


I HAVE A DREAM

Millions of Americans have been inspired by Dr. King’s vision of a world where poverty and racism are vanquished in his “I have a Dream” speech. Dr. King’s speech echoes our Christian fellowship with all people. We share that dream as St. Paul wrote, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Gal:3:28. **What is your dream for those in need in our community?** By remembering St. Vincent de Paul in your estate plans, you can ensure Waukesha neighbors will always have somewhere to go in times of crisis.



WITH YOUR SUPPORT

The cost of living for food and shelter skyrocketed since the pandemic. With your help St. Vincent de Paul can help our neighbors in need.

Be the Change today!

\$25


Will feed three guests at our meal program!

\$50


Provides a safe place for someone to sleep during the winter!

\$150

Can help us provide groceries for a family in need!



St. Vincent de Paul Waukesha County
Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Bob Glowacki

I am so excited to be a leader here in Waukesha County for St. Vincent de Paul as the Chief Executive Officer. As a life-long, practicing Roman Catholic, I have been truly touched by the deep spirituality of our Vincentian members and the amazing love and support provided to our neighbors in need.

“Doing A Little Good”

I hope this is the first of many reflections I share with you titled, “Doing a Little Good.” This is a phrase that comes from the founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam who said, “In my Life I want to become a little better and do a little good.” His vision inspired a movement over 180 years ago that still thrives across the world, here in the USA and Waukesha County.

As a donor, volunteer and neighbor, I want to share with you the good our Vincentians and Council do across our area. In this issue you will read about some of our accomplishments in 2024 and how we meet the basic needs of our neighbors living on the margins.

Waukesha Catholic School System

As part of Waukesha Catholic’s 12th Annual Catholic Schools Walk, the school family came together with purpose and compassion, collecting 73 pairs of new and gently-used shoes for the St. Vincent De Paul Society of Waukesha County! On Wednesday, October 30, we proudly presented these donations to Mr. Bob Glowacki, CEO of St. Vincent de Paul Society of Waukesha County.

Mr. Glowacki spoke with our students, sharing the mission, history, and meaningful work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which is dedicated to helping those in need right here in our community.



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Be Our Guest Monday Meal Program

For the past 25 years in the city of Waukesha, Monday means a warm, home cooked meal served by local Vincentian conferences. At that time the President of the Waukesha Council was Tom Fahl. He had an idea to connect Vincentians with those in need of a meal. To make this a reality, he turned to the person he trusted most, his wife Peggy. Over the years Peggy and her team of dedicated cooks, Kathy Monet and Stella Hasler prepare food for 75-100 people starting every Monday at 2pm at the Hope Center. Vincentians from Catholic parishes throughout our county serve the prepared meals at 5pm every Monday.

As guests wait for the meal service to begin, Peggy strolls among the tables and is asked by a guest, "What's for dinner?" She shares the meal of the day with a smile. Someone else walks up to give her a hug and to share his or her latest experiences. Before the meal, Peggy leads the group in prayer and asks patrons if they are praying for anyone tonight. The night I was there, prayers were said for loved ones battling cancer, for each person that is in attendance or for a friend not seen for a while. You feel a real sense of connectedness and community. Peggy said:

"By listening to our guest's hopes, their disappointments, their inability to find a job or permanent housing, their accomplishments and their joy when something goes right, gives personal attention to our friends in need."

Vincentians personally serve coffee and the meal to their guests. Reflecting on her 25 years leading the meal program, Peggy had this to say:

"As Director of the Meal Ministry, my love for the meal program is steadfast. Our pledge is to provide a pleasant dining experience for our guests who come on Monday to the Vincentian table."



ON THE RISE!

Unfortunately, the number of individuals coming for our Monday meals is rising. Your support assures that every Monday there is a warm meal served with a warm smile.

1 in 4 People rely on meal programs



Creativity in Crisis

In early October, St. Vincent de Paul was informed the overflow winter shelter was in danger of not opening due to a lack of funding. This shelter was a last resort for dozens of people during the coldest months of the year when shelter beds capacity is extremely limited. Local conference members shared their deep concern for the well-being of those on the streets of Waukesha. A Waukesha Vincentian, Mary Freisleben, explained it this way, "While we see the face of God in our neighbors, we are committed to ensuring that shelter, food and basic necessities are available not only for human dignity but, in winter in Wisconsin, actual survival."

St. Vincent de Paul is not just a referral, it is a lifeline for those without shelter as Mary describes, "When a call comes in saying "I'm homeless" whether it be on a street corner, in a car or a lobby somewhere, our Vincentian mission drives the search for immediate shelter. When space is available in one of the permanent shelters it entails confirming a space for our neighbor and arranging transportation to get there. Having adequate space in a shelter, such as the Emergency Overflow Shelter, allows us, as Vincentians, to help our homeless neighbors transition to shelter, warmth, food and basic necessities as smoothly as possible. This helps relieve the anxiety of not knowing what's happening tomorrow, so plans for moving forward can begin."

After prayerful consideration, the Board of Directors approved a financial and programmatic partnership with Housing Action Coalition operating the Waukesha Overflow Shelter. This creative partnership reinforces our commitment to ensuring that everyone has a safe place to sleep in our Waukesha community.



Jodie LaChapelle

Our Director of Community Engagement Services for St. Vincent de Paul, Jodie LaChapelle has taken a leadership role in the Housing Action Coalition Shelter Access Committee. This includes organizations like Hebron House, Family Promise, Salvation Army and the Hope Center to make a more integrated network of support for those experiencing homelessness in Waukesha. This committee has coordinated the staffing, volunteers, meals, and transportation needed to operate the overflow shelter. "It has been inspiring to witness and be a part of community partners coming together, collaborating on solutions that address the immediate needs of our community. I am deeply grateful for all the Vincentians working alongside me to make this happen." Thanks to support from St. Vincent de Paul, the shelter will be open from mid-January through the end of March providing shelter to those of our neighbors in the greatest need.