Kentucky Derby Fundraiser—Raises Funds for Hunger Centers

While the 2019 Kentucky Derby saw a controversial ending to the race, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s (SVDP) 19th annual Kentucky Derby fundraiser was a clear winner! Generously hosted by Great Lakes Brewing Company, the festive evening saw over 200 guests turn out for one of the best Derby Day events North of Churchill Downs and grossed over $40,000 to support SVDP’s fight against food insecurity in Cleveland’s Near West neighborhoods.

“Thanks to the tremendous efforts of our dedicated volunteers, almost 100% of every dollar we raise goes directly back to our clients,” explains Mr. John Patton, SVDP’s executive director. “We are incredibly grateful to everyone who came out and supported us for the Derby Party; everyone had a good time while supporting a great cause! The organization is especially grateful to Great Lakes Brewing Company for hosting us.”

Emceed by local radio personality Vic Gideon, the evening featured gourmet Derby-themed food and drinks, an exciting silent auction, Great Lakes Brewing Company’s own beer and fun-filled raffles and contests throughout the event. The evening also saw MetroHealth’s president and CEO, Dr. Akram Boutros, MD FACHE, presented with SVDP’s Community Service Award.

“This year, the Community Service Award was given to Dr. Boutros in recognition of the tremendous strides MetroHealth has taken to fight food insecurity within the same neighborhoods SVDP serves,” continues Mr. Patton. “We recognize them as both good neighbors and good stewards of the lives within our shared community, especially with their inventive ‘Food as Medicine’ program. It was our privilege to recognize these efforts and we congratulate both Dr. Boutros and the MetroHealth system.” Rita Andolsen, MetroHealth’s Director of Communications and Community Engagement, accepting the award on his behalf.

Mark your calendar:
Next year’s event will take place on Saturday, May 2nd at Great Lakes Brewing Company.

Click here to view or share photos from the fundraiser.

Last call for the Ozanam Orientation this Saturday!
If you have not RSVP’d for the workshop on June 8th at Immaculate Conception in Akron, we are still accepting registrations. It runs from 9:00-3:00 with light breakfast and lunch included. Please let us know if you are coming by calling Anelize at 216-696-6525 x. 3560, or emailing her at anader@svdpcle.org. We would absolutely LOVE to see you there!
Vincentian Communion Luncheon Thank-You

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Vincentian Communion Luncheon, which took place on Sunday, May 19th at Our Lady of Hope Church, in Bedford. It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and Vincentian spirit! SVDP was honored to present the Vincentian of the Year awards to both Bill and Marilyn Brandoni. Truly, our Vincentians are the backbone of our mission and SVDP is grateful for each and every one of you!

What an amazing twinning example!

In their last District meeting, 4 of the Lorain Conferences were surprised with a $1,000 check from St. Joseph in Avon Lake. Al Schiazza, District President and President of St. Joseph Conference, shared: “We are so blessed with the generosity of our parishioners, and we wanted to share our blessings with the other Conferences in our District who may not be as blessed as we are, and still carry the heavy burden of extreme need in their areas.” This is what SVDP is all about: to share the bounty so more of God’s people can be touched by His healing presence. Thank you, St. Joseph Conference!

Our new Thrift Store at 3764 W. 25th is still desperately in need of twinning volunteers to help sort and tag clothes and small items for sale. Ten Volunteers are needed any Monday through Friday. Bring just yourself or your entire Conference. Contact Cathie at ekovacik@svdpcle.org or 440-503-2462.

The St. John Paul Ozanam Center is located at 8328 Broadway Ave on the campus of Holy Name Church. They are in need of 8 to 12 twinning volunteers to work one Saturday a month from 9 to 12. Volunteers should be 18 years or older. Teens needing volunteer hours are welcome if accompanied by their parent or guardian. Contact Maryann at 440-554-8370.

SPECIAL NEEDS AT OUR NEW THRIFT STORE

Our new thrift store has proven popular with low income families in the 44109 and surrounding Clark/Fulton areas. Because the store is so new we lack some equipment that is common in other thrift stores. We would greatly appreciate if your Conference, or even a generous Vincentian in your Conference, could help us with one or more of these items.

- **40 Gallon Black Rubbermaid Storage Totes** for Clothing. These air tight containers are needed to store winter clothing during summer months and vice versa. Cost $25 each-10 needed.
- **Display Shelving for small appliances and housewares.** Various sizes. Average price each about $56—3 needed.
- **Cricut Machine:** Used for making decorative signage around the store. This allows us the ability to create our own rather than purchase them. It’s also useful for branding items. Cost $250, Only one needed. Donors can send checks to Greg Werner, Controller, SVDP, 1404 E. 9th Street, Cleveland OH 44109.

Make sure you designate what items you are donating. Questions call Cathie at 440 503-2462.

June marks the beginning of Summer. This time of the year can help us grow in our faith. God may reveal himself to us in the beauty of nature. Thus, some people feel the presence of God by taking a walk, visiting a park, watching birds, or seeing the sun rise or set. If we look for God in nature, we are more likely to see him there.

Summer also is a time for vacations. We can plan to include Sunday masses by visiting Catholic churches where we are vacationing. Going to a different church can be interesting. Moreover, we can have a positive effect on others, especially any children or grandchildren who may be with us. Passing along our faith is perhaps the greatest gift we can give to our loved ones.

May you have a happy and faith-filled Summer.