



Conference News and Notes
for Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Sent to all Vincentians & Staff



Vincentian Reflection for the Second Sunday of Easter
April 16, 2023

Gospel: (John 20:19-31) On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, *“Peace be with you.”* When he had said this, He showed them his hands and His side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, *“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”* And when He said this, He breathed on them and said, *“Receive the Holy Spirit.”* A week later...Jesus said to Thomas, *“Put your finger here and see my hands and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.”* Thomas answered and said to Him, *“My Lord and my God!”* Jesus said to him, *“Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”*

Reflection: The disciples were gathered behind locked doors because of fear, then the Risen Jesus stands in their midst and they are then filled with joy as Jesus speaks words of peace and forgiveness. Peace and forgiveness open up the spaciousness of salvation, shattering the confines of locked doors and doubt. But Thomas does not believe the witness of the other disciples; he wants tangible evidence. When Jesus offers His hands and side, Thomas rather than touching only utters a profound profession of faith. (*Living Liturgy*, p.118)

Vincentian Meditation: “... the poor we see with the eyes of flesh; they are there and we can put finger and hand in their wounds and the scars of the crown of thorns are visible on their foreheads; and at this point incredulity no longer has place and we should fall at their feet and say with the Apostle, *Tu es Dominus et Deus meus (You are my Lord and my God!)*. You are our masters, and we will be your servants. You are for us the sacred images of that God whom we do not see, and not knowing how to love Him otherwise shall we not love Him in your person? (Ramson, *Praying with Frederic*, p.98)

**How do we have the eyes of faith, like Frederic, to see the Risen Jesus whose scars and nail prints the poor and suffering bear on their bodies?
And how, then, are we moved to serve?**

Your Formation and Training Opportunities & Tips

Ozanam Orientation – Our next Ozanam Orientation will be a two-part session (*requiring attendance at both sessions*) on consecutive **Tuesday evenings, April 25 and May 2, 5:30 - 8:30pm, at St. John the Baptist (Dry Ridge)**. We highly encourage all new - and seasoned - Vincentians to invest a few hours diving more deeply into our shared Vincentian identity, better understand some of the tools available for our encounters with neighbors, and have an opportunity to better strengthen relationships with others around our district. It is required of all members to be taken at least once, and practical insights have been added to better understand how we live out our Vincentian life in the Cincinnati district. **To register for this Ozanam Orientation, [please follow this link](#) or contact Chris Kelley to register.**

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Best Practices for Home Visits – The Home Visit is at the core of the Society and can often feel uncomfortable at first. We invite you to join with fellow Vincentians to discover more of the best practices for taking part in a fruitful Home Visit with our neighbors and accompanying them on their journey with us, whether that is how to better understand a neighbor's need, praying for/with them, following up, and much more. This workshop will take place at **St. Vivian Parish** in Ursuline Hall (828 Finney Trail, Cincinnati, 45224) **on Monday, May 22, 6 - 8pm**. **To register, please sign up using this [link](#) or reach out to Chris Kelley directly.**

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Prayer Partners - Looking to grow in fellowship and faith with other Vincentians, volunteers, or staff? Then please join our band of prayer partners from around our District for the coming quarter. Together we can lift and support one another through prayer and fellowship. The conversations are confidential, and low commitment – meeting either once a week or every few weeks for a few minutes or more – as you find best suits your preferences and schedule. **Please join our group of prayer partners by using this [link](#) or reaching out to Chris Kelley directly. Our next rotation will begin the week of Monday, April 17, at the latest.**

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Conference Presidents Meeting – Our Annual Conference Presidents Meeting will be **Saturday, April 29, at St. Cecilia (Oakley), 9:30am - 1pm, following 9am Mass**. Registration information has been sent to all Conference Presidents. If you did not receive the email and link to register, please contact Chris Kelley directly to sign up. If you are unable to participate, please arrange a (1) designee to ensure your Conference is represented. We are eager to have each of our Conferences present. Our agenda and supporting materials will be forwarded as we approach our meeting date.

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Chris Kelley, our Formation and Service Learning Director, can be reached at 513.345.1767 or ckelley@svdpcincinnati.org .

