

# St. Vincent's Way

CINCINNATI DISTRICT COUNCIL



Special Edition 2007

## St. Vincent de Paul a lifeline during family's health crises

■ Pam, 52, lost her job a few months ago due to heart problems. That meant she also lost her insurance. Today, she stays home and takes care of her husband, Bob, a former supervisor in a bakery, who was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) seven years ago and requires round-the-clock medical care.

Due to her own compromised health, Pam is on more than 15 medicines a day. Since she has no insurance and a low income, she's unable to pay for any of these life-saving medicines which would cost more than \$1,500 per month.

Pam was referred to the St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy for assistance. There, she worked with staff members to obtain the

prescriptions she needed. A staff member also helped her navigate the mounds of paperwork required by medical programs that could help her obtain no-cost or low-cost pharmaceuticals in the future.

*I just wanted to tell you how much we appreciated the help. I can see how dedicated you are—you really help so many people and with such kindness and respect and dignity. It does not go unnoticed.*

—Sue and John

contrast to some of the frustrating experiences she's had in the medical system.

"They've been a lifesaver for me," Pam said of St. Vincent de Paul. "They helped me sign up for every program that was out there," she said. "Without them I don't



know what I would have done."

As part of the Society's expanded services in recent years, the St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy reaches a wide cross section of people in Greater Cincinnati, including the homeless, those who have lost their jobs and the working poor who cannot afford pre-

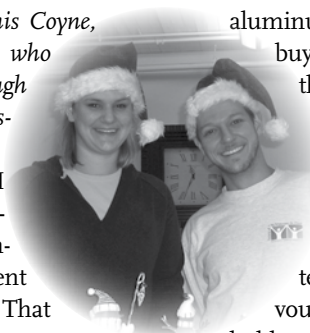
*Continued on page 3.*

## Working together, Vincentians bring hope

■ A personal story from Dennis Coyne, Nativity Conference President, who helps conduct home visits through our West End headquarters to assist people with furniture needs.

"Rick Schuckman and I make visits to people who request furniture. It is not unusual to walk into an apartment that essentially has nothing. That happened today.

The lady who answered the door was walking with the aid of a cane. She took us to the kitchen so that we could write out our vouchers on the sink top since there was nothing else. Not only did she not have furniture, but not even the basic utensils to boil water. I noticed that the gas stove was on—she was boiling water for coffee in an



aluminum foil pan that you would buy a pie in from the store. About three-fourths of an inch of water was boiling in this container. That was when I realized that she really had nothing.

She had just moved into the apartment after being in a shelter for almost a year. We gave her vouchers for furniture and household goods and explained which SVDP thrift stores were near to her. Next problem - she had no way to get to the stores. She had no relatives or friends to help her.

We thought of several ideas, but none of them seemed like they would work. Then, we called Vincentian Paul Hoeting to see if he could help in this

*Continued on page 3.*



## Did you know?

You probably know that almost all our funding comes from gifts made by concerned people like you. Without your generosity, we simply could not help those in need to bridge the spiritual, emotional and financial gaps in their lives. Every dollar will help a neighbor who is in need. Your tax-deductible gift of:

- \$10,000 will provide beds for 100 people—enough to fill requests for six weeks.
- \$65 will provide a holiday meal for a family of four
- \$5,000 will allow our pharmacy to be open an extra day a week for one month.
- \$500 would clothe six families.
- \$145 would adopt a family of four for Christmas.

# Give joy this holiday season: Volunteer!

Lend a helping hand during the holiday season this year and bring joy to a family in need! To volunteer, contact Sarah Gerrety at (513) 562-8841, ext 217 or [sgerrety@SVDPcincinnati.org](mailto:sgerrety@SVDPcincinnati.org).

## ■ 5 Cares Coat Drive

**Through December 7:** Give your gently used coat new life with a family in need. Donations accepted now through December 7 at local fire departments and Donato's Pizza locations.

- + Sort and hang coats November 30 and December 7.
- + Help distribute coats December 1 and December 8.

## ■ Food from the Heart

**November 12-December 31:** With your help, St. Vincent de Paul feeds thousands of needy families every holiday season. Helping is as easy as dropping a non-perishable food item into the Food from the Heart barrel at any Kroger store.

