



Grace Notes

SPECIAL HOUSING ISSUE



Judy found her own apartment thanks to structure and support at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton House program.

A Path Renewed

Facing homelessness and mental illness, Judy has a new lease on life thanks to the support and care from the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton House program.

The truck driver of 18 years hit a major bump in the road when she moved back to her hometown of Madison in 2010. After a difficult separation from her ex-husband, she faced cancer surgery.

Surgery was successful, but contributed to the start of a downhill slide.

"Finding trucking jobs became more difficult for me after surgery," said Judy. "With everything going on, I started dealing with depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder, but I still tried to work and survive by living in my truck."

Overwhelmed and with nowhere to go, she quit trucking altogether. She received disability payments and struggled with mental illness. Over the next few years she bounced between couch surfing at her daughter's apartment and staying in shelters.

"My grandson has autism and it can be very challenging, and my daughter and I don't always get along," said Judy.

"My daughter had fallen on hard times, too. I love them very much and helped pay their rent with most of my disability money, but started to neglect my own care."

Judy struggled to hold a job and felt her mental health slipping. "I started to have suicidal thoughts, but that's when I discovered St. Vincent de Paul and the Elizabeth Ann Seton House."

She started using the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, voucher program and Vinny's Lockers. She had found her compass, she just needed her north star.

"St. Vincent de Paul changed my life, then Seton House saved it," said Judy with a big, bright smile.

"It wasn't just the apartment. They gave me the resources and support to succeed. My bad thoughts started going away, and every day I wanted to be here more and more."

"I had faced instability for so long these last few years," added Judy, who credits the Seton House program for the life-saving structure that restored her life. "At the Seton House, they held me accountable, but they truly cared. It allowed me to focus on improving **me**."

After less than a year at Seton House, Judy has moved out and into a place of her own. "This is the first time in a long time I've had my own place where I truly feel at home. It feels comfortable and I can have my daughter and grandson over for a warm meal. That's really exciting to me."

It has been a bumpy, winding road, but Judy sees bluer skies and greener grass ahead. Now that she has a stable home of her own, her goal is to get back into the work force and continue helping her family.

"For all that St. Vincent de Paul has done for me, I have been happy these last few months. It doesn't get much better than that."

"We help our clients meet their goals. The Seton program is all about guiding, supporting and caring for our clients to give them the best chance to succeed. It is at the core of who we are as an organization."

-Priscilla Lentini, Director of Seton House

Compassionate Kenny Draws Inspiration from the Port

Inspired. This simple word defines Kenny in a big way.

Kenny, who has battled bipolar disorder for many years, still sees the silver lining even during this rough, unstable time in his life. He is able to pursue his dream of finishing school and earning his social work degree at Madison College, thanks to Port Vincent de Paul.



Kenny loves being able to wash his own laundry and relax while watching TV with the other guys at the Port.

“It all started five years ago when I lost my apartment due to a remodeling project and could not find housing before my lease ended,” said Kenny.

Since then, it’s been one unstable situation after another with stops at a halfway house, a rundown motel, the home of a family member with substance abuse, and his mom’s.

“I even tried to move back to my home state of Illinois but just didn’t have the resources,” said Kenny. “That was crushing.”

Finally, with the help of his case manager and his own persistence, he found a home at the Port.

“I truly don’t know what I’d do without the Port,” said Kenny. “I’d be homeless, I wouldn’t be able to go to school and pursue my dream every day. The warmth, safety and stability lets me focus on my dream. I don’t have to worry about where I’ll sleep or if I can get my medicine today. Everyone gets along well.”



The Illinois native says once he earns his degree and finds his own housing, his dream is to have his own team of workers who are committed to helping others struggling with mental health.

“I’ve been inspired by my case manager and other social workers I’ve had the pleasure of getting help from over these last few years, including Peter, the Port Director,” Kenny added with a smile. “The compassion and patience they’ve had with me is something I want to convey to help others.”

When asked what he was most thankful this holiday season, Kenny responded, “The Port has given me a chance to hit the reset button, to get a fresh start on life. For that, I’m forever grateful.”



