

# Gragestes

### HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

SPRING 2022 and

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT** 



# "A lot of people need help..."

Increasing food prices mean higher client numbers at our Food Pantry, and people come however they can.

As he loaded cans of soup, a bag of apples and oranges, frozen meat, cheese, yogurt containers and a gallon of milk onto his bike, Geoff<sup>\*</sup> explained how much the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry means to him. "It's a huge blessing. A blessing of food which goes a long way," Geoff said. "All of these people out here to help, it's amazing!"

It is a cold, cold "Wisconsin spring" day. It's windy outdoors in the parking lot. A mix of snow and rain falls heavily. Still, staff and volunteers at the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry are loading vehicles with food and personal-care items as they have, regardless of the weather, for the past two years. Cars frequently begin lining up 45 minutes before the pantry opens. Once they reach the front of the line, it takes just minutes for staff and volunteers to load trunks or backseats with boxes of food. Clients make special requests – no meat, skip the bread, just produce this week – but most take the full 75-pound allotment.

Since the beginning of April, our food pantry has averaged 104 households per pantry day. The

current record-high number of households in one day for this year is 158. These are numbers more typically seen around Thanksgiving and Christmas times. Staff and volunteers load a vehicle every minute and a half on the busiest days.

Vehicles aren't the only way people retrieve their groceries and come through our outdoor drivethough service. Geoff, a pantry client this past year, rides his bike to and from our pantry. Other pantry users ride the bus, using backpacks or shopping bags to carry their food home. A friend referred Geoff to St. Vincent de Paul. He's been a regular at the pantry for the last year. Especially due to the pandemic and inflation, access to free food has helped him pay other expenses and bills.

Inflation means food and other goods are expensive. Everyone feels this. Those who lack transportation face an added burden. Geoff cannot drive but manages the best he can by using a bike carrier to get his groceries home. Heavy items go on the bottom, bread on the top and anything else he can carry in two backpacks on his back. A supply of toilet paper, toothpaste and other personal-care items hang from his bike's handlebars.

God blessed us with this food and with this pantry. It's amazing with such nice volunteers and staff," Geoff said. "Food is expensive, rent is expensive, and this helps to cover other expenses like my rent and utilities. I can't thank you enough." \*Name changed for privacy

Most people coming through our Food Pantry receive about 75 lbs. of food (right). Your gift will help Geoff and other clients get the food they need. Thank you!





**Ernie Stetenfeld** 





My life has been marked by having options. It's not that I haven't faced hard choices, but I have been privileged generally to choose among positive possibilities.

Here's a case in point: I was recently able to decide I will retire yet this year from my executive-leadership role with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Madison. The CEO job for our Society in Dane County is one in which I have served for about five years.

I couldn't be more pleased to let you know that our Board of Directors has chosen Julie Bennett, our current Associate Executive Director, as our next CEO. Julie, a skilled and experienced nonprofit executive – with a head and heart for servant leadership – will assume the Executive Director & CEO role in full on Oct. 1. In the interim, Julie and I are in a period of transition to share knowledge to help equip our organization to continue to serve Dane County neighbors in need effectively and compassionately.

I share all this to impart two main notions. First, our organization values effective succession to preserve and improve our capacity to serve people. Second, I feel confident in our Board members' selection of Julie for our primary executive-leadership role. I believe Julie has the capacity to be a transformational leader for St. Vincent de Paul – Madison.

The options I have are often in short supply for many of those we at St. Vincent de Paul are privileged to help. In spite of ingenious efforts to make ends meet, the possibilities for people coping with poverty remain constrained. The struggle to pay for household rent, utility bills, groceries, medical expenses and transportation - especially in a time of mounting inflation – tends to constrict choices for our neighbors in need.

St. Vincent de Paul – Madison recently updated its strategic plan through 2024. We review this living document periodically to understand where we are in achieving its goals and to course correct as needed. The plan's goals focus our organization on expanding options for those we serve. New efforts under development include microlending, an accompaniment program geared toward helping people out of poverty, exploration of ways to

# St. Vincent de Paul **Board of Directors**

Jim Oeth, President Susanna Herro, Secretary Mark Kraemer, Treasurer Patty Bruni, Director Katie Crawley, Director **Thomas Parker**, Director Patrick Sippy, Director Maryann Slater, Director Alejandro Vergara, Director Ryan Zakrzewski, Director Fr. Bart Timmerman, Spiritual Advisor

Note: Volunteer board members do not receive payment for their service.

help with transportation needs, and a revised range of Seton Program services to meet needs among single custodial adults with minor children. Our food pantry and pharmacy are planning for expansions informed by lessons learned during the pandemic.

Future annual reports will update readers on our efforts to grow opportunities to better honor the dignity of the people we serve. We are grateful for the generosity of a caring community to help us succeed. We need that generosity to continue and grow as our programs of service do. Please join me in continuing to support the work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to serve Dane County neighbors in need. And I invite you to welcome Julie Bennett in her next role as our servant leader advancing that mission.

With thanks, blessings & warm regards,

Ernie Stetenfeld CEO & Executive Director

# Last year, donor support helped provide...

# Food

- On average, 222 adults and children were served each day our food pantry was open.
- 204 households were served on our busiest food pantry day.
- 46,158 total people received food and personal care items.

# Medicine

- 447 uninsured adult patients received needed medications, at no charge to them.
- 8,878 total 30-day prescriptions were filled.
- 250+ adults received their first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccines.

