



Conference News and Notes
for Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Sent to all Vincentians & Staff

Vincentian Reflection for the Ascension of the Lord
May 21, 2023

Gospel: (Matthew 28:16-20) The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. Then they saw Him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, “*All power in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of time.*”

Reflection: Jesus knew that His mission was not to be continued by mere humans; on our own authority and power we could not give true witness and our doubts and misunderstandings could never be overcome. Jesus knew that His mission could be entrusted to His disciples because they “will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon” them. It is the Spirit who resolves doubt, clears up misunderstanding about the mission, gives wisdom, revelation, and knowledge. Thus, being disciples of Jesus is not something we are alone. We are disciples by letting the Spirit work through us as we live our everyday life. (*Living Liturgy*, p.142)

Vincentian Meditation: Vincent said to his priests: “...that we should be called to associate with, and to share in, the works of the Son of God surpasses our understanding. What! To render ourselves - I do not dare say it - so great, so sublime, it is to preach the gospel to the poor, for it is above all else the office of the Son of God, and we are applied to it as instruments by which the Son of God continues to do from heaven what He once did on earth. Great reason have we...to praise God and to thank Him unceasingly for this grace!” (*McKenna, Praying with Vincent*, p.53)

**Can you recall a time when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life
making you an instrument of God?
Do you feel this when you are engaging with our neighbors and fellow Vincentians?**

Your Formation and Training Opportunities & Tips - Plus Events!

Fully Booked! Best Practices for Home Visits – Thank you to everyone who has registered for this workshop taking place at **St. Vivian Parish**, in Ursuline Hall (828 Finney Trail, Cincinnati, 45224), on **Monday, May 22, 6-8pm; we are proud to say this workshop is completely full!** *The Home Visit is at the core of our 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 and safe Home Visit with our neighbors and accompanying them on their journey with us whether that is how to better understand a neighbor’s need, ways to safe during a visit, praying for/with them, following up, and much more.*

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Our Summer Social – Join us for The Vincentian Fiesta! - Thursday, June 15, 5:30-8pm, @ IHM – Join us at **Immaculate Heart of Mary** in Anderson (7820 Beechmont Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45255) for this year’s **Vincentian Fiesta**, our popular annual Summer Social with an emphasis on friendship, food, & fun returns! Included in this year’s festivities is a game called Loteria! Loteria is brought to us by our San Oscar Romero Conference Vincentians and is played using pictures similar to bingo. Will you be among the Loteria

Champions and win the Vincentian Fiesta? To register for the Summer Social and secure your spot now, please use [the form via this link](#) or contact Chris Kelley. Doors will open at 5:00pm, with the main festivities kicking off at 5:30pm; there is no cost for attending and all Vincentians across our District are welcome to join in the fun!

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

† St. Vincent de Paul
Society of
Neighbors helping neighbors®

**SUMMER SOCIAL
VINCENTIAN
FIESTA**

THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH
7820 BEECHMONT AVENUE,
CINCINNATI, OH 45255

**FOOD & DRINKS / EVENT KICKOFF 5:30PM; ENDS 8PM
FEATURING THE GAME LOTERIA BY SAN OSCAR ROMERO CONFERENCE**

**SIGNUP IN THE WEEKLY CONFERENCE NEWS
AND NOTES OR CONTACT CHRIS KELLEY:
513-345-1767 (EXT. 767) OR
FORMATION@SVDPCINCINNATI.ORG**

Convenient Safeguarding Training for our Vincentians

For those who have chosen to complete safeguarding training with SVDP, please sign up for **one** of our upcoming sessions using [this link](#) . Upcoming evening sessions are 5-7pm on Tues, 5/23; Thurs, 6/8; Tues, 8/15; & Thurs, 9/14; or Sat morning, 7/8, 10-noon. All sessions will be held via Zoom. If you plan to watch the sessions with other Vincentians, one person can complete the form and indicate others who will attend the session with



Community Resource: MoBo Bike Co-Op Kids Program

The MoBo Bike co-op in Northside is hosting a weekly kids program. The program is an opportunity for kids to learn new skills and take home a new-to-them bike and helmet, all for no charge. Each Monday, from 5-8pm, they have volunteer mechanics that pair a kid up with a bike from their inventory, with the kid fixing up the bike with guidance and teaching from the mechanic. Click [here](#) for the flyer. Please share with any neighbors with kids who might be interested.

