



THANKSGIVING 2020

Grace Notes

HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED



"This place is heaven-sent! Me and my son have special diets and rely on healthy foods. **Without St. Vincent de Paul, we couldn't make it.** They pick me up when I'm down, and I'm grateful."

BEYOND THE BOX

Despite record numbers, fresh food still plentiful for families in need.

Just a few weeks ago, a record-shattering 199 families came to us for food on one day. A normal, pre-COVID Thursday saw 70-80 families come through our food pantry.

With donor support, we have been able to provide families more than just canned goods. Beyond the boxes of non-perishables we provide, thanks in part to Second Harvest's help, we include an assortment of healthy items: meat, dairy, bread and fresh produce.

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, we try to remember our blessings in the midst of 2020's struggles. At St. Vincent de Paul, fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthy items are a blessing to food pantry clients. For those on a limited budget, many of these healthy items are too expensive to purchase at a store.

Every year, our food pantry receives a bountiful harvest from the Lacy Food Pantry Garden. In the past ten years, our food pantry clients have taken home nearly 200,000 pounds of fresh produce grown and harvested by our volunteers.

Many years ago, Phil and Winnie Lacy donated the use of 1.25 acres of farmland for use as a food pantry garden. Their son, Tom, and his wife, Karen, continue the family tradition of support for the garden. The family's hands-on work lasts spring through fall.

Equally important, the Lacys allow hundreds of volunteers onto this land to plant, cultivate and reap the crops. "People are struggling. They don't want to have to ask for food to feed their families," said Winnie. "We (the family) don't do much. It's the volunteers who really do all of the work which means people in need get healthy food."

Pandemic restrictions mean the food pantry has become a no-contact, drive-through that is able to safely provide for more families than ever before.

We are thankful for our St. Vincent de Paul family of volunteers, staff, donors, and, most importantly, our clients even in record-setting numbers.

The growing season has ended, but the need has not. **Your help is important, now more than ever.**



Vinny's Lockers, Personal Belongings Lost to Fire

On the morning of Nov. 1, fire broke out inside the Vinny's Lockers building across the street from our Service Center. Vinny's Lockers provided secure space for up to **75 individuals** who are homeless to store their belongings.

The Lockers held clothing, family mementos, personal papers, and other items. A fire resistant cabinet protected papers and other mementos, but most other belongings were destroyed.

Vinny's Lockers volunteers and District Council staff are working to help those who lost items. Thankfully, no loss of life or personal injury resulted from the fire. When this went to print, the cause of the fire was still unknown.

Now More Than Ever



Dear Friends & Supporters:

A season of Fire and Ice: “Winter is coming.” You might remember that phrase from a popular TV series. I think it means at least this: Tough times are ahead. Well, that is where we are. Winter is coming – literally and figuratively. Now more than ever, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul needs your support as we serve through a difficult season.

The Fire: You may have heard. The building that housed our Vinny’s Lockers program, a secure place that stored goods for people coping with homelessness, succumbed to fire on Nov. 1. (See the page 1 story.)

The Ice (and Drive-through Services): Running a no-contact outdoor food pantry during a Wisconsin winter won’t be easy. We thank our friends at the Madison Community Foundation and the Rennebohm Foundation for

generous grants to help us make winter adaptations to accommodate outdoor operation of our Food Pantry and Charitable Pharmacy. New to our Service Center property is a metal shed and extended awnings and hanging tarp walls will offer greater protection from the elements for volunteers and staff. Added heating and lighting to our curbside food and medication distribution areas will help overcome the cold, dark days ahead. The foundation support makes a big difference in our ability to continue serving our neighbors in need.



Record-setting Need: The pandemic led to increased demand through the fiscal year that ended in September. Food value we provided was up 12 percent over the prior year. On Oct. 29, our pantry staff and volunteers served a one-day record 199 households – the third record day in less than six weeks.

Our pharmacists learned to use tablets and laptops and the help of a runner to provide telehealth consulting and get medications curbside to uninsured patients with low incomes. The value our pharmacy provided in prescribed medications was up 19 percent for the year.

