FROM THE HEART
A MONTHLY SVDP MKE VINCENTIAN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

PRAYER
The Hope of the World

Beloved Jesus,
hope of the world,
in these days shrouded in darkness,
help us to see your light and let it shine,
shedding light on the path that leads us to enjoy
your presence.
Let the joy of Christmas remain with us always.
Amen.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December
10 VOP Committee Meeting - Virtual
14 Christmas Party - Cross Roads Kitchen
15 Christmas Party - Harambee Kitchen
17 Santa Visit at Thrift Stores (See flyer)
23/26 Council Office / Meal Sites Closed
25 Cross Roads Kitchen Serves Noon - 12:45PM
25 Both Thrift Stores Closed

January
12-30/1-2 Council Office Closed
12-30/1-1 Cross Roads Kitchen Closed
12-30/1-2 Harambee Kitchen Closed
1 Both Thrift Stores Closed
20 Conference SOE Report due

STORE MANAGER IN TRAINING

We are looking for a store manager in training for our future North Side Thrift Store. This individual will train at our current stores.

If you know anyone with 5+ years of retail management experience, please encourage them to apply to help us help others. Click here for Store Manager Job Description.

We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits. Resumes and cover letter should be emailed to Donna Wallace, General Manager of Stores.
It’s been a busy time of year for the Milwaukee Council. Take a look at what’s in store for 2023! **THANK YOU** for your participation as together we grow in our compassionate helping presence in the Milwaukee community!

**New President Orientation—January 9 6:00PM–7:30PM — Virtual Meeting** for those new to the leadership role of President or those who need information on how to better support your conference leaders ~ **JOIN US ~**

**Contact Maria** for Zoom link and meeting materials.

**Standards of Excellence—Due on January 20** Councils and conferences in the US are asked to complete a self-evaluation report by using the questionnaire provided by the National Council. Watch this [brief video](#). To find materials, [click here](#).

**Safeguarding Policy Implementation—February 2023** Information about compliance with newly established procedures will be presented to members.

**Council President Election—Ballots due March 17** Ballots and supporting information were mailed to conference Presidents on December 2nd.

**Home Visit Workshop—March 29** 10AM-Noon Wauwatosa Library Firefly Room

In-person training to enhance the home visit experience. [Flyer](#)

**Ozanam Orientation—May 9, 11, 16 6PM–8PM** Attend all three Virtual sessions to complete the orientation requirement. [Flyer](#)

Click on the image below for a flyer about our new program!
NORTH WEST AREA

With the shared efforts of St. Sebastian, St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. Bernadette conferences, a family settled into a comfortable home for the holidays. A widowed mother of 5 children needed help with essential furnishings. A team from St. Sebastian made an initial visit and assessment for this family in the St. Catherine of Alexandria service area. They found themselves in a home furnished only with kitchen appliances. With their domestic twinning relationship, these conferences combined resources to provide beds, kitchen table/chairs and lamps. Furthermore, the family came to the St. Catherine of Alexandria food pantry to obtain clothes, some household items and food. Even more, additional items were delivered by the St. Bernadette conference who had furniture in their own storage supply. Truly a success story with three SVDP conferences working together to give assistance.

NORTH EAST AREA

Inspired by a presentation at the North Central Region about the benefits of a conference retreat, the Six Saints conference made plans to initiate a fall day of reflection. The Milwaukee Catholic Home hosted the event and Fr. Joe Juknailus, retired priest, was invited to facilitate the retreat and celebrate Mass. Challenged to reflect on the question, "When do I walk across the street?", participants engaged in meaningful conversation and were comforted with welcoming hospitality. Members of St. Martin de Porres, All Saints and Six Saints conferences were able to connect in this special gathering.

SOUTH WEST AREA

Vincentians see the face of Christ...through a letter! Rest assured that you make an impact and what a pleasant assurance the members of St. Gregory the Great conference received. An incarcerated father of two daughters relies on family members and community resources to provide for his children. The food pantry is one of those resources that has really made a difference for this family in need. So much so that the father hopes to offer his time to help the pantry upon his release. God is Good!

SOUTH EAST AREA

Do dream come true? When you stay united in Christ they certainly can! Twelve of our newest Vincentians in the Unidos in Cristo conference recently attended the long awaited Ozanam Orientation offered in the Spanish language. The enthusiasm was inspiring as they joined together with other Spanish-speaking Vincentians from Appleton and Chicago to learn the basics about our history, founders, spirituality and conference life.
Opportunities to Get Involved
We are looking for Vincentians to help us by serving on committees. Committees usually meet regularly and are advisory to management. Members review operations and help brainstorm on ideas to improve the services we offer.