We're Hiring!

Our Outreach Center Services team is currently looking to fill several full-time positions. Are you our next team member? Or is there someone in your life who would be a great fit for one of these roles? Complete job descriptions and information on how to apply can be found on our website:

<https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/>

Welcome Desk Associate – We're looking for an individual who is welcoming, calm, and patient to serve at our front desk. This individual will ensure that all neighbors, staff, and volunteers feel welcomed and comfortable while at our Neyer Outreach Center. They will monitor public space, deescalate emotionally charged situations, and provide quality customer service to neighbors, volunteers, and guests.

Outreach Center Services Administrative Manager – This position is responsible for providing high quality and accurate support to Neyer Outreach Center leadership and staff. Attention to detail, ensuring programmatic and financial accountability, is a key aspect of this role. The prompt and effective delivery of service engagement and responsible stewardship are the expectations of this team member's work. This leader must consistently model the mission and values of St. Vincent de Paul.

Food News for Our Neighbors

Yes, inflation and SNAP reductions are driving increased demand to our SVDP network of Food Pantries. And with your help, food drives & donations are fueling our response. Here's more news on the food front:

Kroger is now accepting SNAP EBT for pick-up and delivery orders ; the latter is particularly helpful for our neighbors experiencing challenges with transportation
Community Action Agency (CAA) has shared their mobile food pantry distribution calendar:

- 2nd Tues of the month, 11am-1pm, @ The Welcome Project, 2936 Colerain Ave, Cinn, 45225
- 3rd Wed of the month, 2-4pm, @ CAA, 1740 Langdon Farm Rd, Cinn, 45237
- 4th Mon of the month, noon-2pm, @ Tryed Stone New Beginning Church, 5550 Reading Rd, Cinn, 45237
- 4th Thurs of the month, 3-5pm, @ Corinthian Baptist Church, 1920 Tennessee Ave, Cinn, 45237

Please help spread the word!

Our Fans & Air Conditioners Distribution Program

Our 2023 Fans & Air Conditioners Program started Monday, 5/1. Full details can be found within the [Members Portal of the SVDP website](#) .

Fans are being distributed on a walk-up basis at our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC, 1146 Bank St, 45214), through our Welcome Rooms/Food Pantry. ACs are distributed through a request/scheduled pick up process – the same as last year. The online request form can be found here: <http://www.svdpcincinnati.org/AC> or neighbors can apply at our NOC.

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 .

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

Our Thrift Stores and Their Customers...

...wish to thank our Conferences and their parishes for hosting Bundle Sundays. These in-kind donations are crucial to our ability to provide our neighbors the best thrift store shopping experience possible. Essential goods and surprising finds are flying off our shelves to bring value to households throughout Hamilton County.

Spring cleaning is here - and we still have Bundle Sunday slots available!

Seize this opportunity in your parish or Family-wide for the ultimate win-win for donor & recipient...our thrift stores empower our engagement and bolster our assistance extended to touch so many in our community.

To schedule a Bundle Sunday or schedule a pick-up, call 513.421.CARE (2273)

Community Resource: Hope's Journey (Repeated with website link added)

Hope's Journey is a Christ-centered men's cooperative home for the homeless, located in Miamitown (on Rt 128) in the western part of Hamilton County. Their target population is homeless men & returning citizens looking for a place to get their life back on track. Opened in January 2023, they have capacity for 8 men and currently have multiple openings. Accommodations include two house managers who live there full-time. The residents are counseled on obtaining and retaining employment and are required to pay \$100/week which includes their rent, food, and transportation to and from work. Residents are drug tested and have a series of obligations/expectations they must meet. Bible study is offered in the home.

To learn more, here's a link to their website: <http://hopesjourney.family>

SVDP St Martin District Council to Host Their 5K Fundraiser on Saturday, 6/10/2023

St Martin District is our SVDP neighbor serving six counties to our east. Here's a link to more info:

[Home - Run for the Poor](#)

Voice of the Poor Nugget (Repeated)

Our US Congress is currently vetting proposals to achieve an approvable national budget; in play is the possibility of severely cutting spending on domestic programs. One such program is the Farm Bill which funds the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known to many as food stamps. These cuts, when coupled with our current reality of elevated inflation, would be devastating to those among us who are most in need. **SVDP National's Voice of the Poor Committee is asking us to email our Congresspersons: [Action Center \(votervoicenet\)](https://www.votervoicenet.com) . Please ask them not to cut SNAP for those most in need.** As you may know, the SNAP provisions already contain work requirements...and the temporary COVID enhanced assistance provisions (emergency allotments) expired early this spring. Right here in Hamilton County, our SVDP pantries network is already being challenged to meet the growing food/nutritional needs of our neighbors...and these neighbors' efforts to balance their own budgets while feeding their household members are creating other shortfalls leading to requests for assistance in multiple forms - rent, utilities, transportation, medications, etc.