***Honoring the Retirement of 40-Year Vincentian Carol Herbert
News from our St William Conference (Price Hill)***



Carol Herbert was thanked and celebrated by her fellow St William Conference members, joined by Family Pastor Fr Zach Cecil and representatives of our Council's staff, this past Wednesday, 4/5. Carol's contributions to this Conference, our Council, and neighbors throughout our community are too extensive to be listed in detail here. She has been a beautiful model of Christ's love - in faith, friendship, and service - to all of us for four decades...and she has been as active in her 40th year of her Vincentian vocation as in her 10th, 20th, or 30th. We sincerely hope Carol will stay in touch with us and we pray her legacy will continue to inspire our good works...in Price Hill and well beyond.



Our St William Conference members hail from multiple westside parishes - friends forever! St William joins Resurrection of Our Lord, St Teresa of Avila (both with Conferences), & St Lawrence to comprise the Westside Catholic (SW-4) Family of Parishes.

***Let's Stay Westside:
Our St Joseph Conference (North Bend)***



These zeal-filled Conference members met Monday evening, 4/10, and we were blessed to be invited to join them. They are 1 of 3 active Conferences (along with Our Lady of the Visitation & St Jude) in the Divine Mercy (SW-1) Family of Parishes. Fr Don Siciliano is Family Pastor, flanked by Parochial Vicars Fr Marty Bachman & Fr Jerry Hiland. This Conference has recruited 5 new members in 2022 & 2023 - that's 5 in fifteen months - to grow to 18 active members.

The Conferences in this Family have nurtured connection by coming together for a Christmas social event...and they have twinned financial resources intra-Family to respond to their neighbors' material needs. Next up: a Family-wide personal care goods drive in all 3 parishes on the weekend of April 29/30.

Our Fans & Air Conditioners Distribution Program

Our 2023 Fans & Air Conditioners Program will start on **Monday, May 1**. Full details can be found within the [Members Portal of the SVDP website](#) .

Fans will be distributed on a walk-up basis starting May 1 at our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC, 1146 Bank St, 45214), through our Welcome Rooms/Food Pantry. ACs will be distributed through a request/scheduled pick up process – the same as last year. The online request form will open on May 1. If you receive an AC inquiry before May 1, please have the neighbor visit the website <http://www.svdpcincinnati.org/AC> or come to our NOC once we've started accepting requests.

Please note (and make sure your/our neighbors know) that households may receive either an AC or a fan, but not both.

Neighbors selected to receive an AC will be informed they can pick up the AC unit @ our NOC.

Any questions and communication about fans & ACs should be directed to summerrelief@svdpcincinnati.org .

Air Conditioners:

We have an online request form for ACs, which can be found [here](#) . The form will open on May 1. **A request does not guarantee assistance** , so please be sure to communicate this to neighbors.

Eligibility:

1. Household cannot have received an AC in the last four years (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022); this can be checked in CMS
2. Neighbors must be over the age of 65 *or* have a medical need for an AC; we will not be requiring a doctor's note proving medical need, but we do ask the neighbor to disclose the reason for their request on the request form
3. Limit of one unit per household/address

There are two options for neighbors living in a Conference footprint:

- You can provide them with the online request link <http://www.svdpcincinnati.org/AC> and they can complete the request form

themselves

- **Please note that the link won't be live until May 1**
- Neighbors may use the computers in our NOC Education Center to complete the request
- You can complete the online request with the neighbor
 - Verbally ask them to confirm that the information they provided is accurate and then you can scribble or mark an "X" in the signature area
 - Please make sure to put your name and Conference in the comments area
 - If you will be picking up the AC for the neighbor, please also state this in the comments area and provide a phone number or email address for us to contact you

Fans:

Fans will be distributed at our NOC on a walk-up basis beginning Monday, May 1. There will be no fan distribution events this year; all fans will be distributed as described below.