Recycle the Warmth 28th annual Blanket Drive

- January 24, 25 & 26, 2020 -

Donate new or gently used blankets for households in need at any of our seven Dane County St. Vinny’s stores.

New blankets for donation will be for sale at a special price at our seven thrift stores during the drive.

Monsignor Hippee Wants to "Leave This World a Better Place"

The Madison native and longtime pastor is committed to and passionate about St. Vincent de Paul.

"God has blessed us. It is our responsibility to help those that are suffering with the gifts we have been given."

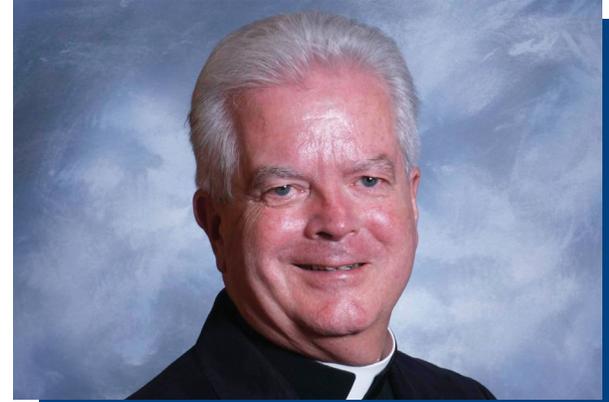
Those are the kind words of Monsignor Mike Hippee, who spent 17 years as Secretary to Bishop O'Donnell, as a pastor of 20 years at St. Bernard Catholic Church in Madison, and as a member of the St. Vincent de Paul-Madison Advisory Council.

The Madison native now lives in Florida, but has made a lifelong commitment to support St. Vincent de Paul in Dane County and its mission of helping our neighbors in need.

He gives monthly to St. Vincent de Paul as a Sustaining Samaritan, and has included St. Vincent de Paul in his estate plans.

"My parents always taught me never to take anything for granted and to always leave the world a better place. That is what St. Vincent de Paul is doing," said Msgr. Hippee.

"No matter where I am at, I want to continue to support those coping with poverty, along with the staff, volunteers and the caring community of St. Vincent de Paul in my hometown."



Monsignor Mike Hippee

"I know St. Vincent de Paul's love, good works and helping those in need will continue long after I'm gone."

-Msgr. Mike Hippee

**Interested in becoming a Sustaining Samaritan? Considering us in your estate plans?
Give our Tax ID to your financial planner: 39-0824876
Other questions? Contact Nancy Hansis, 608-442-7200 x405, nhansis@svdpmadison.org**

Other Giving Options

Sustaining Samaritan

- Automatic monthly gifts from credit card or electronic funds transfer
- Any amount helps, consider "giving your age" to start

Bequest

- Decide how you want to be remembered
- Convey your values and make a difference by leaving a gift from your estate

IRA Qualified Charitable Contribution

- Attractive options for individuals who are at least 70-1/2 years old
- Consult your financial planner; gift is transferred directly from IRA to St. Vincent de Paul-Madison

Donor Advised Fund

- Like a charitable savings account
- Your assets are invested by a non-profit, sponsoring organization, such as Fidelity Charitable

Stocks and Bonds

- Avoid capital gains tax by gifting stocks and bonds
- Your financial advisor can transfer stock to Michelle Dahlk at UBS, 831-8677, michele.dahlk@ubs.com

Bunching

- Make contributions every 2 years instead of every year to improve deduction total
- Consult with tax advisor on best decision for you



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

Address Service Requested

Thanks for everything you
have done for me, and my
family. We really are
greatful for you.

We appreciate you for giving
us somewhere to call home,
It is the best feeling in the world.

With love,
Loren
Deandre
Hearon



Generous gifts = grateful hearts

Volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul and have fun doing it!



Join us!

Contact Jennifer Troia
608-442-7200 x426
jtroia@svdpmadison.org

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING
Volunteer on your time, no long-term commitment

FUN

Smiling faces, friendly embraces!

COME ONE, COME ALL

Visiting for the holidays, area resident?
Everybody's welcome, easy training right on the spot

