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St. Vincent de Paul of Milwaukee ~ Update May 15, 2020

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### **Good News: SVDP Thrift Stores Begin Re-Opening**

The Thrift Store at the Greenfield location is open for business effective immediately. The hours of operation will be Sun-Sat 11:00AM-6:00PM. Although the Wisconsin Supreme Court has rescinded the Safer at Home extension, the stores will be operating following the OSHA, CDC, and WEDC guidelines established for essential employers. Please read the [Statement for Enhanced Safety Measures](#) that will be posted on site. Donations of sealed boxes or bags will be accepted at the [Greenfield Store drive-through only](#) Mon-Fri, 12:00PM - 4:00PM. Although furniture items are not being accepted at this time, there is a large selection of furniture available in the stores. The Lincoln Ave. store will re-open on Monday, May 18th and the hours of operation will be Mon-Sat, 12:00PM - 5:00PM. NO DONATIONS will be accepted at this location. Delivery and donation pick-up services are suspended until appropriate measures can be evaluated and implemented. GIFT CERTIFICATE UPDATE: All Gift Certificates (vouchers) dated 3/1/20 through 4/30/20 will be honored up to 6/30/20. Gift certificates written before 3/1 will not be honored. Those written after 4/30 will have the standard 60 day expiration date. Thank you for your patience, understanding, support and PRAYERS! If you have any questions, please contact Donna Wallace [drachac@svdpmilw.org](mailto:drachac@svdpmilw.org).

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### **Meal Program Update– Healing Waters New Look!**

A much needed remodel is underway for the Healing Waters Shower Program. There will be a nice, fresh, clean atmosphere for our guests when shower service becomes available again. Thanks and recognition to the St. Mary's Hales corners conference for a donation to make this wish list item a reality! **Cross Roads Kitchen** is serving 100 hot, boxed to-go meals, 4:00pm-6:15pm Sunday-Friday, while supplies last. Meals are prepared daily by staff following CDC guidelines. Volunteer groups will be contacted as to when they can return to donate and serve meals!

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### **Update: Intake Call Volume Changes**

The majority of our conferences have been ready and waiting to provide aid to Neighbors in Need over the last two months of the pandemic. Only 8 of our 45 conferences are temporarily inactive at this time. Food pantry services are available at 11 of our conferences while others are able to refer to a parish-run pantry or to other community pantries. What a blessing and light of hope you are to our Milwaukee County residents!

As we experience change in the state of affairs, one area of focus is to meet needs by offering 'phone visits' in place of home visits. It is highly suggested that conferences continue to follow the social distancing directives and avoid home visitation. Many needs that have been met through the SVDP Thrift Store gift certificate redemption were on hold due to the temporary closure of the stores. Some conferences met material requests through the storage of in-kind furniture donations from parishioners although some faced access challenges due to the closure of church properties. Other conferences offered gift certificates to certain retail, grocery or used appliance stores to help ease some of the burden. Some conferences even turned to social media to seek the material goods that they can offer. Now that our thrift stores are beginning to open, some of these inconveniences will be relieved.

The intake process has seen a change as well. Over an 8 week period (March 16-May 8) the call log reflected 576 phone calls to the intake line. While 95 of the requests were unable to be honored due to conference policy restrictions, there were 70 referrals that were made. In comparison, the call log in 2019 reflected over 1,200 calls. We attribute the difference to the public awareness that our thrift stores were closed and thus certificates were unable to be redeemed, as well as with the emphasis for people to follow the Safer at Home order.



**SVDP-Milwaukee**

## At The Heart of Giving @svdpmilw

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**WELCOME SHAWN!** When you find yourself at the SVDP Thrift Store Greenfield location, say hello to Shawn Daniels, Assistant General Manager, a new member to the store staff! Shawn is training under the direction of the General Managers and will be an important member to the team in the plan to open a north side store.



Find an archive of past issues of this *From the Heart* newsletter on our [website](#).

### **It's Not Too Late ~ Register for the Virtual North Central Region Webinars**

Sessions are still being offered through May 20th and each live webinar will be recorded and made available for viewing if you are unable to attend at the posted time. Registration is required to attend or view. This webinar approach enables many people to participate in the learning portion of a Region meeting. Presentations have been widely attended thus far with information that is inspiring and enriching. We hope you can check it out. Looking ahead, the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Council will host the North Central region meeting in June, 2022 so we will have the opportunity to welcome and meet our regional Vincentians in the future!

<https://meetingsvdpusa.regfox.com/north-central-virtual-regional-meeting>

### **Good News**

**Have some good news to share with your fellow Vincentians? We'd love to share it!**

**Please contact [Maria](#) with your ideas, stories or pictures!**

### **Links You Can Use**

[Catholic Charities Emergency Food Delivery Program](#)

[16th Street Community Health Center–Bilingual Resources](#)

[SSCHC– Pregunte al Doctor Facebook Live Events](#)

[Frederic's E-Gazette 05-14-2020](#)

[Protecting Renter & Homeowner Rights](#)

[Medical College of WI-Community Info](#)

[Coronavirus Community Resources Guide](#)

[SVDP-USA COVID-19 Response](#)