Eligibility:

1. Household cannot have received a fan in 2022; you can find this information in CMS
2. Limit of one fan per household/address

There are two options for neighbors living in a Conference footprint:

- Neighbors can come to our NOC starting May 1 during normal operating hours and they can request a fan in a Welcome Room
- If you would like to pick up a fan for a neighbor, you can contact our program coordinator at summerrelief@svdpcincinnati.org to arrange for pick up; please send the neighbor's first and last name, DOB, and address so we can check for eligibility

Our NOC hours are Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm, & Saturday 8am - noon.

An Appeal for In-Kind Donations for our Thrift Stores

Spring time has most definitely arrived. Warmer temps. Longer days. Blessed sunshine. The change in seasons is stimulating shopping activity in our thrift stores, especially for clothing - please be assured household goods and furniture are quite popular too.

Doing some spring cleaning and/or refreshing at your home? Please know that the items you are ready to part with could quickly become essential & spirit-lifting "finds" for those shopping our thrift stores - including neighbors using vouchers your Conference writes.

Please drop off in-kind donations at any of our Thrift Stores...or at our collection boxes spread all over Hamilton County...or call for a pick-up if your load is more than you can transport.

How about a Bundle Sunday or drive at your parish or school? This is another wonderful way for you to invite your fellow parishioners to join in your Conference's good works.

Questions or requests? Please connect with our eager Thrift Stores team at

513.421.CARE (2273).

Huge thanks for your support of our Thrift Stores. Your generous donations empower their operations - serving value-seeking customers and providing much-appreciated employment opportunities.

More News from Our Conferences - Beacons of Light Progress

This Archdiocesan initiative and its prescribed process are gaining traction in our 24 Families of Parishes, each at their own pace. We've conducted 6 fruitful Pastor meetings to-date, bringing together the Pastor & the respective Conference Presidents in each of these 6 Families of Parishes. 2 Pastors have chosen to defer our meetings as they address pressing issues, based upon their confidence in our Conferences & Vincentians. We have 3 more Pastor meetings booked in April, with more in the works. Your Vincentian Services team members are also participating in individual Conference meetings (5 thus far in April). *Beacons of Light* will be a brief presentation and extended discussion topic nested within our *Standards of Excellence* at our Annual Conference Presidents Meeting on Sat, 4/29. Identifying opportunities, nurturing collaboration, and acting are our SVDP themes – a balance of proactivity & patience – while living our mission today.

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Tom Roberts, your Director of Conference Engagement, would love to join you for a Conference meeting - or a joint meeting of the Conferences within your Family. You

can reach out and invite him at 513.345.4910 or troberts@svdpcincinnati.org . He'll be glad to relay opportunities to support you to fellow members of our Vincentian Services team...or bring them along...to best walk with you.

CMS Tips, Tricks, & Transformations

- Are you aware that you can track donations and donors to your Conference in CMS? Yes, you can, and you can also download the data to use your preferred mail/merge facility to send end-of-year tax letters (please be sure to coordinate with your parish for donations which flowed through your parish)
- Please remember to review your new vendors in CMS and add them to your vendors list
- There are new, Family of Parishes CMS statistics, to complement Conference-specific metrics, available in the Members area of our SVDP website, CMS section; please see our website's Members page, then click to Resources for Serving Our Neighbors, then CMS, then your selected tab; the fresh look should provide an intuitive experience for you
- You can review the four CMS webinars that have been recorded; located in the Members area of our SVDP website, CMS section

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CMS Questions?

Who ya gonna call?

John Wessel, your/our Resource Analyst, is at your service - 513.562.1823 or jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org .

Sharing Enhancements to the Members Pages of Our SVDPcincinnati.org Website (repeated from last week)

We have been refreshing the [Conferences & Members pages](#) of our website. These changes were spurred by a desire to make the website an easier-to-use resource for you while we continuously integrate new and relevant content. An outline of these pages, with live links, follows:

