth. We have heard the request, and we WILL be offering Home Visit trainings in the next few months, so stay tuned as we actively develop the program.

January Ozanam Orientation Great Success

Thank you to our new presenters Barb Leszynski, Gary Sole and Joanna Clancy from St. Ladislas, who did a terrific job on January 26th presenting the West District Ozanam Orientation at St. Angela Merici. And thank you to our 35 Vincentians who braved the weather and attended a prolific day of spiritual renewal coupled with learning about the Society’s history, its founders, values and beliefs – plus a deeper understanding of the realities of poverty and our home visits. 97% of the evaluation forms after the meeting rated the workshop worthwhile and very worthwhile by 84%. Your SVDP Council is working hard to present one Ozanam Orientation in each district this year. We would like to have ALL Vincentians understand correctly how and why the Society does what it does. Orientations are open to all Vincentians and those who might want to become a Vincentian.

Anyone in our 8 county service area is invited to attend Orientations anywhere they are presented.

View Pictures click below:
Priests vs Borromeo Seminarians

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Bed Mats Made out of Bags for the Homeless

In most homeless encampments, beds are made by placing a piece of cardboard on the ground and then placing blankets or a sleeping bag on the cardboard. Obviously this can be very uncomfortable to say nothing about being cold in the winter. Anne Burkett, an enterprising Vincentian from St. Victor Conference, has found a way to put grocery bags to a good purpose AND help the homeless at the same time.

Anne and her friends collect grocery bags and cut them into strips and crochet them into thick comfortable 3ft. x 6 ft. light weight mats to place on the ground instead of a piece of cardboard. It takes about 750 bags and about 28 hours to make one mat.

Anne and her friend, Linda Corsi, have been invited to various places in the Diocese and conduct workshops on how to make the mats. They have done workshops at Richfield Senior Center, St. Victor in Akron, St. Matthias in Parma, and St. Mary in Painesville. Anne uses a half double stitch rather than a single crochet stitch and this makes the mats thicker. And she cuts the plastic strips 2.5 to 3 inches wide. Less wide strips would make a much thinner mat. Anne’s main purpose at first was to recycle the bags to keep them out of landfills and particularly the ocean. Pieces of plastic are lethal to sea turtles and other marine creatures. Anne was quoted as saying “When I happened on the mat idea it became a double blessing. Personally I have made about 70 mats”.

If you are interested in more information, Anne can be reached at 216-337-8506.

VEHICLE DONATIONS COME BACK TO CLEVELAND
Pave the Road for Possibilities

Do you know someone who has a junker that they’d like to get rid of AND help some needy people in our area? Each vehicle donation helps us provide programs, food, rent, heat, water, and shelter to those in need right here in our area. You can help make a difference today!

Our pickup service accepts all types of vehicles including cars, trucks, motorcycles, trailers, boats, snowmobiles, etc. Donating is fast and easy! Simply call toll-free at 800-322-8284 or donate online. They will tow your vehicle at no cost to you-available 7 days a week! Simply answer a few questions about the vehicle like make, age, vin number, condition, and where to pick it up. The vehicles are then sold at auction and the proceeds come right back here to provide services for our local needy. Make sure your family and neighbors know that their donation will help the needy in our 8 county local service area.

- If you can help with the below items:
  - The Brookside Family Center
    - Gently used clothing racks, some on wheels, some stationary
    - Folding tables either 4 ft. or 8 ft. lengths
    - Metal Shelving
    - Heavy-Duty Rolling Cart (Wagon)
    - POS System/Cash Register
  - Contact James at JBruening@svdpcle.org
  - St. Pats Food Pantry
    - Stand Up Freezer
  - Contact Cathie at ckovacik@svdpcle.org