



Lent 2017

Vincentian Charity News

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

St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy: Meds & More

Khirularziman Mohd (Khirul) has learned many things during his stay in Madison, as his wife earns her PhD in environmental studies at UW-Madison. One of his most important lessons? Navigating the American healthcare system, including the blessing St. Vincent de Paul's Charitable Pharmacy has been for him and other uninsured, income-qualified patients to have prescriptions filled for free.

"When we came to Madison, we were all healthy and covered by health insurance," Khirul explained. "But the degree has taken longer than expected and insurance has run out. With a student budget, private health insurance is unaffordable after we pay rent, food and living expenses for the five of us."

Like many people who are not eligible for insurance through Medicaid or the Affordable Care Act, the family planned to stay healthy and pay out-of-pocket for occasional care and medicine. "But I was unlucky," revealed Khirul. "I got sick."

From active & healthy to sleepless & in pain

Khirul was always active and healthy. When every joint in his body ached all the time, even while asleep, he knew he needed to see a doctor. "Without insurance, I had limited choices," he said. "I was lucky to get into Our Lady of Hope Clinic in Madison, where I found care and options!"

Diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis at the SSM Health Benevolent Specialist Project, he was prescribed a regimen of drugs to function and live fairly pain-free. Khirul was relieved to know what was wrong, but shocked at the cost of the four drugs he'd need every day for the rest of his life.

Khirul shakes his head when he recalls learning the best medications would cost \$1,500 a month.

"It was unaffordable for us. Unaffordable for anyone!" The lowest priced older or generic medications still cost nearly \$800 a month.

SVdP Pharmacy makes the connection

It was St. Vincent de Paul's Charitable Pharmacy, where pharmacists work with providers to craft a medication regimen that is effective and free, that got Khirul the medicine he needed.

Bad luck struck again when he had to have his thyroid removed, which required more medications to take the rest of his life.

"Today, I have all the medicines that work for me because of the pharmacy at St. Vincent de Paul. This place makes all the difference for people who have

trouble affording prescriptions. This service is about humanity," said Khirul. "I feel pretty good. I take my medicine and work out two hours every day to maintain my health."

SVdP Managing Pharmacist Yolanda Tolson-Eveans, RPh, said,



"We stock a wide array of medicines for adults, with the exception of opiates. There's high need for insulin and blood sugar testing supplies, and blood pressure and asthma medication."

"Our service goes beyond simply filling prescriptions. We review each patient's list of medications and work with

the providers to set up an effective medication-related plan for the best outcomes."

Tolson-Eveans explained that the typical pharmacy client uses about five medications. "Uninsured



Dennis Zitnak, RPh, SVdP volunteer pharmacist greets pharmacy client Khirul at a monthly visit.

District Council of Madison, Society of St. Vincent de Paul Thanks New Friend for Largest Gift in its History

Every day at St. Vincent de Paul, good work by good people reaches out to change a moment, a day or even years in someone's life. It doesn't matter if no one else notices. It gets done because the volunteers and staff live the charge of St. Vincent de Paul: helping neighbors in need with friendship and compassion while providing basic services.

Somewhere in his busy, long life, William Samuel Cudlipp III, noticed. He was a friend yet unknown to St. Vincent de Paul, but someone who had a tradition of giving to his community through his career teaching college-level Spanish. His final position was at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Prior to his death in November 2016, Professor Cudlipp decided to leave a bequest to the St. Vincent de Paul Society's District Council of Madison. It is the single largest gift our Council has ever received.

According to Ralph Middlecamp, the Society's CEO and executive director, "Because of this caring legacy, families can count on having enough to eat when the

paycheck is consumed by rent, car expenses and utilities,...and there's nothing left to fill the cupboard. This gift means people with chronic health conditions who are uninsured will have their prescription filled again for another 30 days, helping them work or care for family. It means households visited by our volunteers will receive targeted assistance to pull them back from the brink of financial collapse or even homelessness. All because Professor Cudlipp cared and noticed."

Middlecamp concluded: "We know that Professor Cudlipp's friends, family and colleagues will hold his memory dear for countless reasons. We at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Madison will remember him for years to come, knowing that he is a part of the help we are blessed to give every day. His legacy is, indeed, love."

Thank you, Professor Cudlipp.

Have you defined your legacy?

Just thinking about your legacy can be exhausting! *What's the most pressing problem I can help solve after I'm gone? What size gift makes a difference? What will my family think? How, if at all, do I want to be recognized?*

So give yourself and your family time to explore organizations and share thoughts about how you want to be remembered.

"If you're considering giving to St. Vincent de Paul," invites Nancy Hansis, St. Vincent de Paul's local development director, "we'd love to show you our food pantry, pharmacy, housing programs and the unique ways we help people based on their individual needs. Your gift stays local to help Dane County neighbors and can be designated for the most urgent need or to a specific program."