Finance Committee: We are looking for members for the finance committee experienced in accounting, investing, and/or business management. Do you have 1 hour available every three months? Then we need you! Responsibilities include reviewing our investment policy and portfolio, insurance policies, financial statements, and the annual budget. Meetings are held quarterly at the Wauwatosa Public Library or virtually. If you are interested, you are welcome to attend our next meeting in January.

Store Committee: Do you have experience in retail, marketing, and/or advertising? We'd love to have you on our newly formed store committee. The store committee is responsible for assisting our store leadership team to serve our neighbors in need and generate revenue to support our programs. We anticipate meeting monthly at one of our store locations.

Meal Ministry Committee: Are you a meal provider? Do you regularly volunteer at one of our sites? Then we'd love to have you join the meal ministry committee. Responsibilities include assisting our meal site leadership team so we serve our guests in the best way possible and providing suggestions and insight on what other services we could provide. Meetings are held monthly on the third Monday of each month at 2:30 pm at Cross Roads Kitchen.

Growth & Revitalization Committee: Are you a conference member interested in developing relationships with other conferences to learn and share best practices? Do you like to talk with people, share in ideas or plan events? Members of this committee serve as representatives to the conferences in their area. Meetings are held every other month on the 4th Wednesday.

Contact Maria if you are interested in learning more about these opportunities to engage in Society committees!

IN MEMORIAM
Grace Stroik
St. Bernadette
Jack O’Dell
Mother of Good Counsel
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

INTAKE SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October 2022</th>
<th>November 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appliances- 155</td>
<td>Appliances- 212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beds- 156</td>
<td>Beds- 193</td>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture &amp; Household- 216</td>
<td>Furniture &amp; Household- 275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent &amp; Utilities- 10</td>
<td>Rent &amp; Utilities-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other- 45</td>
<td>Other- 63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals Made to Conferences: 353</td>
<td>Referrals Made to Conferences: 461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Fundraising Updates

During this Season of Giving, We Offer Our Gratitude
Thank you to all who have supported our various fundraising efforts over the past month including our Christmas Appeal (coming soon), Thanksgiving Match, and GivingTuesday. Wow .... it's been a busy and exciting month! We are truly grateful for your support this holiday.

$20,000 Meal Program Grant Awarded!
Our incredible friends at Bader Philanthropies have generously supported our Meal Program with a gift of $20,000. What a blessing for our neighbors in need!

2023 Meeting Scheduled! Special Events Committee
Our first Special Events Planning meeting is scheduled for January 11th via Zoom. We'd love your help in planning our September 2023 Benefit Dinner. We could use your help in the following areas:

--event theme, save the dates, invitations, marketing
--program including speakers and community awards
--sponsorships
--silent auction ... and more.

Please connect with Philanthropy Director, Becca, at RSurges@svdpmilw.org or (414) 667-0242 to join our Special Events Planning Committee.
NEIGHBOR RESOURCES

Here's what you can find on our website: www.svdpmilw.org

Request Help Tab: As an alternative to calling the intake line, this is a good option for those who may be hard of hearing, have difficulty speaking or have time constraints.

**NEW** Individuals whose primary language is Spanish can now access an intake process on our website via the "En Español" tab.

Vincentian Resources Tab:

- Thrift Store Coupons, How to Write a Gift Certificate Guide-updated, Text Club flyer, Delivery FAQ’s & Guide
- Resources on COVID-19, Aging & Disability Services, Mental Health, Energy Assistance
- Conference Membership documents and Home Visit resources

Holiday Events

Breakfast with Santa Drive Thru 12-17
Winter Wear Giveaway 12-18
Toy Giveaway 12-18

Community Advocates Services

Energy Assistance *UPDATED*
Rent Assistance

Housing Help

Milwaukee County Housing
Eviction Free Milwaukee
Tenant Sourcebook

COVID-19

Free At Home COVID Test Kits
Vaccines
Testing Sites
Neighbors Resource Sheet

CLICK ON IMAGES BELOW FOR FLYERS- ALSO ON OUR WEBSITE

CONTACT US: PO BOX 26537 | MILWAUKEE 53226
COUNCIL@SVDPmilw.org | (414) 462-7837 | WWW.SVDPMILW.ORG
Cross Roads Kitchen is now serving hot meals indoors Mondays through Thursdays when enough volunteers and staff are present. Regular serving days are (Sun-Fri) from 5:30pm-6:15pm. To-go meals are also prepared each of these days. If guests are symptomatic, nervous about eating inside or have tested positive for COVID, they will have to-go meals available to pick up. Please keep our guests, volunteers and staff in prayer during this transition period. If you have questions regarding the return to in person dining, you can contact Pwest@svdpmilw.org or Skongla@svdpmilw.org.