- [Conferences & Members Landing Page](#)
 - [Join or Start a Conference](#)
 - Resources for those interested in joining an existing Conference or starting a new Conference
 - [Conference Life Resources](#) (Use password: member)
 - The Rule & Manual, Handbooks for Treasurers, Presidents, Conference Bylaws
 - Link to a list of our upcoming workshops, retreats & events
 - SVDP apparel site
 - General Conference Resources: News & Notes Archive, Resource Spotlights, Contact Information for SVDP Staff
 - [Formation Resources](#) (Use password: member)
 - The Rule & Manual
 - Link to a list of our upcoming workshops, retreats & events
 - Spiritual Life resources: Vincentian feast days, reflections, Vincentian Celebrations guide, prayer requests, retreat-in-a-box guides
 - [Resources for Serving Our Neighbors](#) (Use password: member)
 - Link to log in to CMS and [CMS Resources](#)
 - Forms for SVDP District Council resources, including CAF, Bed Fund, Thrift Store Vouchers, Bus Passes, Charitable Pharmacy referral form, etc
 - [Conferences Map](#)
 - List of community resources (non-SVDP) for serving neighbors in various service areas, including legal services, rent & utilities aid, and services for neighbors experiencing homelessness

If you have feedback or questions, please direct them to Alec Jewell, ajewell@SVDPcincinnati.org or 513.345.4983.

Free Income Tax Preparation Services Available

The 2023 personal income tax filing deadline is this Tuesday, April 18 ...and quickly approaching. For many of our neighbors feeling the financial squeeze, a tax refund is at least a short-term solution within their reach...sometimes with a little help...and peace of mind comes with knowing you have properly & timely complied with IRS requirements.

Free Tax Prep, an initiative of United Way of Greater Cincinnati funded by the IRS, provides free (federal & state) income tax preparation and filing services for low to moderate income neighbors residing in our Greater Cincinnati area. These same services are available to neighbors on fixed incomes, neighbors with disabilities, and those with limited English language abilities. To learn more, explore United Way's webpage by clicking [here](#), or calling United Way of Greater Cincinnati's 211 helpline or 513.762.7900. Please also note that United Way is seeking volunteers to help provide this service. More information about volunteering is available at this link to their [website](#) page.

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)

Our March activity:

- We received **169** fresh applications
- We approved **160** applications, effectively fully extended our March CAF funding provisions of **\$70,000** (as augmented); **4** were withdrawn and **0** were declined

Our April activity (1 1/2 weeks in):

- We've received **56** fresh applications
- We've approved **66** applications; **3** have been withdrawn and **0** declined
- We have **28** applications currently in process

You can check on the status of CAF applications you have submitted by going to the Members pages of our SVDP-Cincinnati website and clicking on CAF Application Status, or use this link:

[https://app.powerbi.com/view?](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoibjQyZDg5NmMtNWQ1ZC00OTAyLWlwYmUtZTA2NGMwZmZmNmZiliwidCI6ImY2NWUwODUxLTYxM2QtNDEzNS05ZTE2LTUwOWFkYThjMDY2YiJ9)

[r=eyJrIjoibjQyZDg5NmMtNWQ1ZC00OTAyLWlwYmUtZTA2NGMwZmZmNmZiliwidCI6ImY2NWUwODUxLTYxM2QtNDEzNS05ZTE2LTUwOWFkYThjMDY2YiJ9](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoibjQyZDg5NmMtNWQ1ZC00OTAyLWlwYmUtZTA2NGMwZmZmNmZiliwidCI6ImY2NWUwODUxLTYxM2QtNDEzNS05ZTE2LTUwOWFkYThjMDY2YiJ9) .

This resource is reserved for Vincentian members only; access to this resource can not be shared with neighbors, landlords, etc, under any circumstances.

Thanks to augmented funding from our District Council, our CAF provisions are \$70,000/month for the remainder of this fiscal year (through September), plus any twinning to CAF by Conferences sharing a resource surplus. Please note that our current "run rate" of CAF applications submitted slightly exceeds our monthly Council funding, so twinning to our CAF will help fuel our ability to approve and extend CAF assistance without interruption.

Please contact Tom Roberts, 513.345.4910 or troberts@svdpcincinnati.org, or Alec Jewell, 513.345.4983 or ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org, for more info about twinning to our CAF.

