



# *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

**January 2020**

### **FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

The well-loved phrase “auld lang syne” roughly translates from Scottish “for old times sake” and represents the cherishing of old friendships and looking fondly back over the events of the past year.

Our “auld lang syne” at St. Vincent de Paul for 2019 is represented by hundreds and hundreds of hours of toil, labor and love by Vincentians, Volunteers and Supporters to the Society throughout our Council. There have been high moments and a few low moments, but Divine Providence has been the driving force to lead the way.

Thank you to everyone for your service to those in need and may God continue to bless you with this gift to share with the poor.

I am grateful to all who have supported our project to build the Drop-In Center. This ministry will strengthen our efforts to serve the homeless throughout the area. Countless hours + countless headaches = blessings by Almighty God and the completion of this new center!

As we gratefully finish the first month of 2020, may our nostalgia for the good things of the past help us to create wonderful things for the future of St. Vincent de Paul in the coming year.

**God Bless You with Peace,**  
Pat



### **New Year’s Prayer\***

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another.

As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.

\*Loyola Press. “New Year's Prayer.” *Family New Year's Prayer*, Loyola Press, 4 Dec. 2019, <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/family/holidays-and-special-occasions/other-special-occasions/family-new-years-prayer>.



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## Holiday 2019 Recap



### Santa Bus

The Santa Bus visited four sites distributing hats, gloves, and stockings to excited children.

### St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Dinner 12/23

Cosgrove's Kitchen served 400 Christmas Dinners and Santa Claus gave out new blankets to every guest!

### Night Drop-In Center Opens!

The St. Vincent Night Drop-In Center opened December 9<sup>th</sup> and we are grateful for the blessing of being able to offer respite to the homeless. During the first four weeks, the Drop-In Center served more than 100 different individuals with more than 608 overnight stays. These are people who otherwise would not have a place to sleep.

The Outreach Ministry just next door opens at 7:10 am to welcome guests leaving the Drop-In Center with a cup of coffee and breakfast.

The 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 Center
- Toothbrushes, deodorant, toothpaste
- Kleenex
- Feminine pads
- Diapers
- Disinfectant cleaning spray
- Bleach
- Lysol wipes
- Underwear
- Socks



Drop-In Center Christmas Tree



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## OLD MAN WINTER!



### MANAGING SNOW AND ICE AT THE SVdP OUTREACH MINISTRY

Old Man Winter blasted the new year with cold, ice and snow! That means that at St. Vincent de Paul, we have additional needs to keep people warm and safe from the elements. We now open the Outreach Center at 7:10 to welcome guest from the Drop-In Center. On days when temperatures are extremely cold or when rain, snow or ice are a problem, we keep Cosgrove’s Kitchen open for services until 7PM when the Drop-In opens. When necessary we open Cosgrove’s on Sundays from 7AM-7PM.

Our Employees and Staff have shown wonderful patience and joy in service to the Lord!

### Power on Program Update



The Council Office is offering a new program to low-income people who have trouble paying their Ameren bill. This program is called “Power-On” and

features a 30-minute class that covers critical aspects of managing the electric bill to ensure power is not disconnected. At the conclusion of the discussion there is a brief quiz to reinforce the concepts. A completion certificate is awarded along with a \$70 credit applied directly to the participant’s Ameren bill.

Classes are available at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Outreach Center for up to four people per class. To participate, a client must go through the intake process at the Outreach and be recommended by the Center.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Belleville IL Council

## Brand New 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.

**The website will be a primary method for communication with the conferences and SVDP members.**

**Please visit the website weekly for the latest news and information!**



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## Dinner Theater Time!



Join us for a fun-filled evening of fine dining and wonderful entertainment presented by The Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Western Catholic Union. This year's dinner will feature "Gone With a Win" performed by Die Laughing Dinner Theater. This is a major fundraising event for the Society and we appreciate your support. A good time is guaranteed in support of our programs. Please join us!

### HIGHLIGHTS:

**Saturday, February 22, 2020**  
**McCormick Center in Belleville**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers and drinks.

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$300 for a table of 8.

Ticket includes appetizers, wine, beer and soft drinks along with a dinner of roast beef, baked chicken breast, salad, potato, vegetables, rolls and dessert.

