

Hope in Action

Your compassion to help neighbors in need



**You are
feeding her
family.**



Julie's Journal



Dearest friends,
Have you ever stopped to think about how essential hope is in our world today? Hope is so much more than wishful thinking. The hope you share by being part of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Madison is very real, even visible. You, in fact, are hope.

The time you spend packing food boxes, helping patients with their medications, providing a listening ear, and donating goods and money all make hope visible for our neighbors in need. Thank you!

Thank you for walking alongside our caring, hardworking staff and dedicated Board of Directors. You make hope visible for us too. Without you, our neighbors go hungry, their health suffers, they sleep on cold floors, and have their lights turned off. Without you, hope is gone.

With you, my prayers are answered that we can move forward together in hope.

As you gather to celebrate with family and friends this Thanksgiving, do you have some extra hope to share? **All year long, and escalating even faster since September, the number of families requesting food from the food pantry continues to increase to the highest numbers at any time in our 90+ year history.** Children, adults and seniors are struggling more than ever to afford groceries, rent, gas and energy expenses.

Will you share hope this Thanksgiving with our neighbors in need? **Please give what you can.**

Blessings for a healthy, joy-filled holiday,

Julie Bennett
CEO & Executive Director

Multiply your hope by helping your neighbors in need every month.

Become a Sustaining Samaritan. Contact Eric Fleming at efleming@svdpmadison.org or (608) 442-7200 x34.



\$25/month

Feeds a family



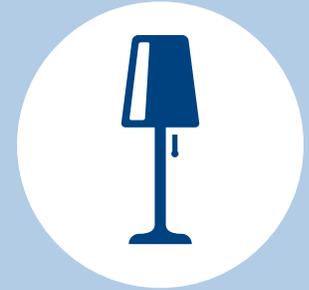
\$50/month

Gives a man a place to sleep



\$100/month

Fills a prescription for an uninsured patient



\$200/month

Pays a family's utility bill

Finding fellowship through service

Six years ago when Patrick Sippy moved to Madison he was looking for community - a way to help people and to give back. He found that fellowship and that ability to do good within the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Madison.

His entry into the Society occurred one evening while attending a Theology on Tap event. Gayle Westfahl, SVdP – Madison Membership Director, spoke at the event about how the Society helps people in Dane County. She also described some activities of the volunteer Young Adult Group. That sparked Patrick's interest.

"I had the time," Patrick recalled. "I had these open evenings when my wife worked second shift, so I was looking to fill time and join in fellowship with people."

Involvement in the Society

For the past five years, Patrick has been an active advisor on the planning committee for the Young Adult Group. Throughout the year, the group plans events to join in fellowship, serve people in need and learn about their Catholic faith. Whether the group is running a book club, raising awareness on food insecurity, hosting speakers, facilitating a service day, managing a fundraising event or packing boxes in the food pantry, their goal is camaraderie and community.

"The Young Adult Group and similar groups are important because they bring people together for a common cause which is service to others," Patrick said. "It's important to do work as a group or with someone else because it creates a foundation and culture of, 'this is a good thing.' Especially right now it's important to exist in community. It's so easy to exist in your own bubble as an individual and not participate in anything and be comfortable. You really have to get out there and experience things with others in community. I feel that is the way to do it."

Furthermore, Patrick has been a Board of Director member since October 2021. He noted that staff have a keen ability to alter programs, when necessary, and stay nimble and quick in changing service models depending on the community needs. Continuing to listen and learn, his background in business and finance serves St. Vincent de Paul – Madison well.

An eye for charity

While Patrick voluntarily shares his time and talents to



Patrick and Morgana Sippy

help people in need, he and his wife, Morgana, are also Sustaining Samaritan monthly donors to St. Vincent de Paul – Madison. He stressed that he gives because it's important to contribute from what he has been given.

"Giving monthly is an easy process to establish," Patrick said. "You can contribute monthly and re-evaluate from time to time. If you're in a stable situation, you can hopefully increase your gift."

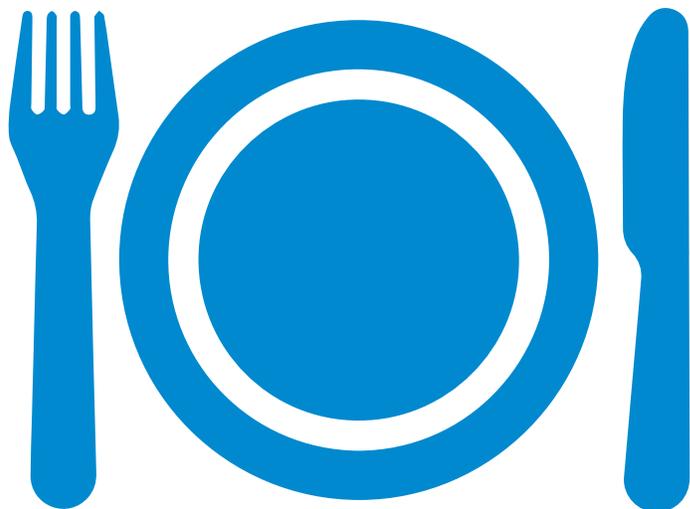
"I have no second thoughts when we donate," Patrick continued. "I have high confidence that staff will use funds in the most efficient and valuable means to help people in need."

Patrick and his wife give to the overall organization as well as one-off special events or contributions. From diapers to food; monthly giving or time; they have gone above and beyond over and over again.

"Especially now, SVdP – Madison is essential in helping so many people. It's a critical time." - Patrick Sippy.

"We're very appreciative of the Society," Patrick said. "Especially now, St. Vincent de Paul – Madison is essential in helping so many people. For folks that are new, keep putting a good word out to the community about St. Vincent de Paul. It's a critical time. I remember when breaking 100 clients served at the pantry was a large number. Now every single day we're serving triple-digits."

Born in Iowa, Patrick is a credit officer for corporate and nonprofit real estate. He and his wife are avid travelers with family across the country and globe.



Kamaria cannot feed her family without you

It's a bright sunny afternoon in late October as Kamaria* finishes her work day as a caregiver. She smiles, says hello when I walk up to her car to chat. Yesterday included two shifts, one for each of her employers, 12 hours in total. She is tired.

"Caregiving is a hard job," Kamaria says. "But it's good. If people didn't like it, they wouldn't do it."

Kamaria's third job is being a mom to three teenagers. Her youngest is 14.

"I am so busy, they keep me on the run," Kamaria says.

Her final stop before going home is the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

"I have been coming to the pantry for a long time," Kamaria explains. "It helps, it really helps. Especially now with how expensive food is."

Increased need for food

As pantry staff member Ashleigh loads Kamaria's groceries into her front seat, she smiles and laughs that her kids can help her unload once she gets home. The boxes and bags are heavy with fresh produce and pantry staples. Cooking oil and other baking items are particularly bulky and hard to afford on her budget.

"The kids eat all of the food, they can unload it," Kamaria laughs. "I cook healthy food all of the time. My kids love fruits and vegetables. Anything fresh."

The rising prices of food, gas and utilities are hurting her ability to care for her children. She gets food from the

pantry to be able to afford other bills.

The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry is open four days a week to provide groceries to families and individuals. Each month since May of this year an increasing average number of households have turned to the pantry for help with food. Rising costs hit people with limited incomes the hardest forcing them to make hard choices and adding stress to their lives.

"I have been coming to the pantry for a long time. It helps, it really helps. Especially now with how expensive food is." - Kamaria

A blessing of time and convenience

Kamaria struggles to find time to balance all of the demands of her day: working two jobs, managing a household and raising three hungry teenagers. She uses Pantry2Home (formally PantryPal), the online food ordering system. She credits the resource as a game-changer for her family.

"The online order has been good. I come home from work and don't have time to wait in line and have to go right home and cook," Kamaria says. "A friend from work told me about this service. I am so glad I learned about this."

Placing an online order relieves the burden of time from families stretched thin, allows them to choose exactly which pantry items they need, reduces food waste and offers greater flexibility for cultural preferences and dietary restrictions. Online orders are easy to make for people using the pantry. They visit the Food Pantry page of our website and click the Pantry2Home button to place an order for pickup, or the DoorDash button to place an order for delivery.

