



Conference News and Notes for Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Shared with all Vincentians & Staff to invite, inspire, inform, & unite

Vincentian Reflection for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 15, 2023

Gospel: (Matthew 22:1-10) Jesus said: “*The Kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. ...The king then said to his servants, ‘The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find’. The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said, ‘My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment? But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, ‘Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’ Many are invited, but few are chosen.*”

Reflection: It is incredible that the invited guests could refuse to come to such a significant and lavish banquet! But we are invited to a feast even more lavish and we, too, can fail to see its significance and fail to prepare ourselves. Our everyday living is not inconsequential - even the little things we do are helping us put on our own wedding garment. Our continual conversions from sin prepare us for the feast of heaven. (*Living Liturgy*, p.252)

Vincentian Meditation: “In our calling, we are patterned more closely to Our Lord Jesus Christ, who, it would seem, made it his principal task to assist and care for the poor: ‘He sent me to preach good news to the poor.’ If somebody asked Our Lord, ‘Why did you come on earth?’ He would answer: ‘To assist the poor...’ And so, are we not then the happiest of people to be part of the Mission for the very same reason that moved God to become one of us?” St. Vincent de Paul (McKenna, *Praying with Vincent*, p.54)

**How have you come to realize that God has “called and chosen you” to serve our neighbors experiencing poverty?
Could you be God’s messenger to others who are “called and chosen”?
This is evangelizing - and you can do it!**

Your Formation and Training Opportunities & Tips - Plus Events!

The final Ozanam Orientation of 2023 will take place next weekend on Saturday, 10/21, 9am-3pm, at St. Gertrude Church (Madeira). The Ozanam Orientation explores what it means to be a Vincentian and helps us to better understand the Essential Elements, as well as the many ways we can all be called to live out the Vincentian life in particular ways here in greater Cincinnati. Those attending will be able to get to know fellow Vincentians from throughout our District and share their own experiences. Attendance at an Ozanam Orientation is required of all members, within their first year, but all Vincentians are welcome to attend again to renew themselves as well as share their insights throughout this daylong retreat. Know someone looking to join but wants more insight? Invite them to come! A light offering of breakfast food and a lunch will be provided. To register, please signup using this link <https://form.jotform.com/232224404400034> or by contacting Chris Kelley directly. **Registrations are appreciated by next Thursday, 10/19.**

Conference Spirituality Workshop – to be hosted at St. Ignatius of Loyola (Monfort Heights) on Saturday, 11/11, 9am-noon. Have you been wondering how to enliven your meetings to be more dynamic and engaging? Do you seek to have deeper, more productive discussions as a Conference which also end on time? This year's workshop will dive into the dynamics of facilitating meetings as a true spiritual team, strengthening Conference life with tips and guidance for spiritual reflections and meetings to flow seamlessly together. We will also dedicate time for reflecting in our Conference Family on our needs/desires for the coming year and craft experiences which more fully enliven our Vincentian spirit. To better tailor this workshop for your Conference's needs, a brief confidential survey is included in the signup. To register, please contact Chris Kelley or use this link: <https://form.jotform.com/232744382038154> .

Keep an eye out for our final annual event in 2023, our Christmas Gathering, hosted on Wednesday evening, 12/6, at Christ the King, in Mt Lookout!

More details to come in November.

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



Our Resource Spotlight on **Employment Opportunities and Development for our Neighbors** was this past Monday (10/9); it was an informative discussion on how we can best support our neighbors experiencing employment barriers and needs. Keep a look out on the Member's Page of our website (see below) for the recording and accompanying resources.

Did you miss a Resource Spotlight?

Are you currently encountering a situation in which a past Resource Spotlight would be an invaluable source of info?

We archive the contents of previously-presented Resource Spotlights...often including PowerPoint presentations and recordings of the workshops...and we post this content to our website for your easy reference.

You can find them by using this link:

<https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/members/conference-life-resources/> .

