

JANUARY 2025

# FROM THE HEART



A MONTHLY SVDP MKE VINCENTIAN NEWSLETTER

## PRAYER IN THE NEW YEAR

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. – Isaiah 43:19*

**Holy God,  
We give you thanks that you have given us this gift of seeing the beginning of another year upon this world you call your own.**

**You are the God of all new beginnings,  
so we ask you to bless this new year, 2025.**

**Give us the hope to see you at work building your kingdom.  
Give us the courage to join your Son, Jesus, on the path of love,  
forgiveness, and grace. Amen.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### January

- 22** Growth & Revitalization Committee
- 25** Thrift Stores Anniversary Celebration
- 30** Vincentian Virtual Resource Fair 10:30AM

### February

- 8** Voice for the Poor Committee 9AM
- 13** Home Visit Essentials Virtual 6PM

### Save the Dates

- March 19, Mar 26, Apr 2 10AM**  
Serving In Hope: Lenten Reflection
- March 9**  
Lenten Serving Day at Meal Program

## *In Memoriam*

### **Barbara Meinholz**

Divine Mercy

### **Fred Meinholz**

Divine Mercy

### **Florian Franecki**

### **Obituary**

St. Gregory the Great

### **Carlos Joson**

St. Veronica



*May their souls and the souls  
of all the faithful departed  
through the mercy of God rest  
in peace. Amen.*

# News & Events

- **New Member Information:** Check out the [Welcoming New Members](#) tab on our website. The short presentation link, [Process to Register New Members](#), provides steps to follow when new members join your conference.
- **Resource Fair: Thursday, January 30 10:30AM-11:30AM**
  - Join us for an informative hour as we learn about **Impact 211** and the new process of **Coordinated Entry for Homeless Services**. This is offered as a virtual Zoom session. Please **RSVP** to Beth by [email](#) or call 414-667-0240. You may participate by using a computer device or dial-in on your phone.

## [FLYER](#)



- **Home Visit Essentials Thursday, February 13 6:00PM-7:30PM**
  - This virtual presentation is the first part of a Home Visit training series. Part two will be held in-person on Thursday, March 6th at 10AM. The virtual presentation will provide background information on our guiding principles, foundational and best practices and common resources. The in-person session will build upon this with observation and practice of home visit scenarios. Contact Beth by [email](#) or 414-667-0240 to register.

### **Prayer for Solidarity**

**Almighty and ever-living God,  
empower your one human family to join hands  
on our journey of faith.  
Send us your spirit of hope,  
so that we may work  
to alleviate human suffering  
and foster charity and justice  
in our world. Amen.**

<https://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-solidarity>



## Inclement Weather Policy

Our current policy for inclement weather is that if Milwaukee Public Schools are closed, SVDP Meal sites and Thrift Stores are also closed, with one big exception. When MPS schools are closed due to extremely cold weather, our meal sites and thrift stores will normally remain open.

**Meal Providers and Volunteers:** If due to inclement weather you are unable to make your scheduled meal or volunteer, PLEASE inform Peggy at 414-722-1353 at your EARLIEST convenience.

Thank you so much for all you do; you ARE the heart of our programs!



**HELP NEEDED-** There is a seasonal increase in the call volume for our intake line. Help is needed to listen and write down messages that are on the intake line so that intake workers can focus on completing referrals. This work can be done from your home for about 2 hours per week. For information contact Melanie at [mcritton@svdpmilw.org](mailto:mcritton@svdpmilw.org) or 414-667-0243.

**SVDP-Waukesha Council Housing Resource Specialist:** The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Waukesha County is accepting applications and resumes for our new Housing Resource Specialist. [Click here](#) for more information. Interested candidates should fill out an electronic application here: <https://www.svdpthrift.net/employment>.

**MORE Help Needed:** Our Thrift Stores celebrate a special milestone this month. We need YOU to be a part of the fun on **Saturday, January 25th**. We are looking for a few Vincentians to greet people in the morning at an informational table at the Lincoln or Greenfield Stores. Contact [Maria](#) for information.

# Thrift Stores

**Congratulations!** We are pleased to announce Mark Dimeo as Stores General Manager. Mark will also continue to serve as Manager of the Lincoln Store. Codey Lembck has joined the Greenfield Store team and will be a Co-Manager of that store along with Tona Goddard. Ross Tessmer remains as the Store Manager of the Bradley Store. (Baki Alwaissi no longer works for the Society.)

**Celebrate!** Be sure to stop by our Thrift Stores on Saturday, September 25th and congratulate the store staff on their special 2025 anniversary. Check out the new remodel at the Lincoln Store. It looks Fantastic!

## How to Issue a Gift Certificate Guide (01/25)

## Como Llenar Los Comprobantes de Regalo 01-2025

### Updated Text Club Flyer

### Club de texto -ES \*Nueva version

**Bed Prices Increase:** Effective January 20, 2025 the prices of beds will be increasing. The revised *How to Issue a Gift Certificate* guide now includes the prices and measurements of bed components. Please be sure to use the 01/2025 issue as it also includes the most up to date furniture price guide.