Want more info? Here's a link to the **Farm Bill Principles letter** sent by our Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Rural Life, and Catholic Relief Services for more information:

[Circle-of-Protection-Farm-Bill-Principles-Letter.pdf](#) .

Pictures Shared by Our Conferences



Our **St Dominic Conference of Mary Queen of All Saints (SW-3) Family** recently

completed a fruitful food drive which spanned 2 consecutive weekends; their food pantry is replenished and active!



This is the Wednesday crew of **St Catharine of Siena Conference of Family of the Most Holy Eucharist (SW-7)** sharing uplifting Vincentian smiles. Their zeal is contagious!

***More News from & for Our Conferences,
including Beacons of Light Progress***

Do your Conference members hunger for more opportunities to directly engage our neighbors experiencing need? Does your Conference hesitate to invite prospective Vincentians to join you because you really don't know how you would offer them fulfilling service opportunities to complement your deeper development of spiritual connection and friendship? We have multiple customizable opportunities for your members to team with fellow Vincentians & Conferences eager for more "Vincentian power"...and we have opportunities in our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC). Please consider this an invitation - contact a member of our Vincentian Services team and watch for more info coming soon!

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More of our District Council's Conferences are welcoming new members as they actively communicate, engage, and invite fellow parishioners eager to make a difference within their Families/parishes/communities. Our 2 most recent Ozanam Orientations have drawn well over 30 participants each, and many are new to this Vincentian vocation. Is your Conference expanding your circle of friendship? Want help?

Try this link for National's tools:

<https://members.ssvpusa.org/governance-updates/governance-recruiting-new-members/>

Want more help? Reach out to your Vincentian Services team members.

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SVDP National's Frederic's e-Gazette. If you are not receiving this weekly email publication, this means you need to be added or updated in National's members database. If you'd like to subscribe to the e-Gazette, email mboyer@svdpusa.org . If you previously removed your email address from National's system or designated "Do Not Mail," your email address cannot be re-added by the National Council office. Sign up to resume receiving the e-Gazette at <http://bit.ly/1GKXYJ6> .

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Beacons of Light news:

- We have now participated in 10 Pastor Meetings - most recently yesterday @ **Divine Mercy (SW-1) Family** - and each has proven to be a supportive, productive, relationship-nurturing interaction
- We joined Conference leaders of our **SW-5 Family** via Zoom yesterday to jointly explore an opportunity in their Family's footprint
- We joined our **Westside Catholic (SW-4) Family** Conference Presidents - Sharon Rue of Resurrection of Our Lord, Dave Steinwert of St Teresa of Avila, & Mary Beth Gramann of St William - this past Monday evening, 5/15, @ Price Hill Chili, in anticipation of and preparation for our upcoming Pastor Meeting with Fr Zach Cecil
- Yesterday, our Archdiocese hosted the final **Beacons Roundtable** of spring 2023, on **Leading Change, Proposing Vision, Bringing the Family Along for Phase 2, and Difficult Conversations**. You can learn more about *Beacons of Light* and these *Beacons Roundtables* (including recordings, presentations, & info from previous *Roundtables*) at the Archdiocese of Cincinnati website.

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 Insight

- Release 4.1.002 was scheduled for implementation last night (Tues, 5/16/2023). Release notes will be distributed to CMS Admins later this week.
- Open cases from prior quarters are growing again. Please check your My Assigned Cases and close out your open cases. Cases for normal neighbor visits and assistance should be closed quickly. Remember, a neighbor can have more than one case and each case constitutes a distinct visit to your conference for assistance, even if one day apart.
 - Your open cases can be found on the CMS Support Page, in the Members area, of the SVDP website by clicking on the "CMS STATISTICS: CONFERENCES" button, selecting your Conference and then going to page 6 of the report.
- The most recent newsletter for CMS Admins was recently distributed. Please contact your CMS Admin for a review of any information you may need.