Or get there by going to our SVDP-Cincinnati website, clicking on the Members tab, clicking on the Conference Life Resources tab, entering the password member (please keep confidential), then clicking on Resource Spotlights, and then selecting the relevant link.

Conference Leaders Training Workshop and Forum This Saturday (10/14), 9am-noon

Our annual Conference Leaders Training Workshop and Forum (formally known as Conference Officer Workshop) is this Sat morning, hosted in our **Neyer Outreach Center (NOC)** @ 1146 Bank St in the West End. **All current and incoming Conference Officers & Leaders (Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, and Spiritual Advisors) are invited and highly encouraged to participate in this workshop - each**

of our adult Conferences should be represented! Please RSVP today (Wed, 10/11), if you haven't already, using this link: <https://form.jotform.com/232224129815149>

Leaders Training Workshop and Forum

Saturday, October 14, 9am-noon, in our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC)



All current and incoming Conference Officers (Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries and Spiritual Advisors) are invited and highly encouraged to participate in this annual workshop.

9am-10:05am	Welcome, Opening Prayer, Strategic Plan, CAF, Safeguarding, and Beacons of Light <i>Sunnie & Vincentian Services Team</i>	
10:15am-10:45am	Creating a Welcoming Culture <i>Alec Jewell & Chris Kelley</i>	Servant Leadership in Times of Challenge <i>Sunnie Johnson-Lain & Olivia Scheper</i>
10:50am-11:20am	Servant Leadership in Times of Challenge <i>Sunnie Johnson-Lain & Olivia Scheper</i>	Creating a Welcoming Culture <i>Alec Jewell & Chris Kelley</i>
11:30am-12:00noon	General Forum, Closing Remarks, and Prayer <i>Tom & Vincentian Services Team</i>	

RSVP before October 11th!

Leaders Training Workshop and Forum

Saturday, October 14, 9am-noon, in our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC)



Creating a Welcoming Culture
Reflecting upon our three Essential Elements, we will discuss ways to build up - and break down barriers to - a vibrant and welcoming Conference life which reflects our Vincentian joy for both current and future generations of Vincentians. Practical tips on supporting members in their efforts, especially during times of heavy needs with our neighbors, will be discussed.

Servant Leadership in Times of Challenge
How to serve our neighbors while serving each other - accompanying our Vincentians as they navigate high levels of need, emphasizing the Essential Elements of Friendship and Faith, and addressing the challenges and opportunities that come with Beacons of Light.

RSVP before October 11th!

Evolving Our Conference Assistance Fund (CAF) Model

Over the course of the last several months, Cincinnati Council Vincentians and staff have collaborated to envision an enhanced CAF model which will benefit our Vincentians and neighbors alike. The goals are to decrease administrative processes; encourage Conference-led discernment & decision making; increase the measure of care and dignity within Vincentian/neighbor interactions; and streamline Conferences' & Vincentians' documentation. We target implementation for January, 2024. We are eager to walk alongside you as we prepare for this step forward. **The vision will be presented in our Conference Leaders Training Workshop and Forum (see above). This is another good reason to ensure that your Conference is represented.**

Cincinnati District Council
Holiday Program Participation/Assistance Requests
Are Now Open...and Potentially Closing Soon

Our online holiday gift program request form is open for all Hamilton County neighbors. This could be the final week to submit requests, depending upon the volume of requests we receive. Neighbors can visit svdpcincinnati.org/holidays to complete the request form, or a Vincentian can complete the form for them. In order for gift requests to be considered complete, neighbors will need to submit a document with the name and date of birth of each child listed on the request form. This can be done online, by uploading pictures of the documents, or copies of the documents can be mailed/brought to the NOC.

Neighbors are eligible for holiday assistance if they:

- Have children (aged 17 & under) in their household
- Live in Hamilton County
- Did not receive holiday gift assistance from one of our District Council's centralized holiday programs in 2022

Conference members with questions about holiday assistance can email Erin at enowak@svdpcincinnati.org.



Winter Coats Drive Kicks Off Later This Month!