Bed Size	Measurement	Conference Price
Twin Platform Foundation	38" x 38.5" x 3.5" box	\$49
Twin Mattress	40" tall x 14" diameter bag	\$104
Twin bed complete		\$153
Full Platform Foundation	37" x 27" x 6.5" box	\$64
Full Mattress	40" tall x 16" diameter bag	\$125
Full bed complete		\$189

## **GREENFIELD 4476 S. 108 St. 414-377-9077**

**Mon.- Sat. 9:00AM -7:00PM Sun. 11:00AM -6:00PM**

**Donations Mon. - Sat. only 10AM-5PM**

## **LINCOLN 2320 W. Lincoln Ave. 414-672-2040**

**Mon.- Fri. 9:00AM - 7:00PM Sat. 9:00AM-6:00PM**

**Sun. Closed**

**Donations Mon. - Sat. 10AM-5PM**

## **BRADLEY 8010 N 76 St. 414-363-8099**

**Mon.- Fri. 9:00AM - 7:00PM Sat. 9:00AM-6:00PM**

**Sun. Closed**

**Donations Mon. - Sat. 10AM-5PM**

**Donations Pick-Up Line 414-462-7863 Ext 113**



# Meal Program

## Meal Program Volunteer Sign-Up links

### South Meal Site

#### Cross Roads Kitchen

931 W. Madison St.

414-649-9555

[crossroads@svdpmilw.org](mailto:crossroads@svdpmilw.org)

Serving

Sun.-Fri. 5:30PM-6:15PM

Meal Program Manager -

Peggy West-Schroder

[pwest@svdpmilw.org](mailto:pwest@svdpmilw.org)

414-722-1353

St. Vincent de Paul Society of MKE.

# HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

CROSSROADS@SVDPMILW.ORG

WEEK 1 DAY NEEDED: JUST MEAL  
Sunday

WEEK 2 DAY NEEDED:  
Sunday

WEEK 3 DAY NEEDED:  
Friday

WEEK 4 DAY NEEDED:  
Friday

WEEK 5 DAY NEEDED:  
Monday

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT FEEDING THE HUNGRY? THESE ARE DAYS EACH MONTH THAT WE NEED MEALS.



For more information:  
[Crossroads@svdpmilw.org](mailto:Crossroads@svdpmilw.org)



You don't have to commit to bringing food monthly, try it out! We'll help!

St. Vincent de Paul Milwaukee

# HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

HARAMBEE@SVDPMILW.ORG

WEEK 1 DAYS NEEDED:  
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

WEEK 2 DAYS NEEDED:  
Monday & Tuesday

WEEK 4 DAYS NEEDED:  
Monday & Tuesday

WEEK 5 DAYS NEEDED:  
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT FEEDING THE HUNGRY? THESE ARE DAYS EACH MONTH THAT WE NEED MEALS.



You don't have to commit to bringing food monthly, try it out! We'll help!

For more information email:  
[Harambee@svdpmilw.org](mailto:Harambee@svdpmilw.org)



### North Meal Site

#### Harambee Kitchen

2600 N. 2nd St.

414-249-3866

[harambee@svdpmilw.org](mailto:harambee@svdpmilw.org)

Serving

Mon.-Fri. 5:30PM-6:15PM

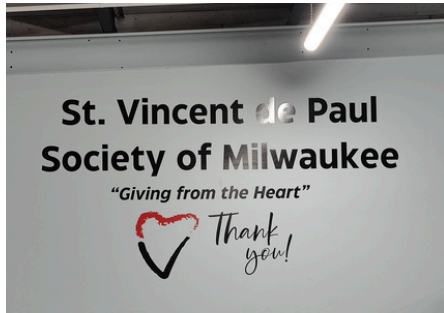
Volunteers needed



# Fundraising + Marketing Updates

## New Signs at Bradley Store!

In partnership with the Bradley Store Team, the Society's Marketing Team has completed its project of NEW signs for the Bradley Store. Be sure to check them out on your next visit!



## Just In! Society Grant News!

As we kick off 2025, we are thrilled to share that our friends at Gebhardt Foundation have generously awarded the Society a \$20,000 grant in support of our Home Visit Program! **#blessed**



Thank you for your support of our 2024 **Giving Tuesday** and **Christmas Appeal!**

To date, we've raised more than **\$15,000** in support of local families in need.

# Resources

## Vincentian Shared Resources

Please check accuracy before distributing to neighbors. If you have a resource to share, please email [Maria](#).

Check the links on our website for more resources: [Vincentian Resources](#)

## Recently Shared Resources

[How to Obtain an ID](#)- City of Milwaukee

Listing of Vincentian Food Pantries

Milwaukee County Transit System [WisGo Card Information](#)

[Treasured Estate](#)- used furniture resource

Aurora West Allis [Food Pantry/Resource Center](#)

## Winter Warming Centers

Several designated warming centers will offer nightly shelter through 3-31-2025. Centers operate 7pm-7am with walk-in hours beginning at 8pm. Trained staff and volunteers will be available to make referrals to community resources.