As always, feel free to call or email John Wessel - 513.562.1823 or jwessel@svdpcincinnati.org - at any time if you have any questions, suggestions, or desire a walkthrough training session.

More Resources for our Conferences and Neighbors

Conference Assistance Fund (CAF)

Our May activity to-date:

- We've received **116** applications
- We've approved **127** applications; **2** withdrawn & **0** declined
- We have **35** applications currently in process

As communicated by Olivia at the start of this week, your CAF application volume spiked in Late April / early May, to the point our Council's full monthly \$70,000 funding provision is exhausted by applications already in-house. We've suspended accepting fresh applications until 5/31. Twinning to our CAF will help fuel our ability to approve and extend CAF assistance and minimize this interruption.

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

[https://app.powerbi.com/view?](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrljoiNjQyZDg5NmMtNWQ1ZC00OTAyLWlwYmUtZTA2NGMwZmZmNmZiliwidCI6ImY2NWUwODUxLTYxM2QtNDEzNS05ZTE2LTUwOWFkYThjMDY2YiJ9)

[r=eyJrljoiNjQyZDg5NmMtNWQ1ZC00OTAyLWlwYmUtZTA2NGMwZmZmNmZiliwidCI6ImY2NWUwODUxLTYxM2QtNDEzNS05ZTE2LTUwOWFkYThjMDY2YiJ9](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrljoiNjQyZDg5NmMtNWQ1ZC00OTAyLWlwYmUtZTA2NGMwZmZmNmZiliwidCI6ImY2NWUwODUxLTYxM2QtNDEzNS05ZTE2LTUwOWFkYThjMDY2YiJ9) .

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

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 - This round now known (internally) 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
- **Good News - Our funding allocation has grown by \$50,000! We now have maximum total available funds of \$250,000 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:

- **45** applications submitted
- **66** approved
- **21** in various stages of processing

We're enjoying assisting your neighbors & you, once again, through this funding source. We hope that every minute you are investing with our neighbors is fruitful and every dime uplifting.

Rahe Beds Fund & Program – Important Updates!

May vouchers have been processed and distributed. We will not have additional beds available this month.

This month (May 2023) will be the last month of paper bed vouchers. Starting June 1, 2023, once you've submitted a request and had it approved by the Rahe Fund Coordinator, the neighbor (or their proxy) will be able to go directly to our Clothing and Home Resource Center (CHRC, 1st floor of our Liz Carter Center, 1125 Bank St, 45214) and show their photo ID to pick up their bed(s).

The request process will look almost identical for Conference members, but we do have a new link to the request form, as we need slightly different information. You can find it here: <https://form.jotform.com/231033517805146> and it will also be updated in the Members area of our SVDP website. Full details of the new process were sent to all Conference Bed Coordinators and Presidents last week.

Our second piece of news is that responsibility for all aspects of our Conferences' beds assistance is shifting to Dana Walker, our Clothing and Home Resource Center Manager. Dana will be ordering the beds, processing requests, and assisting neighbors when they pick up. She will also continue to handle requests from Conferences who wish to purchase beds. Dana can be reached through the Rahe Fund email address rahebedfund@svdpcincinnati.org or by phone at 513.706.5822 (this is the CHRC phone number). Please be sure to update your records to reflect this new contact information. Thanks for all you do to provide beds to our neighbors in need. We appreciate your patience as we shift to this new, paperless model and look forward to continuing to serve our neighbors in the best way we can.

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 pages of our website.

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, 6/7, 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 the current referral form for Plumb Line can now be found on the Resources for Serving Our Neighbors tab from the Members page of our website.** Please try to use this 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

You can find current 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 (Monday - Friday, 7am - 7pm) 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. **This Vision Clinic will be**

open all day (8:30am-3pm) tomorrow (Thursday, 5/11), and then the mornings of Thursdays, 5/18 & 25. 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

We see the poor all around us and we long to respond to their needs, and so we pray:

Spirit of God, fill us with your power.

**The hungry search for sustenance of body and spirit,
may we empty ourselves to reach out to them.**

**Many children are abused or live in poverty and fear,
may we be advocates for all those who feel unprotected.**

**Victims of violence cry out for justice,
may we hear their cries and work for change.**

**For the grace of being called to serve the poor,
we give you thanks and praise!**

Amen.

STAY CONNECTED



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

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