# **Housing Programs**

- 50+ men, women and children had a safe place to live and support to plan their next steps.
- 5,635 bed nights were provided at Port St. Vincent de Paul.



# By the numbers...

	Service Center	Housing	Thrift Stores	District Council	Total
Income					
Donations and Cash Bequests	\$2,235,709	\$49,330	\$12,387	\$14,625	\$2,312,051
Store Sales	-	-	\$11,857,767	-	\$11,857,767
Vehicle Sales	\$14,257	-	-	-	\$14,257
Housing Program Fees	-	\$84,595	-	-	\$84,595
Grants	\$196,925	\$15,000		\$1,784,673	\$1,996,598
Interest, Dividends, etc.	-	-	\$26,340	\$74,645	\$100,985
Total Income	\$2,446,891	\$148,925	\$11,896,494	\$1,873,942	\$16,366,253
Expenses					
Personnel	\$463,233	\$383,006	\$7,898,051	\$741,864	\$9,486,155
Facilities	\$120,585	\$90,626	\$1,454,208	\$53,942	\$1,719,362
Distribution	\$316,250	\$14,864	\$122,174	\$33,267	\$486,555
Administration	\$181,087	\$9,222	\$752,473	\$127,189	\$1,069,972
Total Expenses	\$1,081,155	\$497,719	\$10,226,906	\$956,262	\$12,762,043
Capital Projects	\$55,155	\$65,346	\$357,485	\$89,229	\$567,215
Net Income	\$1,310,581	(\$414,140)	\$1,312,103	\$828,452	\$3,036,995



Food

Value of Assistance



\$1,355,311

\$497,719 Housing **Programs** 







**\$67,168** Other Assistance



Note: Numbers represent data from fiscal year 2021; October 1, 2020 - September 31, 2021.

### Gifts in honor of another:

Note: Gifts received in honor or memory listed here were received between October 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021.

All Saints Neighborhood staff All those in need All volunteers and staff at St. Vincent de Paul Laurel Anderson Stanley Anderson Tess Anderson Anthony Anzelmo Roger and Anne Avery Linda Balla James Barnard Ruth Beale Julie Bennett Jim Berbee Steve Beyer President Biden Boebel Matthew Boyle Mary Kay and Bob Bright Mary Jo Brinkmann Jeffrey Brochtrup **Bob Burns** Lecca Chirinos family Ruttanatip Chonwerawong Christ the King SVdP Conference Mary Cieciorka Tammy Collins Dr. Alfred and Beth Dally **DJ Deardorff** Br. Vincent Dirienzo Paula Discher Victor and Carol Dorn Lynn Dresen Edward A. Drinkwine Shirlev Drouin Michael Ellifson Fr. Robert Evenson Kelly, James and Miles Faber Family

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Susan Rosenbek Jean Rush Susan Schauf Rob Schellin **Barbara Schug Robert Schwaab** Twila and John Sheskey Seamus Sidney Siegert grandchildren Steven Skolaski Thomas Sobota Lincoln Souzek Veronika Souzek Dawn Springer Stamp out Hunger Colleagues at the State Bar of Wisconsin Scott Stenger Scott and Karla Temple Sr. Marsha Tierney, DC Fr. Bart Timmerman Dave Topp Fr. Stephen Umhoefer Alejandro Vergara Lina Vergara Aurora Villavicencio Lecca Vinces family Joseph Voell Alice Wagner Jo Anne Wall Tim and Karen Watson Lindsey Watson and familv TJ Watt Anne Weilan David Witzeling Donna Yellen Jerry and Judy Young Lenor and Peter Zeeh

Please find the names of our individual and business donors on our website: svdpmadison.org

### St. Vincent de Paul Member Conferences

Blessed Sacrament, Madison Cathedral Parish, Madison Christ the King, McFarland Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monona Our Lady Queen of Peace, Madison Sacred Hearts of Jesus & Mary, Sun Prairie St. Albert the Great, Sun Prairie St. Ann, Stoughton St. Bernard, Madison St. Bernard, Middleton St. Christopher, Verona St. Dennis, Madison St. Francis Xavier, Cross Plains St. John the Baptist/ St. Mary of the Lake, Waunakee-Westport St. Maria Goretti, Madison St. Paul's Catholic Student Center, Madison St. Peter, Madison St. Thomas Aquinas, Madison Additional gratitude to our Youth Service Council!

### Gifts in memory of another:

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Marla Teresa Abello de Peralta **Bob Adams** Jason Amoriello Alfred Anderson Fritz Anderson **Bill Antonion** Patricia Balla Freda Baltes Jane Barbian Paul Becker Ellen Frances Bellissimo Lois Bernbeck **Robert Berns Bino family Emilie Ann Bolan** Eric Boldt **Ginny Bormann** Cordula Bosold **Bob Bright** David Brown **Donald Brown** Linda Brown Norbert **Buechner** William Bula Msgr. Michael Burke **Delores Campbell** Jean Vicksell Carlev James and Dorothy Caya Gary Chalfant Mary Cieciorka Rev. Richard Cody Jim. Lorraine and **Dick Cosgrove** Ray Cunneen Alfred Dally Donald and Shirlev Dardis **Bob Deist Diane Dennis Bob Dettman Eunice P. Devine** Joseph and Lucille Devine Earl Devrov Maurice Dewane Ann Dier Paula J. Discher Mike Dohm Robert Droster Robert Dvorak **Ruth Anne** Dykman Jim Ebben

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



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