ABOUT DOING GOOD
Doing Good is a monthly publication designed to share important news and celebrate the accomplishments of our Vincentians throughout the Diocese of Cleveland. If you have content for Doing Good, please share it with us.
Send emails to: doing-good@svdpcle.org

RENEE JONES CENTER OPENS OFFICE IN OUR BUILDING

The Renee Jones Empowerment Center held its Grand Opening and Public Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on Saturday, September 7th at the SVDP Brookside Family Center

Renee Jones is a woman with presence. When you are near her, you can tell that she is someone special. As the founder, president and CEO of the Renee Jones Empowerment Center (RJEC), Ms. Jones is guided in her work by the belief that every life matters, no one should ever slip through the cracks and everyone is capable of reaching their full potential. RJEC offers a variety of human trafficking prevention and awareness programs, community outreach, community events, fairs and regional conferences, traveling exhibits, health and wellness therapies and activities, life skills, job readiness skills, and other individual and group services.

Ms. Jones’ passion for her work is palpable and SVDP is thrilled that she and her staff will now be a permanent presence in the 3764 W. 25th Street, Brookside Family Center Building, a milestone that was marked with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, September 7th.

The ceremony blessed the new space and heard remarks from special guests, including Pastor Brice Nash, SVDP’s spiritual advisor Deacon John Travis, a representative from the Ohio Attorney General’s office and SVDP’s Board President, Ed Leszynski. Words of inspiration from survivors were also shared; a profound and moving moment when former victims of human trafficking and assault spoke to the ways in which their lives have been transformed by RJEC.

Ms. Jones also said a few words, and expressed her gratitude for the new space and the close alignment of her organization’s and SVDP’s shared mission to celebrate every life as a divine representation of Jesus Christ. Truly, SVDP is honored to welcome RJEC as a tenant and a partner in mission delivery.

CAR DONATIONS COME BACK TO CLEVELAND

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. It’s simple; just call 1 800-322-8284. They will tow your vehicle at no cost to you! 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 SVDP local service area.
The weather was picture perfect in Denver, Colorado as the National Council Society of St. Vincent de Paul held its Annual Meeting from August 28-August 31, 2019 in sight of the Rocky Mountains.

The program was an inspirational mixture of formal presentations, informational workshops, moving Masses celebrated with song, and more importantly informal discussions between sessions with SVDP members from across the US, Canada, Mexico, and Ireland.

Everything at the Meeting flowed from our Mission Statement: ‘A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.’

There were four members from the Diocesan Council of Cleveland who attended. These included Ed Leszynski, President, Barbara, his wife, Anelize Nader, Program Director, and Larry Lauter, Secretary. All were inspired by the selfless dedication of all SVDP members and the extent that they go to serve our “neighbors” in need, helping them grow to their full potential. All wished there was some way to bring back home these personal experiences to our fellow members. Many of the presentations will be posted on our National website in the near future and we invite members to view these at [www.svdpusa.org](http://www.svdpusa.org).

The 175th Anniversary Meeting of the founding of the first Conference in the United States in St. Louis, MO at the Old Cathedral in 1845 will be September 2-5, 2020 in St. Louis. We hope many Vincentians from the Diocese of Cleveland will attend and experience this indescribable event which will leave you in awe of our worldwide Vincentian Charism.

**NEW DIOCESEAN CODE OF REGULATION**

SVDP National has created a suggested Code of Regulations that are suggested for all U.S. Councils. Larry Lauder (Board Secretary) and Bill Brandoni (Lake/Geauga District President) have reviewed the new Code and made changes and corrections that reflect special needs for our Diocese.

The new Code replaces the 2012 Code of Regulations. A copy of the new regulations is available: [CLICK HERE](http://www.svdpusa.org).

This Code of Regulations was approved by the Diocesan Council, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Cleveland Diocese on September 9, 2019 to be effective October 1, 2019.
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is Seeking Volunteers!
Community Corner and Brookside Family Center are seeking volunteers!

Community Corner located at 8302 Detroit Avenue (Cleveland) and Brookside Family Center 3764 W. 25th Street (Cleveland) respectively, these hunger centers provide emergency food and clothing assistance to members of the community. Both sites also feature a resale thrift shop, with the proceeds supporting the centers’ operations.

Currently, both locations are seeking volunteers to assist with daily operations, from sorting donated items to serving clients.

Truly, 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. The outstretched hand may have held a bag of groceries, clothing for a child, assistance with a bill, or the hand of another in prayer. This service touched 104,320 individuals and families!

To Volunteer at other Ozanam / Hunger Centers or at a Parish:
Go to www.svdpcle.org, click on Need Help? Or Get Involved

At St. Vincent de Paul, volunteers are essential to all we do. Everyone has talents and abilities that can be used to help others. Whether you are interested in working directly with our neighbors in need or would prefer behind the scenes opportunities, anyone with a caring heart is invited to join us. Our volunteers are regular people of all ages and walks of life.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cathie at:
ckovacik@svdpcle.org 216-749-4295 or 440-503-2462

Ozanam Orientation – SAVE the DATE!

If you have never attended an Ozanam Orientation, please come! If you have already attended one, please share the news with your fellow Vincentians!

This workshop is for both new AND seasoned Vincentians: to learn about - and reacquaint yourself with - our origins, values and beliefs, our work, our mission and vision. EVERYONE who has attended this training has left with a sense of time very well spent.

Come join us:
When: Thursday, October 3rd
Where: Our Lady of Hope parish at 400 Center Rd, Bedford
Time: 9:00am – 2:30pm (breakfast & lunch are provided)

Please RSVP to Gary Sole at gsole@svdpcle.org by September 30th, so we can plan accordingly.

Digital Auction Summary

Fundraising has always been a dynamic effort, and SVDP’s Central Office is constantly looking for innovative ways to draw attention and garner donor support to provide for our many charitable programs. In recent weeks, we’ve tried several new initiatives – you may have the emails come through promoting a digital raffle or announcing our first ever e-appeal.

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, SVDP was able to auction off an authentic, autographed Baker Mayfield jersey. The auction coincided with the Cleveland Brown’s preseason and raised almost $2,000! Congratulations to our lucky raffle winner, Mary Wiedt! Go Browns!

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<td>Akron District</td>
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<td>Bill Brandoni <a href="mailto:lake-geauga@svdpcle.org">lake-geauga@svdpcle.org</a></td>
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We are happy to report that once more this year we raised over $11,000 from different parishes in the Diocese, which allowed us to purchase cleaning supplies (paper towels, tissues, wipes and disinfectants) to every classroom in 19 schools in Akron, Lorain and East and West Cuyahoga. In addition, we were blessed to have been able to provide the schools with over 1,800 bags of traditional school supplies. As we contacted the schools, they were all SO very much appreciative of our collective efforts! And even more so because we will be able to provide for their needs in the winter as well, as we know supplies dwindle by then. Thank you VERY much for your involvement. God bless!

September 2019