We continue to encourage you to guide our neighbors to other publicly- & privately-funded resources available within our community...and to nurture relationships that extend well beyond immediate basic needs (material) assistance to provide lasting impact. Budgeting can be an eye-opening exercise that leads to changes to create a sustainable, livable new monthly model. How will our neighbor pay their rent, utilities, and other bills in the months to come?

Emergency Rental Assistance 2 - A Fresh Round, now known as ERA2.1

We've received a funding allocation from the City of Cincinnati to once again partner to assist neighbors with their rent and utility arrearages through the ERA2 program. This funding is similar to the previous round; please note these parameters:

- We are accepting applications and will continue to do so until 6/13/23, or when our allocation is completely extended
- We have maximum available funds of \$200,000 to be extended through your/our Conferences
- We will only be able to assist neighbors who rent within the City of Cincinnati
- Eligible neighbors will be able to receive up to 15 months of rent and utility

arrearages

- Our neighbor must have been impacted in some capacity by COVID
- We are recommending that neighbors with a minimum of \$1,000 in arrearages should apply for this funding; any lesser amounts would likely be good candidates for CAF, assuming the neighbor is eligible
- Assistance can only apply to balances accrued after March 13, 2020

More details can be found in the email sent to Conference Presidents on Friday, March 17. Applications and supporting documentation can be found within the members' area of our SVDP website. Please feel free to reach out to Alec (513.345.4983 or ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org) or Olivia (513.345.4986 or oscheper@svdpcincinnati.org) of your Vincentian Services Team with questions.

Our ERA2.1 progress to-date:

- **21** applications submitted
- **8** approved
- **13** in various stages of processing

We look forward to assisting your neighbors & you, once again, through this funding source. We hope that every minute invested with our neighbors will be fruitful and every dime uplifting.

Rahe Beds Fund & Program

We are currently processing your April bed requests. We may be a little slower than usual getting these out due to the Good Friday holiday last week. We appreciate your patience. Due to the number of requests, we will not be able to offer additional vouchers this month. Our redemption rates continue to rise! March was another record-setting month for beds distributed, with 196 beds given to neighbors.

One update regarding vouchers: We are only able to rewrite vouchers that were written within the last six months. If a voucher expired more than six months ago, the neighbor will need to request the voucher again. As a reminder, our online request form can be found [here](#).

New Contact Information for Bed Purchases! If your Conference is considering purchasing beds to extend as assistance, you can get info, including current pricing, or purchase by contacting Dana Walker, Clothing & Home Resource Center Manager, at chrc@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.706.5822. Your purchased beds will be picked up at our Clothing & Home Resource Center (CHRC) within our Liz Carter Center (LCC), 1125 Bank St. - the same place our Rahe bed vouchers are redeemed.

A limited number of pack 'n' plays are available for neighbors with children younger than two. They can be requested by emailing rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org with the neighbor's name, date of birth, and address.

Housing Choice Voucher Program

As presented in our 2/15/2023 Resource Spotlight, Annina Ruggley of our Council's Social Services team is accepting neighbor recommendations for the Housing Choice Voucher program. This program works to assist neighbors in obtaining a Section 8 voucher, which would allow neighbors to rent from private landlords at a reduced rate, based upon a proportion of their income, with CMHA covering the remaining balance. The rental property must be located in Hamilton County. Ideal candidates for this program are neighbors whose income is not currently enough to address their expenses, are housed or are moving into housing that is likely to pass inspection, and have enough income/assistance each month to enable them to pay at least \$50 a month for rent. To make a recommendation, please complete a Housing Choice Voucher screening tool, which can be found along with supporting materials on the Member Support and Forms page of our SVDP-Cincinnati website. Please add thorough notes about the neighbor's situation and income, and email the completed form to Nina Ruggley at aruggley@svdpcincinnati.org. Nina will also be happy to answer any questions you have about this program, 513.345.4965.

