



Lent 2016

# Vincentian Charity News

District Council of Madison, Inc., Society of St. Vincent de Paul

## St. Vincent de Paul Volunteers and a Local Church Help a Family Reach for the American Dream

*Michelle is a gentle and patient mom*, carefully guiding her son, two-year-old Bryan, through a world that has been harsh for her and her family. It's a world that may have been intolerable if it weren't for her Christian faith, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church (IHM) in Monona, and St. Vincent de Paul volunteers and services.



A Madison native, Michelle first learned of St. Vincent de Paul shopping at the food pantry. "As a single mom with three kids, it helped us have healthy meals together," she remembers.

Over time, circumstances have reconnected Michelle with St. Vincent de Paul. "After escaping a bad relationship, I found an apartment, but we were sleeping on the floor until St. Vincent de Paul volunteers helped us get furniture, new air beds, and a portable crib," she reports. She always feels welcome at the food pantry those months when rent, utilities and car expenses get paid first, leaving little for food.

### *A journey with friends*

St. Vincent de Paul, IHM and its St. Vincent de Paul member group have been steady, caring companions on Michelle and her family's journey, including a lengthy and expensive process to gain citizenship

for her new husband. "Between IHM and St. Vincent de Paul, we have been blessed to get help when we needed it most," Michelle reveals.

Michelle's medical condition prevents her from working, so she manages the household, including three children at three schools and a toddler at home, and her husband's immigration process while he works in construction.

The family expects to invest about \$7,500 in the first stage of the process. Michelle adds, "If we can't pay for the next step when it's due, we have to start all over again!" But it's one of the family's most important expenses.

### *"We are a typical, hardworking family"*

Michelle says, "We shop at thrift stores, we eat at home, we rent our home, we drive older cars. We don't smoke or drink. We just want to be together and live the American Dream."

When necessary, Michelle reaches out to her friends at St. Vincent de Paul and IHM. Pat Ponty, president of IHM's St. Vincent de Paul member group, says: "At IHM, we've been able to help them as parish members with medical care, Thanksgiving baskets, and Christmas gifts. Michelle is always gracious with her thanks and we love seeing the family in church."

### *Holiday Crisis Averted*

Christmas 2015 was looking bleak. The next bill for the immigration process meant that rent would be late, utility bills were piling up, and Christmas gifts were few. IHM, another local church and St. Vincent de Paul coordinated efforts to pay bills and make sure there were presents for the kids from the Little Drummer program.

Everyone is blessed in this supportive, long-term relationship: IHM, St. Vincent de Paul and Michelle's family. Pat says once people see the need, the giving becomes contagious. "We help each other."

*"This is the only place  
that has really helped us out."*

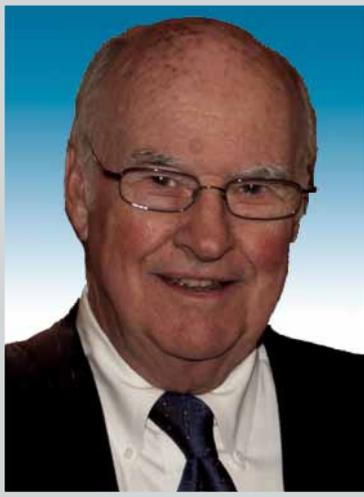
*– Michelle*

# The Gift That Lasts (Beyond) a Lifetime

**Tim Reilley** knows a lot about the power of a gift to foster the work of a non-profit organization. As a development officer with UW Foundation for over a quarter century, he's connected UW donors all over the nation to opportunities that advance activities and outcomes that are dear to them. "I helped people give back to something important to them," Reilley smiles.

## **Connections build a lifetime of giving**

"I learned that people want to support organizations that they feel good about, whose work they admire and have earned their trust," he says. It's those connections and positive feelings that move people to give during their lifetime and in their wills.



Reilley also knows what it's like to support organizations that reflect his values. "I got involved with St. Vincent de Paul in 2006 when I was asked to join the Capitol Campaign to build the Center for Vincentian Charity. We ran a successful \$4 million campaign, and I am still involved because it's a good outfit."