As the calendar has turned to October...and fall has arrived...preparations are underway for this year's Winter Coats Drive! Each year, this program helps bring warmth - in the form of coats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and caps - to over 2,000 appreciative neighbors. Could your Conference facilitate a coats drive at your parish and/or school? More information will be available soon regarding the process for requesting materials as well as resources available. Contacts for Conferences desiring more info about hosting a coats drive - or wanting to confirm hosting a coats drive:: Madi Eftink, Volunteer Coordinator, meflink@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.345.4982; Lilly Pinhas, Events and Partnerships Manager, lpinhas@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.562.8854.

Safeguarding Training for our Vincentians - Available Here!

For those who have chosen to complete *Safeguarding* training with SVDP but are yet to do so, **we have two more virtual sessions (facilitated via Microsoft Teams) currently scheduled:**

Thurs 10/26, 6-8pm: [Click here to join the meeting](#)
and Thurs 11/2, 5-7pm: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

You are invited to sign up using [this link](#). If you plan to watch a session with other Vincentians, one person can complete the form and indicate others who will attend the session with them. Please contact our *Safeguarding* team at 513.853.1014 or safeguarding@SVDPCincinnati.org with any questions regarding *Safeguarding*.



RetroFittings 2023 Tickets Are Going, Going, ...

Time is running out to get your RetroFittings tickets! This one-of-a-kind fashion show will happen **next Thursday, 10/19, at Cincinnati Music Hall**. This event includes a silent auction, raffle, hors d'oeuvres, and an exclusive boutique featuring high-end items curated by our SVDP thrift stores. Visit RetroFittings.org for more information and secure your tickets at [this link](#).

Tickets for our bourbon raffle are now available to be purchased [here](#). Feast your eyes below - and recognize that the first step to feasting your taste buds is buying your raffle tickets!



Poverty Simulation - You're Invited!

Open Poverty Simulation for Vincentians and our community! Are you interested in learning about the barriers that face our neighbors experiencing poverty? Join us **next Wednesday, 10/18/23, 6-8pm, at our Ozanam Center** (in our Liz Carter Center, 1125 Bank St) for an experiential learning opportunity where you will receive the persona of a person experiencing poverty in Cincinnati. This Poverty Simulation, created by our Ozanam Center for Service Learning, is open to the general public free of charge, with a suggested donation of \$10; no prior experience is needed. We will accept donations of cash or check in-person, or virtually through <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E8070&id=36>. Please register here: <https://form.jotform.com/232705830556154> or reach out to our team directly at Formation@SVDP Cincinnati.org.

Now Hiring!

We are still looking for our next **Food Pantry Manager**. This individual will oversee all functions and operations of our Catino Choice Food Pantry, as well as provide leadership, vision, and guidance to our Council's food assistance programs. This full-time role also oversees logistics support to a variety of Outreach Center programs and events and manages relationships with our pantry's community partners. We are looking for an organized, adaptable individual, capable of leading a team of staff and volunteers, with a heart for serving our neighbors. Interested candidates should email their resume, cover letter, and compensation expectations to Erin Nowak, Outreach Center Program Director, at enowak@svdpcincinnati.org.

Cincinnati COOKS! Career Training Available

Cincinnati COOKS! is a free culinary job training program for under- and unemployed individuals. During the 10-week course, students learn the mechanics of a commercial kitchen, as well as professional and life skills to ensure success in the food service industry and in their personal lives. **Cincinnati COOKS!** students will also make a difference in the lives of hungry children. Most of the snacks and meals prepared during training are served at Kids Cafe, an after-school feeding program for school-age children. With the support of Cincinnati COOKS! students, Freestore Foodbank is able to provide up to 3,750 Kids Cafe meals each week at more than a dozen school sites. If you know a friend/neighbor who could be interested in Cincinnati COOKS!, please encourage them to call 513.482.7298 or go to <https://freestorefoodbank.org/cincinnati-cooks/>. If you or someone you know is an employer looking to hire a graduate of this Cincinnati COOKS! program, please go to <https://freestorefoodbank.org/employer-job-posting-students/>.