Metro Bus Passes (Everybody Rides Metro)

Your Conference has access to Metro single-day bus passes to be extended to neighbors for use for any of 3 defined purposes:

1. Commute to/from new employment
2. Commute to/from our Bank St services hub or other community social services
3. Commute to/from medical appointments

Please understand that these passes are sourced through the Everybody Rides Metro program and our Council is required to comply with the above-referenced usages and

submit reports of passes distributed. Please also understand that your Conference will need to record bus passes extended in CMS for the neighbors receiving this assistance. Our Bus Pass Guidelines sheet for Conferences is available to you on the Members Support page of our website <https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/conferences-members/member-support/>

or use this link to go directly to this document:

<https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Bus-Tickets-Policy.pdf>

If your Conference wants to learn more about this program or request passes, please contact Alec Jewell, Vincentian Support Manager, at ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.345.4983.

Birth Certificates

Our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC) team is assisting neighbors who are in need of a birth certificate. We have enhanced our process so that neighbors may request and receive a birth certificate on the same day. Neighbors should come to our NOC (1146 Bank St) and request the birth certificate. They will then be given documentation to take to Elm Street Clinic (1525 Elm St) where they may retrieve their birth certificate on the same day, or at their convenience. A limited number of birth certificates are available each week, and all birth certificate requests must be made in person.

Cooking Improv with La Soupe

Our partner La Soupe teams with our Catino Choice Pantry to present monthly Cooking Improv demonstrations in the Teaching Kitchen at our NOC. Instructors from La Soupe and volunteers engage participants on basic cooking principles and how to use what you have to create delicious, nutritious meals. **All recipes are based off ingredients found daily in our Catino Choice Pantry. Neighbors are encouraged to sample the delicious dishes and discuss preparation and ingredients with our staff, volunteers, and resident La Soupe instructor, Chef Mona!**

These sessions are held on the first Wednesday of each month - which means **our next event is Wednesday, 5/3, 11am-1pm**. No pre-registration is required.

Feel free to share this information with your neighbors.

Haircuts from the Heart in our NOC

This is a free haircut program, courtesy of our partner Franciscan Ministries. **Stylist Margarita is in our NOC every Monday, 9am-noon**, cutting hair in a room on the 2nd floor. Neighbors are accepted on a walk-in basis, and should sign in at our NOC reception desk upon arrival.

Education Center Within Our Neyer Outreach Center

Our NOC Education Center is available for our neighbors and Vincentians to use during our operating hours: Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm, and Saturday, 8am - noon.

Language Service Available to our Conferences

A growing number of our Conferences are experiencing increased interactions with Latino members of our community...and are struggling to effectively communicate with neighbors who are most fluent or exclusively fluent in Spanish. We have contracted a dedicated language service to help you engage these neighbors in a welcoming, affirming manner. Any Conference member can download the "LanguageLine InSight" app on your smartphone, tablet, or computer at <https://insight.languageline.com/>. You simply need to use the Authentication Code **6NN692GLS2** the first time you login **and provide your Conference name to the operator**. Through this app you will have access to over 40 different languages, including Spanish, via an interpreter. You will have the option of either audio or visual (for those needing sign language); we strongly encourage using visual only when you must. **Please be efficient in your utilization as our Council pays by the minute for this service; and visual is nearly twice as expensive as audio. When you access the service, you will be asked for your name and department, you simply need to state your name, then "St Vincent de Paul Cincinnati Conferences", then your Conference name.** Be sure to only call through the app; you cannot use this service through a regular phone call.

Our Charitable Pharmacy, Social Services, and some Conferences are leveraging this tool to better engage our Latino neighbors.

If you have any questions or are having trouble accessing the service, please reach out to Alec or Olivia of your Vincentian Services team.

If your Conference is among those engaging more neighbors preferring or needing to communicate in Spanish, please consider this an opportunity to seek the addition

of Spanish-speaking members. This could enhance your responsive communication and expand your Conference's perspective.

Christ Church Plumb Line

This greatly appreciated community resource extends rental assistance for qualified neighbors who have an income. Volunteers at Christ Church prefer to do an in-person interview with neighbors referred to them whenever possible, so please be sure to tell the neighbor to expect Christ Church to reach out to schedule an in-person interview.