## ■ Thanksgiving Food Baskets

**November 19-20:** Just before Thanksgiving, St. Vincent de Paul distributes food baskets so



those in need can cook a special Thanksgiving meal at home. Help set up on November 19. Help give out Thanksgiving baskets on November 20.

## ■ Christmas Angels Toy Program

Be a Christmas Angel for a family in need! Give a new toy or a financial gift so children may awaken to a gift on Christmas morning. Children make a gift for mom and dad while their parents pick out their gifts. There are many ways you can lend a hand:

- + Help families sign up to participate on November 10.
- + Help shop for Christmas toys on November 20. Drivers with vans are needed.
- + Help organize and sort toys on December 7.

+ Help with toy give-away on December 8. Families welcomed for this special event.

+ Help transport toys donated by Sacred Heart schoolchildren. Date TBD.

## ■ Christmas Food Baskets

**December 20-21:** Help set up December 20 for our special Christmas food distribution, or help give out Christmas food baskets on December 21.

## ■ Adopt-A-Family

**Now through December 21:** Make a magical Christmas memory for a family in need. We supply you with a Christmas wish list from a family in desperate need... you provide the presents. Drop your gifts off at St. Vincent de Paul or deliver them directly. Contact LaMonica at (513) 562-8841 ext. 227 or [Isherman@SVDPcincinnati.org](mailto:Isherman@SVDPcincinnati.org).

■ **Now:** Throughout the year, we need your help! Volunteer in the food pantry, in the pharmacy, in our offices or other ways. Consider recruiting people from your parish who are looking for scheduled volunteer opportunities or are unable to make home visits.

To sign up to help or to learn more, contact Sarah Gerrety at (513) 562-8841, ext 217 or [sgerrety@SVDPcincinnati.org](mailto:sgerrety@SVDPcincinnati.org). We promise you will get as much as you give! +

## Adopt-A-Family touches hearts, lives

Each Christmas, the employees at the Harte-Hanks company remember the "Johnson" family in a special way, but they are never far from their hearts. Pictures of the three children grace the company refrigerator, and a little angel statue, a thank-you present from the grateful family, stands as a reminder of the special relationship between them.

For several years, the company employees have sponsored the Johnson family through St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas Adopt-A-Family program. During the Christmas season, families, businesses and organizations step forward to help hundreds of local families struggling to make ends meet. Each sponsor is given a Christmas wish list for a specific family—toys for the children, basic household items or toiletries for the adult, clothing for each person since so many are in need of basics like sweaters or socks. The sponsor may either deliver gifts directly to the family or send them through St. Vincent de Paul.

Fran Forg, account supervisor with Harte-Hanks, said the Adopt-A-Family program not only makes employees "feel good," but has also inspired the company to tutor and support an entire first grade and provide help to teachers in a downtown school. It is an example of how a small act of kindness can grow.

If you would like to make Christmas special for a family in need this year, simply call LaMonica Sherman at (513) 562-8841 ext. 227. Or, a gift of \$100 will help us purchase two toys to be given to a child in need through our Christmas Angels Toy Program. +



## First home visit for new volunteer is an eye-opener

■ **Mandie Goens**, a new volunteer for St. Vincent de Paul, made her first home visit to a family in need recently. Here are her observations:

Going on home visits for the first time was a little shocking. Maybe I was a little naïve, but I was completely unaware of the needs people have in Cincinnati. This summer I went on a mission trip to Mamelodi, South Africa, and while there I saw witnessed extreme poverty. I saw poverty on a level I never thought existed. Upon returning home it hit me that we, too, have poverty! How could I have been so blind to that fact?

When I found out about home visits, I was very anxious to help out. I figured I had seen the worst of it in South Africa; nothing could surprise me at this point. I had the pleasure of visiting two homes one morning. When I walked in the first apartment, I met a mom and her two kids who had absolutely nothing. No furniture, nothing. After hearing her story of how she was in a woman's shelter and now is getting her life back together, I was in awe. I was so happy to see her get the help she deserved. Each visit ended with us all holding hands and praying together.

Home visits. Two little words, yet to so many these visits mean so much! ✦



Mandie Goens



## Visit our Thrift Stores

To schedule a pick-up of your quality used goods or inquire about donating a vehicle: **Call (513) 421-CARE** Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Drop off donations during business hours at any SVDP store.