Reservations and ticket purchases can be made online at: [svdpsouthil.org](http://svdpsouthil.org) or by calling 618-394-9126.

For online reservations and tickets, click on the Dinner Theater tab at the top of the page. Payments are made via the PayPal secure portal by credit card or with PayPal.

Advertising and sponsorship opportunities abound! Please call 618-394-0126 for more information.



## How Does Your Conference Raise Money?

Client requests seem to be growing – not only in frequency but also in the amount requested. Keeping Conference funds replenished is a never-ending battle. How does your conference meet the challenge? Periodically, the newsletter will feature fund raising efforts by conferences within the Belleville Council. We hope you can borrow ideas from one another to keep the coffers open so that you can continue to help those in need. This month's featured fundraiser hails from the Immaculate Conception Conference (ICC) in Columbia.

In 2015 ICC Conference members, Pat Dillman, Becky Powers, and Pat Stadler along with the help of Pat's sister, Kathy Gass (St. James) launched an ambitious fundraising event via the Immaculate Conception School annual Christmas Craft Fair. These creative ladies collected a wide variety of donated items to make beautiful themed gift baskets (dubbed Gifts to Go) to sell at the craft fair. Baskets and the items to fill them were collected from members and others in the community throughout the year. This activity is a year-long project. That first year they sold out of 35 baskets in less than 2 hours. Fast forward to 2019 when they raised \$3,464.00 from the sale of 132 baskets as well as a variety of other donated items including beautiful table top Christmas tree sets crafted from local barn wood by conference member Ernie Schoellhorn.

Theirs is an ambitious undertaking and not for the faint of heart. They show us, however, the power of working together and the power of time to grow a successful fundraiser.





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From left, Becky Powers, Pat Stadler and Pat Dillman

Do you have a fundraising effort you'd like to share? No effort is too small to be featured. Every penny counts in the effort to take care of others! Please send information to Sue Taylor at [smtaylor55@gmail.com](mailto:smtaylor55@gmail.com) or Pat Hogrebe at [pat.hogrebe@gmail.com](mailto:pat.hogrebe@gmail.com).

## Catholic Urban Programs Bids A Fond Farewell to Gerry!

After serving CUP for 43 years, Gerry Hasenstab is retiring. His dedication to serving others has been amazing and, of course, we know it will continue beyond retirement. Read about Gerry in the [The Messenger](#).

## Please Donate to the Thrift Store!

**SVdP Thrift Store** at 3718 State Street, East St. Louis  
Monday–Friday 9 am to 2 pm, Saturday 9 am to 11:30 am

Take donations to the large garage door on the dining room side of the building. Someone will be available to accept your donation and help you unload your items.

**SVdP Office** located off Route 157, 13 Vieux Carre across from Save-A-Lot  
Monday–Friday  
9:30 am to 2:30 pm

## Pat's Resolutions for the New Year

Where to begin? There are so many! Let's focus on just one for the time being and that is participation in both the Servant Leader and Standards of Excellence programs. Both are essential for all Vincentians. We need to ensure that all members complete each one. Pat's resolution is to see that everyone has checked it off their to do lists AND that there is a record of completion for each conference. To that end, **please provide Pat with a list of participants from your conference who have completed each program. If you have members who have not participated in the programs, contact Pat for set up a schedule for completion. Thank you!**



**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.**

## Did you know?

In the United States last year, SVdP provided more than \$1.1 billion in tangible and in-kind services, served more than 5.4 million people in need, performed more than 2 million service visits/contacts and delivered more than 12.5 million service hours to those in need in 2018. (Most recent data available.)

SVdPUSA. (2019, August). Retrieved January 6, 2020, from <https://svdpusa.sharefile.com/share/view/sa0c4e72d3f24da5a>.



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The newsletter for the Belleville Council Society is published monthly to bring 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)

INTRODUCING **SUE TAYLOR**, VINCENTIAN MEMBER WITH IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CONFERENCE, COLUMBIA WHO IS THE NEW COPY EDITOR FOR THE VINCENTIAN VOICE. THANK YOU, SUE, FOR SHARING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS!!!!



**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)*

## **Career Gear & Gear Up Donations**

Lend a hand to a client in search of a job. Please donate business and business casual clothing and accessories for either men or women. Drop off donations at the SVdP office.

## **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