Complex rules require professional advice

She also advises people to work with a qualified estate planning attorney. These specialists understand the complexities of state and federal tax codes, probate and trust laws from different states, and rules governing retirement plans, mortgages, and other assets and liabilities.

And, be sure to make gifts with the proper legal name. A gift to St. Vincent de Paul in Dane County should be designated to: *District Council of Madison, Inc., Society of St. Vincent de Paul*, with the federal tax ID number 39-0824876.

Grateful for gifts of all sizes

Hansis notes that people sometimes think only wealthy people can leave a bequest. "Not true at all! Just like donors who make modest gifts over a lifetime, every bit of support you give makes a difference. As a volunteer-run organization, we can make a gift have a powerful impact!"

She concludes, "When we receive a bequest, it always touches our hearts that someone still wants to make a difference—even after he or she is gone. Whether we knew a donor before the gift or it's a new friend, the gift changes lives for years afterward."

Plan Your Legacy

Contact Nancy Hansis, Development Director
nhansis@svdpmadison.org or
608-442-7200 x405

More online: svdpmadison.org/planned-giving



St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy Simply Takes Care

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patients may lack a consistent primary care provider who knows all a patient's current prescriptions. Pharmacists can be a point of coordination to prevent harmful medication interactions or redundancies." The pharmacy offers basic health monitoring: blood pressure measurements, weight, and asthma control; and lifestyle counseling for tobacco cessation and healthy food choices.

Volunteers connect with patients

In addition to St. Vincent de Paul staff members, Tolson-Eveans and Cheryl Dull, lead technician/trainer, the pharmacy is staffed by volunteer pharmacists, nurses, doctors, community members and students considering a pharmacy career or enrolled in the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy.

Don Michalski, a pharmacist who works part time elsewhere, has volunteered in the pharmacy at least a day a week since it opened in 2013. "I was retired and looking for a way to use my expertise to help. It's been a great professional and personal experience."

"People need to be helped," he asserted in his calm voice. "The health system is fractured and people, through no fault of their own, are left out."

He described the patients as gracious and grateful. "Some have so little. Their ability to get through the day, especially those coping with significant health problems, is amazing. I am rewarded by being able to make a difference in someone's health by the simple act of providing advice and medication."

Dennis Zitnak, also a retired pharmacist, came to St. Vincent de Paul after a 40-year career in Minnesota. He volunteers three hours a week in the pharmacy and is on-call. "It's a unique opportunity to help people. Most of our patients have multiple health issues and need someone to teach them about their medications in a health care system that lacks continuity."

Sometimes, we give a "co-prescription," Zitnak added. "We ask: what else do you need? Maybe information about a St. Vincent de Paul service like the food pantry or household goods vouchers or a referral to other services."

Judgment goes down & empathy goes up

Both men agree that the most important attribute for a pharmacy volunteer is compassion and the ability to recognize the patient's needs. Zitnak noted, "When you volunteer here, you lose the judgment. You gain empathy and it only grows when you work with people in such need."



How to Volunteer in the Charitable Pharmacy



Pharmacy volunteers Sue McMahon, MD; Dennis Zitnak, RPh and Don Michalski, RPh

Do you have a friendly attitude and respect for patients? Attention to detail? Good communication skills? Join us to serve in one of the many volunteer roles at the SVdP Charitable Pharmacy.

- dispense medications (licensed pharmacists only)
- welcome & register patients
- communicate with referral sources
- manage inventory
- fill prescriptions from stock
- data entry & records filing

All volunteers receive role-specific training, including compliance for patient confidentiality.

Volunteers should be available two shifts a month; shifts are 3 to 4 hours.

Help Us Welcome Our Spanish-Speaking Patients

There is a need for volunteers who speak fluent Spanish to welcome our growing Spanish-speaking patient population.



Cheryl Dull, lead pharmacy tech and volunteer trainer

Interested in helping people get better?
Contact Cheryl Dull, SVdP Lead Pharmacy Technician/Trainer at cdull@svdpmadison.org
Ready to apply? Visit svdpmadison.org/need-assistance/pharmacy

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

Address Service Requested



Helping Our Neighbors In Need

it's Lent
OFFER a HAND UP.
Give to St. Vincent de Paul.



Meet the National Society of St. Vincent de Paul President-Elect!



Congratulations to Ralph Middlecamp, our own District Council of Madison Society of St. Vincent de Paul CEO & Executive Director, on his election to the national office.

"I am deeply honored to have been elected to serve at the national level an organization that I love and to which I have devoted 30 years of my life," Middlecamp said. As national president, he will work "to promote continued growth in friendship, service and spirituality at all levels of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul."

His 6-year unpaid volunteer term begins in October 2017. The succession plan for the local Society will be announced soon.

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: 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.