Harambee Kitchen is also providing in person dining on days when we have enough volunteers; otherwise, to-go meals are provided. Meals are served (Mon-Fri) from 5:30pm-6:15pm at this location. Please continue to pre-register for volunteer shifts. Click on the location links below for volunteer sign-up calendars on Sign-Up Genius.

**Cross Roads Kitchen**
931 W. Madison St. 414-649-9555
crossroads@svdpmilw.org
Serving: Sun.-Fri. 5:30PM-6:15PM

**Harambee Kitchen**
2600 N. 2nd St. 414-249-3866
harambee@svdpmilw.org
Serving: Mon.-Fri. 5:30PM-6:15PM

**Meal Program Manager - Peggy West-Schroder**
pwest@svdpmilw.org 414-722-1353

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**SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER AT CHRISTMAS PARTIES**

An annual favorite for the Meal Program guests is the Christmas Party organized by the Hands of Christ conference. A party with gifts for children is planned at BOTH meal sites. Come share holiday joy at the parties! Contact Casey Gill 414-418-4016 or click here for details.

Cross Roads Kitchen December 14 4-7PM
Harambee Kitchen December 15 4-7PM

Thank you for sharing the joy!
THrift Stores

Greenfield  4476 S. 108 St.  414-377-9077
Mon.-Sat. 10:00AM - 7:00PM  Sun. 11:00AM - 6:00PM
Donations Mon.-Sat. only 10AM-5PM

Lincoln  2320 W. Lincoln Ave.  414-672-2040
Mon.-Fri. 10:00AM - 7:00PM  Sat. 10:00AM-6:00PM  Sun. Closed
Donations Mon.-Sat. 10:00AM-5:00PM

General Manager of Stores - Donna Wallace
dwallace@svdpmilw.org  414-377-9077  414-672-2040

Lincoln Store Manager - Mark Dimeo
mdimeo@svdpmilw.org  414-672-2040

Greenfield Assistant Manager - Tona Goddard
tgoddard@svdpmilw.org  414-377-9077
Greenfield Assistant Manager - Angela Rodriguez
arodriguez@svdpmilw.org  414-377-9077

Holiday Hours
December 24  Both stores OPEN 10AM-4PM
December 25  CLOSED
December 31  Both stores open 10AM-4PM
January 1  CLOSED

CHECKIN' YOUR LIST

• How to Write a Gift Certificate Guide can help answer your questions on pricing and how to properly issue certificates to neighbors.
• Friends & Family Coupon sheet is available with the extended expiration date of July 31, 2023!
• TEXT CLUB provides instant updates and extra savings!
• GIFT CARDS are available for purchase - they make great stocking stuffers!
• FIND the store guide, delivery guidelines, coupons and more in the Thrift Stores section on the Vincentian Resources page of our website.
  https://svdpmilw.org/vincentian-resources.aspx

Questions? Contact Donna Wallace (General Manager of the Stores) at 414-377-9077 or dwallace@svdpmilw.org for assistance.
Share a flyer with the families you visit!

Mark your calendar! Santa is coming to St. Vincent de Paul Saturday, December 17

2320 W Lincoln Ave from 11am - 1pm &
4476 S 108 St from 3pm - 5pm

Kids will receive a special gift from Santa.
Don’t forget your camera!

Click on the image for a printable flyer.
Contact Your SVDP Support Team

A friendly reminder that you can reach us on our general extensions at 414-462-7837 or our direct lines listed below.

Debbie Duskey
Executive Director
414-667-0241
414-462-7837 ext 102
dduskey@svdpmilw.org

Michelle Martin
Director of Finance &
Human Resources
414-667-0244
414-462-7837 ext 108
mmartin@svdpmilw.org

Becca Surges
Director of Philanthropy &
Marketing Communications
414-667-0242
414-462-7837 ext 103
rsurges@svdpmilw.org

Maria Welz
VincentianMembership
Coordinator
414-667-0245
414-462-7837 ext 109
mwelz@svdpmilw.org

Melanie Critton
Intake Coordinator
414-667-0243
414-462-7837 ext 107
mcritton@svdpmilw.org

Beth Hohenfeldt
Administrative Specialist
414-667-0240
414-462-7837 ext 101
bhohenfeldt@svdpmilw.org

Donna Wallace
Thrift Stores General Manager
414-377-9077
dwallace@svdpmilw.org

Peggy West-Schroder
Meal Program Manager
414-722-1353
pwest@svdpmilw.org

Pedro Mercado
Employment Services Coordinator
414-667-0602
414-462-7837 ext 104
pmercado@svdpmilw.org

To Schedule Pick-Up 414-462-7863  Fax: 414-462-5458
Intake line for basic needs requests 9AM-3PM 414-462-7837 ext 110