For more information on the Society and how you can be part of it, please e-mail Julie Rack at [jrack@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:jrack@svdpcincinnati.org) or call (513) 562-8841, ext 225.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Cincinnati is a non-profit organization dedicated to caring for poor and disadvantaged people.

### St. Vincent de Paul Ministry Center

1125 Bank Street  
(513) 562-8841

### St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store locations

#### Colerain

6900 Colerain Avenue  
(513) 741-1641

#### Este Avenue Superstore

4530 Este Avenue  
(513) 681-9838

#### Evendale

9864 Reading Road  
(513) 563-2949

#### Price Hill

3707 St. Lawrence Avenue  
(513) 251-4330

#### Mt. Washington

2129 Beechmont Avenue  
(513) 231-1239

#### Milford

813 Main Street  
(513) 248-2664



## New charitable tax laws affect IRAs



■ A recent **favorable tax law change** allows individuals over the age of 70.5 to make direct lifetime gifts of up to \$100,000 per year from an IRA to a qualifying charity (such as St. Vincent de Paul) without having to pay income tax on the distribution for gifts made before the end of 2007. The law expires in 2008.

These tax-free IRA charitable donations will count for all or part of the annual required minimum distribution and thus may appeal to recent retirees or other persons who don't otherwise need or want the income from their required minimum distribution.

A current gift from an IRA also may be attractive to persons who don't itemize deductions or live in a state that does not allow charitable deductions for state income tax purposes (like Ohio) who may use a charitable gift from an IRA to receive income tax benefits (i.e., not paying income tax on the withdrawal of income from an IRA) comparable to a charitable tax deduction. No itemized charitable deduction is allowed for "IRA donations," because no income is taxable to the donor.

For questions or to make a charitable gift from your IRA to benefit St. Vincent de Paul, contact Julie Rack at (513) 562-8841 x225 or [jrack@svdpcincinnati.org](mailto:jrack@svdpcincinnati.org) for more information. ✦

*Health Crisis story continued from page 1.*

scription insurance or pharmacy co-pays.

The Charitable Pharmacy is funded entirely by caring individuals and organizations who wish to help those in need. Please consider helping by making a gift in the enclosed envelope—\$45 will pay for one prescription complete with counseling and follow-up services. A gift of \$1,200 will pay all costs to operate the pharmacy for a day, including overhead, staff, and medication. ✦

*Vincitians story continued from page 1.*

unusual case. Paul has a good size SUV and said he would take care of getting the woman to the store and deliver the furniture himself.

With Vincitians working together, a woman in need got what she needed and a little more. We held hands and prayed with her that things would work out. She gave us her blessing as we left." ✦

# Donations provide life necessities

*Hardworking grandmother raising four grandchildren finds people care after devastating loss*

■ Penny worked hard to build a life for herself and her four young grandchildren. She put herself through nursing school, saved her money, and eventually found a house for rent where her grandchildren could finally play safely outside. Penny's carefully arranged budget would just cover the costs for this new beginning.

Filled with excitement, they moved their belongings into a storage unit as their new home was readied. But before their move-in date arrived, Penny's storage unit was ransacked by thieves.

"Everything I worked so hard for to provide for them, was taken," said Penny. Irreplaceable family heirlooms were gone – her father's ring, the family Bible, pictures of Penny with her grandchildren. The children's school supplies, bikes and clothes

were stolen as well. "How do you explain to a 7-year-old down to a 1-year-old that everything they have is gone?" she asked.

The family moved into an empty house.

In her time of need, Penny visited St. Vincent de Paul. Shawnda, a St. Vincent de Paul worker, came to the family's aid with an air conditioner, furniture and other items to help them start over. More than that, Shawnda offered encouragement and prayers. At that moment of despair, "that was the warmest gift I could get," said Penny.

Many people like Penny come to St. Vincent de Paul for help not with extras, but with life's basics necessities. If you'd like to help, consider making a donation in the enclosed envelope. Or, donate your gently used furniture, clothing or household goods by calling (513) 421-CARE. +



**St. Vincent's Way**



1125 Bank Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45214

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CINCINNATI, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 1106

HELP MAKE GOOD  
THINGS HAPPEN  
THROUGH THE CAR  
DONATION PROGRAM.  
CALL (513)421-CARE.

**Donate-A-Car**