Reilley not only gives his time and expertise to support St. Vincent de Paul, he also donates with a financial gift and the occasional bag of gently used goods! He thinks

of himself a lucky donor because he really knows how St. Vincent de Paul works.

"They help the poor in so many ways," Reilley says. "I know the money I give today and through my bequest will be used in whatever ways help people achieve their goals as human beings. I want to help people reach the fullness of the human condition – physical and spiritual. The love shown by St. Vincent de Paul volunteers and staff is healing."

Growing up during the Depression gave Reilley an affinity for the poor – "and an urge to help when I could," he reveals.

Now retired, Reilley is still active with several organizations and has planned legacy gifts to his favorites. St. Vincent de Paul is on his list. It's a way to help make sure that the work will continue – even when he is no longer available to attend the meetings.

## **Where do I start to set up a bequest?**

When St. Vincent de Paul Development Director Nancy Hansis receives a call from a donor who wants to continue supporting St. Vincent de Paul through a will, she offers three critical pieces of advice:

1. work with a qualified estate planning attorney
2. our legal name is the *District Council of Madison, Inc., Society of St. Vincent de Paul*, and
3. our federal tax ID number is 39-0824876.

Madison attorney Gregory F. Monday, who works in estate planning at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren, agrees: "When you want to include a charity in your estate plan, speak directly with the charity to be sure the plan includes appropriate language to properly identify the charity and give guidance on how your gift should be used."

## **Complexities require professional advice**

Monday cautions that estate planning can be complicated because of state and federal tax codes, probate and trust laws that differ from state to state, and voluminous rules in small print relating to retirement plans, mortgages, and other assets and liabilities.

He explains, "What you don't know can hurt you. But, a qualified estate planning attorney who understands the complexities can create an estate plan that will reduce costs and maximize the amount of your property that is available to you and your beneficiaries – including favorite charities that can carry out your vision for the future."

Monday advises a team approach. "Insist that your advisors communicate with one another. To get an estate plan right, your attorney, accountant, insurance agent, investment advisor, and other financial service providers should share information and ideas during planning."

## **Grateful for gifts of all sizes**

Hansis notes that while some bequests are large and support entire programs, you don't have to be wealthy to leave a meaningful gift to St. Vincent de Paul.

"We have many donors who give small and steady gifts over their lifetimes, and leave a share of their assets to us. We appreciate that. Every bit helps our programs and volunteers to serve neighbors in need."

**Learn more at: [svdpmadison.org/planned-giving](http://svdpmadison.org/planned-giving)**

# Crowded Closets? Vinny That!

*We know that over the winter months,* closets and basements shrink – leaving you with too much stuff! Stuff that St. Vincent de Paul can turn into life-changing assistance – like food, a home, prescription medicine and help with basic needs.

## *What happens to your donation of goods?*

Donations go to our Processing Center where they are examined and sorted. Clothing, furniture, jewelry, household items, recreational items and toys, books, holiday decorations, art and music are all reviewed for condition and pricing, then packed up to be sent to one of our seven Dane County stores. Each store has a selection of goods that makes for an interesting and full shopping experience.

## *How does your donation help a neighbor in need?*

The reasonable prices and big selection at St. Vinny's stores attract people of all income levels to shop for all kinds of things – necessities and treats. While some people shop for treasures or just a good deal, many families shop at St. Vinny's because it's a cost-effective way to clothe a growing family, furnish a "starter" home, or celebrate a holiday on a low or moderate budget.

And, all those items sold help support the programs that St. Vincent de Paul provides: housing for men, and housing for women and children, the free pharmacy and the food pantry, as well as the home visitor program that provides store vouchers for household basics.

Each year, St. Vincent de Paul volunteers meet with thousands of families or individuals who are setting up a household, but have little or nothing to sleep on, sit on or eat with. These home visitors meet with the families to discuss their needs and provide vouchers to shop at St. Vinny's stores for essentials like clothing, new air beds or portable cribs, basic furniture and kitchenware. Your donated goods help a family start over on their road to success and stability.

