



Grace Notes

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

George's Journey of Hope Marches On

George knows adversity a little too well. This year, he is more thankful than ever for the help of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

After battling a mental illness and homelessness for many years, he faced another hurdle. He was diagnosed with esophageal cancer two years ago that made it a struggle to eat. Thanks to chemotherapy, he has regained some of his health and is grateful for St. Vincent de Paul Society's help.

"The cancer struck suddenly, shortly after I got walking pneumonia," recalls George. "It was tough, especially because I couldn't work. Now I can eat and have regained some of my weight, but without the food pantry and St. Vincent de Paul's other services, it would be difficult. It is really important that I get my strength back now."

"Now that I'm feeling better and cancer is in remission, I can get back to enjoying the foods I love," said a smiling George. "Things like fish, chicken and soups, all stuff I can find here at the food pantry. I'm looking forward to having my traditional fried cabbage and corned beef for Thanksgiving!"

Like George, other resilient shoppers, who face adversity of their own will look to St. Vincent de Paul and your support as they prepare to gather with loved ones for Thanksgiving.



George, in remission after esophageal cancer, now relies on the food pantry and your generous support to regain his strength and, with gratitude, celebrate a happy Thanksgiving.

"It is our easily our busiest time of the year, as families prepare for Thanksgiving," noted Chris Kane, Director of Client Services. "Up to 140 families a day go through the pantry. It would not be possible without the support of volunteers, donors and staff, and it's heartwarming to see how appreciative everyone is."

"I had nothing, and St. Vincent de Paul provided a lot for me," recounted George. "They even visited me and brought me books in the hospital during treatments. They were always there and allowed me to move forward with my life."

With the help of a group of St. Vincent de Paul volunteers from St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church, George was able to move into his first apartment. He is excited to spend Thanksgiving in his new home.

"It started with the pharmacy, continued with free storage, home visits, vouchers and now food," said George, reflecting on his path here. **"When I've needed help, St. Vincent de Paul has done more for me than I expected. I'm extremely grateful."**

600

*Families shop the pantry
the five days leading up to
Thanksgiving*

What's for Thanksgiving dinner?



CHERYL

Sweet potato pie



DONNA

Cranberry fluff



GEORGE & NANCY

Chicken with spices



TRISTAN

Turkey dressing



NATAJA & NYLAH

Mac n' cheese

"Thanks to your generous gifts and volunteer help, we are able to provide a wide variety of food, including fresh produce, for our shoppers. We are busiest as we head into the holiday season, so the addition of food drives and donations to our normal supply helps a lot!"

-Chris Kane, SVdP Director of Client Services

Most Needed Foods

- Canned Fruit (in natural juices)
- Canned salmon, tuna or chicken
- Flour
- Sugar
- Cooking oil (any kind)
- Cereal (whole grain)
- Rice (brown)
- Beans (Not canned green beans)
- Jelly
- Soup (low sodium)
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti sauce
- Meal-in-a-can
- Ketchup
- Pancake mix
- Syrup (light)

YOU can be the difference!
Donate these foods and drop off at
St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.
9:30 am-3:30 pm, Mon.-Fri.

Volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul!

- 1 Flexible scheduling**
- 2 Variety of roles**
- 3 Help someone right away**
- 4 Make new friends**
- 5 Fulfilling**
- 6 FUN!**



"It was easy to step in right away, has been a really satisfying experience, and the shoppers and clients are very appreciative. I feel like I've helped make a difference!"
- Marsha,
longtime volunteer

Interested?
Talk to Jennifer!
jtroia@svdpmadison.org
608-442-7200 x426

Cookies Matter



Ernie Stetenfeld

SVdP CEO & Executive Director

Dear Friends:

I grew up downstairs from my Aunt Pat, who was also my godmother. As a dessert capstone to Thanksgiving meals, Aunt Pat would annually make a particular cookie I prized. These cookies featured a Hershey's Kiss in the middle and reminded me of a tiny version of a hat Genghis Khan might have worn. To me and my cousins, they were "Aunt Pat cookies," and they heralded the arrival of the holiday season.

In this newsletter, we focus on food – for a few reasons. **Although summer is typically the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry's busiest season, November tends to be our single busiest month.** In most years, our pantry's highest-volume days are the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

In our pantry, we offer a range of healthy food choices, including loads of fresh veggies.

Among the items shoppers seek most at this time of year, however, are baking supplies:

flour, sugar, oil, eggs, etc. I think that's because many of our shoppers – much like my godmother – are looking to make something to bless their family members' memories as the holidays approach.

We deeply value the support – finances, food and volunteer hours – of a caring community for the work of our busy food pantry. Please donate to support our pantry. You may help make a holiday memory that will last someone a lifetime.

With thanks & best wishes for Thanksgiving,



Thanks for visiting, Bishop Hying!

Diocese of Madison Bishop Donald Hying, who is also SVdP's National Episcopal Advisor, toured St. Vincent de Paul's Service Center in October. He talked with staff, volunteers and clients in the food pantry and pharmacy, and learned more about how we help our neighbors in need.



"St. Vincent de Paul is focused on the niche of specific needs that are important to our community and does so by collaborating with others. It blends practicality, spirituality, is **uplifting** and fills in the gaps. SVdP is moving out from charitable work and provides systematic help that can change lives in the long term. **Very impressive.**"

–Bishop Donald Hying



Address Service Requested



Grateful Hearts Full of **Thanksgiving**

“Every Little Bit Counts” – Give Today for a Better Tomorrow

Sister Jean has always been a giver.

In the 1990s, she was one of the founding members of a small group at her parish that “didn’t have a lot of money,” but made up for it with big hearts by being a resource for others in the community.

“We didn’t have much,” recalled Sister Jean. “But we would go down to the drug store on Willy Street or buy a couple bus tickets to help those in need when we could. Every little bit counts!”

Sister Jean wants others to know that if she could make a small, everyday impact, then you can, too!



Sister Jean,
longtime St. Vincent
de Paul donor

“As executor of my uncle’s estate, some was given to St. Vincent de Paul, and I plan to do the same with mine,” said Sister Jean.

“St. Vincent de Paul does so much good for the community. I like to take my friends to the St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores in Waunakee, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona and Madison, and show them the variety. With our family gifts, we can help many in need from all walks of life.”

Is St. Vincent de Paul already in your will, trust or other estate plans? Thank you! Please let us know about your plans because it helps SVdP plan for the future.

Don’t have a will? You’re not alone! Consider making a bequest to SVdP in your estate plans.

Call or email Nancy Hansis for details:
608-442-7200 x405 or nhansis@svdpmadison.org
District Council of Madison, Inc.,
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
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