Gratitude: Despite adversity, we continue to find ways to serve and reasons to be grateful at this time of Thanksgiving. Now more than ever, I am grateful for the support of a caring community. I am grateful that only material goods were lost in the fire. And I am grateful for any gift you will entrust to us to allow us to continue helping our neighbors in need. Thank you.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours,

Ernie Stetenfeld, CEO

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

Chris Kane (left), longtime Director of Client Services, celebrated 25 years here in August!

“25 years goes fast! I’m grateful to everyone for the experience and proud that we can continue to help.”



Julie Bennett (right), our new Associate Executive Director, just started in September!

“I don’t know if I can catch Chris! But I’m honored to be a part of this great ministry that takes care of families who need it most.”

Have You Considered a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)?

Want a simple, flexible and tax-efficient way to help your community and grow your contribution? Donor Advised Funds (DAF) may be the way to go!

A DAF allows you to make a charitable contribution with an immediate tax deduction, through sponsoring charities such as Fidelity Charitable, Vanguard Charitable and Schwab Charitable.

HOW IT WORKS

1. You make an irrevocable contribution of cash, stock or real estate.
2. Your contribution is placed in an account to be invested and grow tax-free.
3. You direct a gift to any IRS-qualified 501(c)(3) charity, such as the District Council of Madison, Inc., Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

You can make a gift based on your own timeline, right now, over time, or perhaps in your will.

“We created a Donor Advised Fund to support St. Vincent de Paul, one of our favorite charities, and to take advantage of the ease of making and tracking donations. An extra bonus is “bunching” our donations for tax benefits.”



Stuart and Susanna Herro
DAF users and SVdP supporters

Questions? Contact Nancy Hansis, Director of Development at 608-442-7200 x34 or nhansis@svdpmadison.org and your financial advisors to see if a DAF is right for you.

“Motivates me to do more.” Alex dedicates time, cherishes experience in pharmacy.



Alex (front) has volunteered each pharmacy day over the last few months.



Meet Alex Le, a recent graduate of the UW School of Pharmacy. Alex has volunteered 15 hours per week, working each day the pharmacy has been open since her graduation.

“This has been a great chance to help others, gain more experience and apply those skills,” said Alex, who helped implement technology necessary for telehealth communication.

She also aided COVID adaptations, including 90-day prescriptions and curbside medication pick-up. She has even checked in with patients to monitor their well-being during the pandemic.

“I was able to help a young, naive patient,” said Alex. “It was scary because they didn’t realize the severity of their need. It was a humbling moment for both of us and meant a lot to me. Patients don’t always have someone to go to for advice.”

Next up for Alex – medical school. She’s waiting to learn where she will be accepted. We wish her success!

“Yolanda and everyone have been amazing,” added Alex. “We care about our patients. That has motivated me to do more to help the community as I begin my career in medicine.”



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Generous gifts = grateful hearts

Become a Lifeline for Hope

Caring, comforting and generous... Experience the best giving emotions by exploring different ways to donate to St. Vincent de Paul. With a record 199 families served in one food pantry shift just weeks ago, your support is needed **now more than ever**.

Bequest — Leave a legacy gift through your will

Donor Advised Fund (DAF) — See previous page for more information

IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) — If you're 70-1/2 or older, make a tax-free gift from your IRA through a Qualified Charitable Contribution.

Sustaining Samaritan — Easy, automatic monthly giving.

Stocks and Bonds — Avoid capital gains tax and ask your financial advisor to let us know of your intended gift to transfer stock. Michele Dahlk at UBS will help complete the transaction. 608-831-8677, michele.dahlk@ubs.com

Bunching — Make contributions every 2 years instead of annually to maximize your deduction total.



Consult with your tax advisor for your best giving option. To discuss planned giving with us, please contact Nancy Hansis, Director of Development at 608-442-7200 x34 or nhansis@svdpmadison.org.

*****Our legal name is District Council of Madison, Inc., Society of St. Vincent de Paul.**

We are a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our Tax ID/EIN number is 39-0824876.