## *How to get your "extras" to St. Vinny's*

All seven stores in Dane County accept your donations and help you unload during business hours. The Sun Prairie, Odana Road and Stoughton St. Vinny's have drive-through bays and the other stores have drop-off docks.

All stores have bins in the entryways to drop off small items before you shop, and drop boxes are located around the community. St. Vinny's also supports community garage sales with special collection sites during the event.

## *Arrange a convenient home pick-up*

But when it's too big to handle or there's a lot to donate, call 608-278-2920 to make an appointment for home pick-up. Or, arrange a pick-up online at [svdpmadison.org/donate/goods](http://svdpmadison.org/donate/goods).

*Help your budget, help your planet,  
help your neighbor in need.*

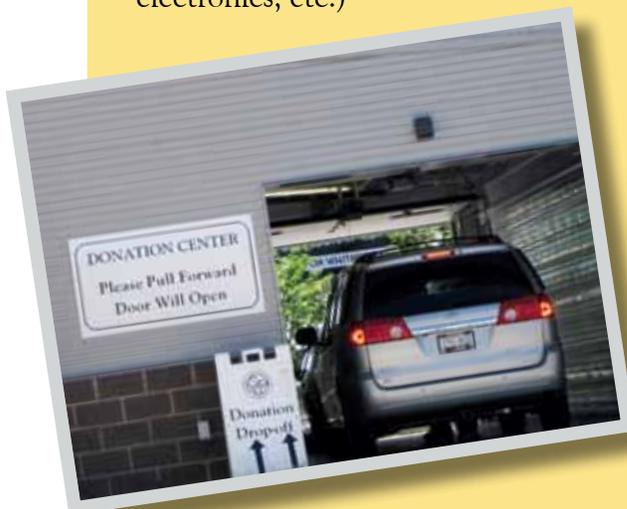
## *Sure, we'll take that!*

- Clothing, furniture and household items that are in clean, working condition
- Working or non-working electronics for our "eCycle with St. Vinny's" program (computers, printers, cell phones, home electronics, etc.)

## *We'd love to take that, but...*

Some things we cannot accept due to safety regulations, disposal and handling costs, or limited resale value. These include:

- Mattresses and box springs
- Televisions
- Sofa sleepers, reclining sofas, futons and entertainment centers
- Baby items, including car seats, cribs and walkers
- Large appliances and exercise equipment
- Hazardous or construction materials
- Very large or heavy furniture



**Drive through to drop off at our stores on Odana Road, in Stoughton and Sun Prairie!**

District Council of Madison, Inc.  
**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**  
PO BOX 259686  
MADISON WI 53725-9686



*Helping Our Neighbors In Need*

Don't just give up for Lent,  
Just Give for Lent.



*Sometimes, we have news  
that we can't wait to share!*

So we'd like to offer email updates to those who want to keep in touch electronically. We won't send you those pesky daily emails, just occasional updates.

And, we'll still mail your regular paper newsletter.

As with all your personal information, we won't share or sell your email address to anyone!

Please send your current email address to:

Ashleigh at  
[ashleigh@svdpmadison.org](mailto:ashleigh@svdpmadison.org)

Be remembered through your lasting gift to  
*the District Council of Madison, Inc.,  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul*



Your legacy of care,  
through a gift in your  
estate plan, will give  
hope to neighbors in  
need *for years to come.*



**Please call for more information:  
Nancy Hansis, Development Director  
608-442-7200 x405**

*Our legal name is: District Council of Madison, Inc.,  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Federal Tax ID# 39-0824876*

The District Council of Madison, Inc., Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a Catholic lay organization in which members join together in friendship to grow spiritually by providing person-to-person services to people who are in need, suffering or forgotten. Sales of donated goods at seven Madison-area thrift stores help fund the Society's charitable work in Dane County. At its Center for Vincentian Charity in Madison, the Society operates a large customer-choice food pantry and a charitable pharmacy; distributes vouchers for bedding, furniture and clothing; and supplies other forms of emergency aid to neighbors in need. The Society offers housing programs for men, women and children in Madison. All services provided by the Society are offered without regard to religious affiliation or beliefs of those assisted. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization.