



# Our Vincentian Voice



## The Monthly Newsletter for The Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Belleville Council  
13 Vieux Carre Drive P.O. BOX 3415 East St. Louis, Illinois 62203  
Office phone: 618.394.0126 Website: svdpsouthil.org

**September 2020**

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### SVdP BLESSED WITH VISIT BY BISHOP MCGOVERN

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bishop Michael McGovern blessed St. Vincent de Paul with a visit to our Outreach Ministries at 3718 State St., East St. Louis. He toured the facilities and engaged in conversations and active listening to the



Gospel experiences of those who serve and those who benefit from the mission and spirit of SVdP charity and justice goals. “This introductory visit in East St. Louis and visits to other poverty areas of our Diocese have provided me both inspiration and insight of the challenges we face, our needs and of how we might better

respond” he said. Bishop McGovern ate lunch at the soup kitchen and shared discussions with Vice President, Joe Hubbard and Executive Director, Pat Hoglebe about the programs and services that St. Vincent de Paul extends to its outreach to the poor and marginalized throughout the diocese of Belleville as well as through the 20 parish SVdP conferences in southern Illinois. At the end of the day, the Council was elated and overwhelmed by the concern and compassion that the Bishop expressed for the charity work being done by St. Vincent de Paul.

Dear Friends,  
Since March 22<sup>nd</sup>, our routine has changed drastically at St. Vincent de Paul. But despite the COVID-19 crisis, our SVdP Drop-In Center has remained open giving overnight respite and safety to homeless from all over the area, our Soup Kitchen has continued providing meals, and our Outreach Ministry is open and addressing crisis needs. Throughout this time, we have had to remain extremely focused to address the pandemic in the context of our ministries to accomplish three critical objectives:

1. Stay Christ-Centered and prayerful
2. Keep staff, volunteers, clients, and the facilities safe from COVID-19
3. Continue to serve in faith those in need following all state and local directives

Six months later, I can gratefully acknowledge that we have been accomplishing these goals as we have started re-engagement according to protocols put forth by the state of Illinois. As we continue to move forward, we are complying with social distancing and safety requirements. Although our delivery of services is “different” we are striving to make services “better than ever.”

These have been extremely trying times, but God is good, and He gives the grace. Thank you to all who have given us loyal and unconditional support. My prayer is that He continues to keep all of you safe, everyone at St. Vincent de Paul safe, and that He continues to give the grace that allows us to serve in the shadow of His peace.

Pat

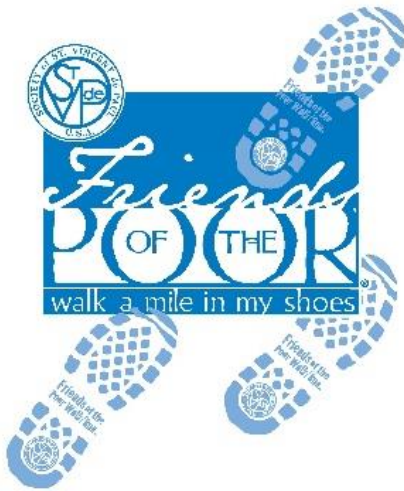


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## A VIRTUAL RACE TO FEED THE HUNGRY



A VIRTUAL RACE is a race that can be run or walked from any location you choose. You can run, jog, or walk on the road, on the trail, on the treadmill, at the gym, or on the track. You get

to run your own race, at your own pace, and time it yourself.

During these unusual times of required social distancing, re-creating, and re-imagining everyday activities help us stay connected to the world around us. In this spirit of re-creating, the 12th Annual Belleville Council St. Vincent de Paul "Friends of the Poor Walk" will be our very first "Virtual Walk" to Help the Hungry" the week of Sept. 26 – Oct. 4.

We are inviting you to show your support for those suffering from hunger and need by participating with us in this event.

You can register on our website at [www.svdpsouthil.org](http://www.svdpsouthil.org), calling SVdP at 394.0126, or by emailing [pat.hogrebe@gmail.com](mailto:pat.hogrebe@gmail.com).

Then ask friends and family to support your efforts with a donation to help the hungry.



### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES MOVING

The Council is happy to announce that our administrative office is moving to a new location at 8800 West Main St., Belleville. We will be occupying space in the same building as the West Belleville Police Sub-Station across the street from Blessed Sacrament Church. In response to the COVID pandemic and changing needs in the communities, we are centralizing our clothing apparel services to all be at 3718 State. This relocation will provide the St. Vincent de Paul administrative staff with less and more efficient space. The Office at 8800 West Main is administrative only and will not be used for outreach at any time. We anticipate the move will be completed by October 10<sup>th</sup>.

### STAY TUNED FOR AN INVITATION TO OUR UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE!



DUE TO COVID-19 AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE HELD BY ZOOM ON THE USUSAL DATE AND AT THE USUSAL TIME - EVERY 4<sup>TH</sup> TUESDAY AT 7:00 PM.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND ENJOY THE MEETING FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN LAZYBOY!



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## **Noteworthy updates about SPECIAL WORKS**

All precautions are followed for all our Special Works: social distancing, hand sanitizer, temperature checks, advanced cleaning measures and face masks are required and provided as well as COVID monitoring of staff, volunteers and guests.

We have purchased two portable sinks and two commercial disinfecting foggers to help in this process.

### **St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store**

Open Monday - Friday 8:30 - 2:00  
Closed Saturdays

**PLEASE REMEMBER WE NEED DONATIONS  
FOR THE THRIFT STORE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

### **Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen**

We serve breakfast and a hot lunch Monday - Saturday. Because of social distancing only 35 people are allowed in the dining room at one time and we have a staff person at the door full-time to monitor all precautions and insure all requirements are met.  
We provide bags of Food when needed.

### **SVDP Outreach Ministry Center**

We are open Monday-Saturday for Computers, Showers, Laundry, and Free Clothing Services.

HELP CENTER SERVICES at the Outreach Ministry Center are offered Monday through Thursday from 8am to noon. To comply with all Social Distancing precautions, we are seeing people by appointment only. The call line is 618-398-0680. Everyone please leave a message and our scheduler, Rose Jordan, will call back with an appointment time within 24 hours.

## **DROP-IN CENTER**

**BY THE GRACE OF GOD, THE DROP-IN CENTER HAS NEVER CLOSED!**

**The second family room was completed and has been a beautiful blessing.**

**We are currently housing an average of 42 people a night.**

**We have added a large, covered porch on the store side of the Drop-In to accommodate our large numbers.**

**We are in the final stages of installing the wraps on the porch posts and the benches and tables.**

## **SVDP COUNCIL COVID-19 CHARITY**

In response to the overwhelming crisis COVID-19 has caused for families throughout the diocese, the Council has applied for special grants to assist with rent and utilities. We have been able to give more than \$30,000 for COVID related requests and have just received another \$30,000 to help prevent evictions and utility disconnects. All these funds have qualifying and accounting requirements and are being distributed through applications completed through the Help Center.

**Thanks to All of Our Volunteers Who  
Continue to Serve during the Covid-19 Crisis**

### **Annual Reporting Time!!**

**The following items are due October 31, 2020**

- **Solidarity dues of \$200 per Conference**
- **Annual Conference Reports**
- **Annual Treasury/Secretarial Audit**

Please contact Den Furdek with any questions. He will be calling conference presidents over the next couple of weeks to address any issues.



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## THE CLOTHING CONNECTION



GEAR-UP AND CAREER GEAR HAVE JOINED FORCES WITH OUR CLOTHING CLOSET AT THE OUTREACH MINISTRY AND FROM NOW ON WILL ALL BE KNOWN AS: **"THE CLOTHING CONNECTION"**

This change will combine our clothing programs and enable us to provide more efficient and timely service to our clients. This program provides clothing 6 days a week for:

- The homeless
- The displaced
- Those looking for a job
- Those with New Employment
- Fire Victims
- Families
- Emergency Situations

We see people daily at the Outreach Ministry Center for Immediate Clothing Vouchers. For more comprehensive and individualized services, please call 618.394.0126 and leave contact information. A Clothing Connection Volunteer will call back to schedule an appointment time.

### The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council

"The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a volunteer organization composed of people from all walks of life who feel God's call to devote a portion of their time to serve those in need."

**President:** Charlie Cullen

**Vice President:** Joe Hubbard

**Secretary:** Diane Herrmann

**Treasurer:** Carol Williamson

**Bookkeeper:** Jo Stogner

**Executive Director:** Patricia Hogrebe



### The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Vincentian Giving and Memorial Program

**P.O. Box 3415, East St. Louis, IL 62203**

*For more information contact  
Joe Hubbard at  
618.394.0126 or Pat Hogrebe at  
618. 799.8505 or email  
[pat.hogrebe@gmail.com](mailto:pat.hogrebe@gmail.com)*



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## DONATIONS NEEDED

The Outreach Ministry and Drop-In clients need our help and our prayers.

The clients also need supplies (and so does the Center).

### Can you help?

We are collecting much needed items and they can be dropped off at the Outreach Center or at the SVDP office. Thank you so much!

Any sack lunch item such as Individually Packaged

- cookies
- fun fruits
- fruit cups
- Chef Boy AR Dee pasta
- tuna and chicken snack packs
- chips
- crackers
- cheese sticks
- yogurt
- bottled water
- cheese and meat for sandwiches
- cereal, pop tarts and breakfast bars
- soup in a cup (just need to add hot water)

IN ADDITION:

- books of bus passes to provide transportation to drop-in
- toothbrushes, deodorant, toothpaste
- Kleenex
- feminine pads
- diapers
- disinfectant cleaning spray
- bleach
- Lysol wipes
- underwear
- socks

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Belleville IL Council

**Check Out the Website**

<https://svdpsouthil.org>

*Discover the programs and services offered for our neighbors in need:*

Outreach Ministry Center, Daily Soup Kitchen, Thrift Store,

Night Drop-In Center, Mobile Soup Bus, Gear-Up & Career Gear, JobLink, Vehicle Donation, and many other assistance programs.

**Take a visual picture tour.**

**Read about the programs.**

**Become a volunteer!!**

**Donate online with the secure PayPal/credit card portal.**



**Please remember in prayer our members, volunteers and donors who are experiencing sickness or surgery**

**Please remember in prayer those members, volunteers and donors who have recently died.**

**Our Vincentian Voice.** The newsletter for the Belleville Council Society brings you news, information, and items of interest. Brought to you in your email inbox and online at our website at : [www.svdpsouthil.org](http://www.svdpsouthil.org)