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

Recruitment & Retention Resources

Is your Conference expanding your circle of friendship? A growing number of our Conferences are!

We are sharing two resources. First, an 8-page Guide to Understanding Recruitment & Retention, aimed at providing a thorough overview of best practices and practical tips on how to successfully bring new members in and keep them. Secondly, we have a planning document with questions, practical points, and a fillable timeline to allow you to sit down with your Conference and plan out how you are going to bring in more members and raise your profile within your community. Both are available on the members area of our website

[here: https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/members/conference-life-resources/](https://www.svdpcincinnati.org/members/conference-life-resources/)

[Guide to Understanding Recruitment & Retention](#)

[Planning Your Approach to Recruitment & Retention](#)

You can also find tools on our SVDP National website using this link:

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

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Beacons of Light

- What's new among Vincentians and Conferences in your Family? This fall is a wonderful opportunity to collaborate on a Family-wide winter coats drive...or food drive...or personal care products drive...or a Bundle Sunday to keep the racks of our thrift stores stocked...or come together for a retreat and social gathering
- Many of you are in Families of Parishes now embarking upon Phase 2 - creating your vision for your Family. this is a fantastic opportunity to be co-pilots rather than passengers in your Family's *Beacons of Light* transformation!
- Still waiting for a Pastor Meeting in your Family? Please reach out to Tom at troberts@svdpcincinnati.org or 513.345.4910 - together we'll figure out how best to approach your pastor.

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Conference Meetings & Activities

- **St John the Baptist Conference of Harrison (SW-2 Family)** welcomed Tom to their Conference meeting yesterday evening. This Conference has recently completed a relocation of their food pantry and furniture assistance into space dedicated to these good works.
- This Saturday evening, 10/14, **Our Lady of the Rosary/St Matthias Conference** and **Our Lady of the Valley Conference** of **S-4 Family** will host their second annual Pasta Dinner...and it's a sellout! 200 friends/patrons will no-doubt arrive hungry to Our Lady of the Valley in Reading. **Buon appetito!**
- **St. Ignatius of Loyola Conference (SW-8 Family)** of Monfort Heights will host a winter coats drive in their parish & school beginning Saturday, 10/21.

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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>.

CMS Insight

- A new suite of training videos has been created for CMS, located on the CMS Support Page. These include a new one for handling Metro bus tickets and one for the CMS Annual Report process. We've consolidated some of the existing videos and have attempted to organize them a bit better. Please review the CMS Support Page and utilize them accordingly.
- You may have noticed that as of 10/1/2023, CMS is now prompting for telephone number and date of birth. It is not a requirement but a suggestion that this information be captured and you can continue as normal with the case. The purpose of this is to improve the quality of the data we capture and to help eliminate duplicate neighbors in the system.
- Reminder: Some Conferences have not closed their CMS Check register since June. Please complete **all** of your monthly check register closures for July and August by this Friday, 10/13. Additionally, please get September closed as soon as possible. This is vital to our FY2023 close. Thank you!

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Open Q&A Webinar

Our next Open Q&A webinar will be next Friday, October 20, 2023. This will be a morning session since the last two have been in the evening. Click [here](#) when you are ready to join the meeting. An invite was also sent to your Conference CMS Administrator with a request to forward that invite to all members.

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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)

October 1 marked the start of our 2024 fiscal year. Our District Council has budgeted \$75,000 per month in CAF provisions for this fiscal year.

Our October activity to-date:

- We've received **100** applications
- We've approved **70** applications, with **0** withdrawn and **1** declined
- We have **29** applications in process

If you would like to keep track of where we stand, please feel free to refer here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12SsYxi9jhSIHVekSeTleDphTnlGLJgqdC_nbEDQROIQ/edit?usp=sharing

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?>

[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 Alec Jewell, 513.345.4983 or ajewell@svdpcincinnati.org , or Tom Roberts, 513.345.4910 or troberts@svdpcincinnati.org , for info about how your Conference can twin 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?