Generally, Christ Church volunteers have been seeing neighbors about a week after they get the referrals. **Please be advised that there is a new referral form for Plumb Line. It can now be found in our website's Members resources here:**

<https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/conferences-members/member-support/> Please try to use this new form for all new referrals.

Olivia Scheper, our Conferences Support Coordinator, oscheper@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.345.4986, will continue to be your/our central contact point-person. Plumb Line will only accept SVDP referrals from Olivia.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW)

GCWW's **Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program** provides funds for assistance for eligible tenants residing in the City of Cincinnati. There are eligibility stipulations.

Tenants must qualify by completing an online application at assistance.mygcww.org . Renters can also call 513.591.7700 to receive assistance from the call center to complete an application. There is also a flexible payment plan through the PromisePay Portal.

GCWW customers can visit [GCWW.promise-pay.com](https://gcww.promise-pay.com) for details about the program and how to enroll. Renters not residing in Cincinnati city limits but living in Hamilton County can visit <https://erap.hcjfs.org/> for utility assistance. If you need additional materials or information, please contact GCWW at GCWWCares@gcww.cincinnati-oh.gov .

Duke Energy

On 1/25/2023, Duke Energy sent a release to community service partners with links to a variety of resources to assist their customers struggling with winter energy costs. We forwarded this release to our Conference Presidents on Thursday, 1/26/2023.

You can also find info by going to the Duke Energy website, clicking on the Financial Help tab, and then clicking on Ohio.

Duke encourages us to follow our standard steps for processing pledges on customer accounts. For questions on accounts or pledges for neighbors requesting utility assistance, please contact Duke Energy's Centralized Agency Team at 800.241.3194. Advocates are available Monday through Friday, 7:30am - 5:30pm.

Should our neighbor / their customer not meet Duke's qualifications for assistance, please refer them to Duke's customer care organization at 800.544.6900 where they may find assistance through a flexible installment plan.

State of Ohio Program for Struggling Homeowners

Save the Dream Ohio helps eligible Ohio homeowners facing foreclosure and/or who cannot afford to pay their mortgage payments, utility payments or other related housing costs as a result of economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The state of Ohio was awarded \$280 million from the U.S. Department of Treasury through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the program. Click here for more information:

[Save the Dream Ohio - Managed by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency \(ohiohome.org\)](https://ohiohome.org)

Hamilton County COVID Assistance

Our neighbors & you can still find info and resources at <https://513relief.org> . **Hamilton County has funding available at Hamilton County Job & Family Services (JFS).**

Neighbors can apply at 513Relief.org on their mobile device or desktop. [The Hamilton County Rent and Utility Program's application](#) can be submitted on a smart phone.

Please note: this funding comes from the same federal pool as ERA and other COVID relief programs, so a neighbor who has previously exhausted their access to this pool will be ineligible. Please refer Hamilton County neighbors who you believe to be eligible.

Cincinnati Eye Institute Foundation (CEIF) Vision Clinic in our Neyer Outreach Center

The Vision Clinic operates **by appointment** on their communicated schedule, based upon their team's availability; Thursdays are the most consistent. In April, **this Vision Clinic will be open all day (8:30am - 3pm) tomorrow (Thurs, 4/13); all day on Wed, 4/19; the**

morning of Thurs, 4/20; and all day on Thurs, 4/27. A limited number of walk-in exams can also be accommodated. To schedule an appointment, or to inquire for additional info, please call 513.207.6140.

You are Both Thanked & Invited

We thank you for your readership and we welcome your feedback to Tom Roberts at 513.345.4910 or troberts@svdpcincinnati.org. We are eager for your content, including pictures, to make this weekly connection all the more relevant and empowering for you!

Our Mission

A network of neighbors, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

Our Call to Prayer

**O Lord, give us the grace to live the Corporal works of Mercy:
To feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those in prison, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, and bury the dead.
And may our lives reflect the Spiritual works of Mercy:
To admonish the sinner, instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, comfort the sorrowful, bear wrongs patiently, forgive all injuries, and to pray for the living and the dead.
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED



St. Vincent de Paul - Cincinnati | 1125 Bank Street, Cincinnati, OH 45214

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