Currently, about 20 families place and pick up orders each Monday, Tuesday and Friday. On Thursday, that number exceeds 50 families as DoorDash drivers deliver the orders to 25- 40 families, in addition to those who choose to pick up their orders. Pantry staff and volunteers work hard to pack all of these orders while still managing the drive-through pantry service. Your generosity fed an average of 145 households each pantry day last month.

"You guys do wonderful things. I don't like to waste food and with the online ordering I can choose exactly what I know

my kids will eat," Kamaria reaffirms.

Kamaria relies on the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry to feed her family and give her hope. Your care for and generosity to her and thousands of neighbors like her is tremendous. You make moving forward together in hope possible.

**Name changed to maintain the neighbor's privacy. Photos are representational.*

**"If ever anyone needs help,
they can come here. You
guys do wonderful things."
- Kamaria**





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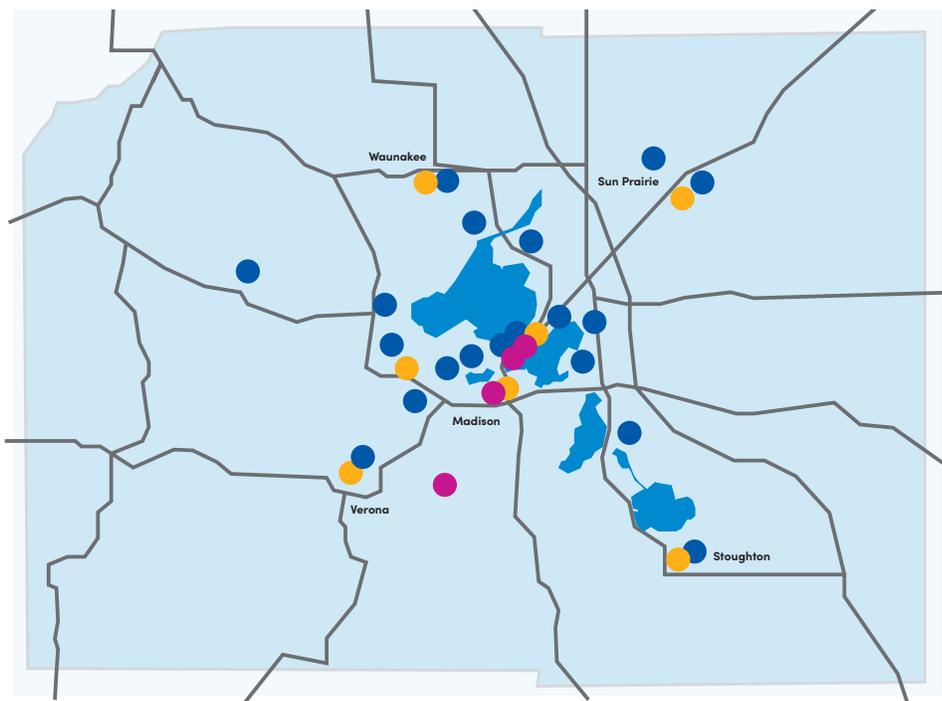
Our Mission

We are a Catholic lay organization in which members join together in friendship to grow spiritually by providing person-to-person services to our neighbors in need.

Your crucial support

Your compassion and generosity changes the lives of thousands of people each year in Dane County. Donate online now by scanning the below QR code or call (608) 442-7200 x34.

Contact Eric Fleming at efleming@svdpmadison.org or (608) 442-7200 x34 to leave a bequest in your will or estate to care for future needs of our community.



Mapping your impact

Thrift Stores

Three thrift stores in Madison (on Williamson Street, Odana Road and Park Street), one each in Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona and Waunakee.

Programs

- Food Pantry
- Charitable Pharmacy
- Vinny's Lockers
- Vouchers for food, furniture and household goods
- Rent and utility assistance
- Lacy Food Pantry Gardens
- Port St. Vincent de Paul
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Program

Member conferences

Home-visiting members across Dane County provide face-to-face support to neighbors in need.



Moving Forward Together in Hope

You can help thousands of Dane County families in need. Give hope today.