Rahe Beds Fund Program Update

Based upon FY2024 budget provisions and current pricing on our beds purchases, we are accepting up to 5 bed requests per month, per Conference. Your Conference's October requests were to be submitted by last Thurs (10/5). We will let you know if there are additional Rahe beds available for this month of October.

Note: We do have cribs and pack & plays available. Please use the Rahe contact info below to learn more.

Reminder:

Once you have submitted a beds 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). Please remind neighbors picking up beds that they should go to the CHRC (from Bank St, enter through our gated garden to the side door of the Liz Carter Center) to pick up their bed and sign their bed waiver; they should not go to the rear dock until they have completed this step.

Our CHRC is open 9am-5pm Monday-Friday and 9am-1pm on Saturday.

Dana Walker, our CHRC Manager, 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).

Metro Bus Passes (Everybody Rides Metro) - Note Changes to Neighbor Services Available at our Neyer Outreach Center (NOC)

Effective Monday, 10/2, neighbors residing within a Conference footprint are no longer able to come down to our NOC for bus passes. Neighbors who come down requesting these will be directed back to their Conference to seek assistance, unless they are coming down for another service to which they are eligible at this site (example: Pantry food assistance).

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 - Note Changes to Neighbor Services Available at our NOC

Effective Monday, 10/2, neighbors residing within a Conference footprint are no longer able to come down to our NOC for birth certificates. Neighbors who come down requesting these will be directed back to their Conference to seek assistance.

Your Conference now has access to request Birth Certificates for neighbors within your footprint, to be extended for any of these 3 defined purposes:

1. Employment
2. School Enrollment

3. Housing Placement

Conferences should only complete requests for the neighbor's own birth certificate and/or a minor of whom they have custody, and requests can only be completed for neighbors born in Ohio. SVDP can extend up to 2 birth certificates per household per lifetime. Our Birth Certificate Guidelines sheet will be available to Conferences on the Members pages of our website.

If your Conference would like to submit a request for a birth certificate, please complete the form found here: <https://form.jotform.com/232633979750063> .

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 almost every Monday, 9am-noon**. **Please note: Haircuts will not be available on Monday, 10/23**. Neighbors are accepted on a walk-in basis, and should sign in at our NOC reception desk upon arrival.

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, 11/1, 11am-1pm!** No pre-registration is required.

Feel free to share this information with your neighbors.

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. (We're hearing from Conferences engaging neighbors whose primary language is other than English or Spanish.)** 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.

Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW)

GCWW offers a flexible payment plan to eligible neighbors through their PromisePay Portal. GCWW customers can visit 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> . This site also includes info on the bus offering mobile 513relief assistance and support at <https://513relief.org/bus/> . **Hamilton County has COVID funding still available at Hamilton County Job & Family Services (JFS)**. 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 CEIF's communicated schedule, based upon their team's availability; Thursdays are the most consistent. **This Vision Clinic's remaining October open dates (all day, 8:30am-3pm; closed 12:30-1pm for lunch) are: Thurs, 10/12 (tomorrow); Mon, 10/16; Thurs, 10/19; Thurs, 10/26; & Mon, 10/30. We are thankful that our partner CEIF has responded to our neighbors' steady requests for this valuable service by adding more open dates.** 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.

Our Weekly Conference News and Notes

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! **If a Cincinnati District Council Vincentian you know - or you - are not directly receiving our Conference News and Notes via email each Wednesday morning**, please email Tom (at the email address above) with your name, Conference, and preferred email address to be added to our Constant Contact distribution list.

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

“Called and chosen” as followers of Jesus, we stand with those struggling to embrace their dignity as children of God. For them we pray,

**God of mercy, hear our prayer.
For those who love without measure, yet feel unloved by others,
God of mercy, hear our prayer.
For those who give to others, yet are deprived of basic needs.
God of mercy, hear our prayer.
For those who strive for justice, yet endure persecution for their efforts.
God of mercy, hear our prayer.
Amen.**

STAY CONNECTED



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

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