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**CELEBRATION OF SERVICE' RAISES \$576,000
FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION IN CINCINNATI**

St. Vincent de Paul Honors Two Longtime Supporters at Annual Event

CINCINNATI, May 26, 2022 – St. Vincent de Paul - Cincinnati (SVDP) honored Sherie Marek and Linda Mueller at its seventh annual Celebration of Service event, held on Thursday, May 19 at Anderson Pavilion and Carol Ann's Carousel at The Banks. This year's event generated a record amount of support.

Nearly 300 guests gathered to celebrate Marek and Mueller's longtime involvement with SVDP and their advocacy for Cincinnati's neighbors in need. In addition to their annual support, Marek and Mueller were both instrumental to the success of SVDP's Upward Spiral Comprehensive Campaign, which helped drastically expand access to programs and services through the construction of the Don & Phyllis Neyer Outreach Center. The opening of that facility in 2019 ensured SVDP could offer services concurrently, six days per week.

Through gifts made in Marek and Mueller's honor, sponsorships and ticket sales, this year's Celebration of Service raised \$576,000 to support SVDP's Homelessness Prevention Program. This support will enable St. Vincent de Paul to provide rent or utilities assistance to more Cincinnati families, empowering them to stay safely in the comforts of their home.

The support generated through Celebration of Service comes at an especially crucial time for struggling neighbors. Last year, SVDP distributed over \$2.5 million in rental assistance and \$965,000 in utility assistance, an increase of 66% from the previous year. As many local families face rising costs for housing, food, fuel and other consumer goods, SVDP expects to provide even more of this type of assistance this year.

The platinum sponsor of this year's event was Protective Life Corporation.

Photos from this impactful evening are available [here](#).

Photo captions:

1. Sherie Marek (left), Linda Mueller (right) – Celebration of Service Honorees

2. Mike Marek, Sherie Marek
3. Adam Mueller, Linda Mueller, Eric Mueller
4. Dick Rosenthal, Kitty Rosenthal
5. Protective Life Corporation, Platinum Sponsor, represented by (left to right): Andrew Brockman, John Whitcomb, Lori Dixon, Allean Huber, Jessica Bush, Lauren Westgerdes, Ben Childs
6. Helen Wertz, Fr. Barry Windholtz, George Glass, Marsha Burke, Sue Siber, Judy Thelen, Annette de Cavel
7. Crystal Harmon, Sara Jackson
8. Ted Haglage, Molly Haglage
9. Alison Zlatic (Cincinnati District Council President, St. Vincent de Paul)
10. Linda Mueller, Mike Dunn (St. Vincent de Paul Executive Director), Sherie Marek

About St. Vincent de Paul – Cincinnati

For more than 150 years, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has compassionately cared for neighbors in need throughout Cincinnati and Hamilton County. More than 1,100 neighborhood-based volunteers provide personal, emergency assistance for needs such as food, clothing, rent and utilities, prescription medications and much more. The heart of our mission is to bridge the spiritual, emotional and material gaps in peoples' lives and to serve with dignity and respect. St. Vincent de Paul – Cincinnati is one of hundreds of St. Vincent de Paul District Councils serving throughout the United States. For more information about our mission, outreach and services, visit www.SVDPcincinnati.org.

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