### Locations:

- Guest House of Milwaukee 1216 N 13 St 53205- single men
- Unity Lutheran Church 1025 E Oklahoma Ave 53207- single women & families
- Repairers of the Breach 1335 W Vliet ST 53205- single men, single women
- St. Ben's 930 W State St 53233- single men, single women
- Joy House 830 N 19 St 53233- single women & families
- Milwaukee Rescue Mission 1820 W Wells St 53233- single men, single women & families

## Intake Summary

### November 2024

Appliances- 149

Beds- 212

Furniture & Household- 299

Rent & Utilities- 8

Other- 79

**Referrals Made to Conferences: 444**

### December 2024

Appliances- 132

Beds- 205

Furniture & Household- 293

Rent & Utilities- 9

Other- 79

**Referrals Made to Conferences: 387**





## ServWare Can Help to Track Valuable Miles and Hours Data

*submitted by Jerry Schulz*

The ServWare system enables conferences to track auto mileage and hours of service contributed by members. But how is this done, and what is the value of tracking miles and hours?

The Annual Conference Report submitted to the SVDP National Council asks for data on hours of service and estimated mileage. The ServWare system can help in compiling these totals but the conference administrator must first enable this tracking in the Configuration Options tab.

The Mileage and Hours devoted to each request can be then entered on the Assistance Request screen. Alternatively, you can add new Mileage/Hours entries using the Mi/Hrs tab. You can also view and possibly edit previous entries. Mileage and hours reports are available and can be generated for the Annual Conference Report.

The document *ServWare Miles and Hours* discusses how one individual can gather and upload miles and hours data on behalf of all members.

Besides providing data for the annual report, why else would a conference want to compile data on member miles and hours? Three reasons are sharing this data with the parish, using this data in grant and funding requests, and enabling members to possibly use mileage data for tax deductions.

When reporting on the conference's activity to the parish or when developing grant or funding proposals, it is beneficial to include data on the contributions made by members, such as hours and mileage. This data not only highlights the dedication and commitment of the Society's volunteers but also provides concrete evidence of the resources being invested.

Additionally, showcasing these contributions can demonstrate the efficiency and impact of the Society, making our grant proposal more compelling to community funders. By presenting detailed data, we are able to build a stronger case for support - raising critical dollars for the Society's work.

Can SVDP members qualify for tax deductions for miles and hours? Although this is not official tax advice, the answer seems to be yes for miles and no for hours.

A member may be able to deduct mileage at the 2024 and 2025 charitable mileage rate of 14 cents per mile, although not the higher rate used for business mileage. To claim the charitable mileage, you would need to exceed the standard deduction for your filing status and itemize your deductions. More information is at <https://www.irs.gov/tax-professionals/standard-mileage-rates>.

But a member cannot deduct the value of hours of service. IRS Publication 526 on "Charitable Contributions" at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p526.pdf> says you cannot deduct "the value of your time or services."

Thank you for your many miles and hours in service to neighbors in need! For more information, please contact Jerry Schulz at [schulzj@jerryschulz.com](mailto:schulzj@jerryschulz.com) or 414-828-5320.

**[ServWare Miles and Hours](#)**



# SVDP Society Safeguarding: Milwaukee Council Update

The Milwaukee District Council Safeguarding Policy is now in effect. Going forward, **prospective and current members will be required to complete their Safeguarding training before having a second interaction with Those We Serve.**

For assistance, please see contact information below.

We are ready to help you!

- [Safeguarding Explanation Flyer](#)
- Milwaukee Council [Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [Process to Register](#)

## Guidelines:

- We are available to provide individual or group training at a location convenient to members/volunteers as long as internet access is available. We can provide the devices for individuals to use.
- For those who have absolutely NO PUBLIC INTERACTION (NPI) with Those We Serve, we still must record this status on the CMG Connect database. Please contact one of us with name, address, phone and date of birth of members or volunteers who fall into this NPI category.
- All members and volunteers must participate in the Society's Safeguarding training, even if having previously completed the Safe Environment certification for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
- Everyone associated with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul must be accounted for Safeguarding compliance.
- One first-time only exception is permitted when a new person is discerning if our service is something they wish to continue doing.

**Need help? Email or Call us!**

**Mike Farrell** [mfarrell@svdpmilw.org](mailto:mfarrell@svdpmilw.org) 414-828-8232

**Penny Krafczyk** [penkraf19@gmail.com](mailto:penkraf19@gmail.com) 414-315-1441

**Liz Burke** [eburke3@wi.rr.com](mailto:eburke3@wi.rr.com) 414-243-3717

# Contact Your SVDP Support Team

Intake line for basic needs requests 9AM-3PM 414-462-7837 ext 110

**To Schedule Pick-Up** 414-462-7863 ext. 113

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## Debbie Duskey

Executive Director

414-667-0241

[dduskey@svdpmilw.org](mailto:dduskey@svdpmilw.org)

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Administrative Specialist

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Director of Finance & Human Resources

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## Peggy West-Schroder

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## Mark Dimeo

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Lincoln Store Manager

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## Ross Tessmer

Bradley Store Manager

414-363-8084

414-363-8099-store

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## Tona Goddard

## Codey Lembck

Greenfield Store Co-Managers

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## Cindy Friede

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