

# *Inside Buzz*

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul Uniontown Area Conference, PO Box 195, Uniontown, PA 15401**

<http://www.StVincentDePaulUniontown.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/stvincentdepauluniontown>

<https://twitter.com/SVdPUniontown>

Store and Furniture Showroom 62-70 N. Mt. Vernon Avenue

One phone number answers all 724-439-9188

Good Samaritan Quilters . Computer Lessons and Software . Handfuls of Mercy . Hear Fayette Program  
Samaritan's Well, 90 N. Mt. Vernon Avenue

## *Autumn 2016*

### **The Great, Grand Reopening of our St. Vincent Store!**

(FRAZZLED! Dictionary meaning: Tired and nervous or anxious, often because of having to deal with too many things at the same time.)

**They all had the perfect excuse**, even the right, to be **frazzled** on opening day. Customers were lined up outside or waiting in vehicles. The lot was jammed. Outside, workers were scurrying, setting up tents, tables, and activities to help everyone celebrate that their favorite store had survived the arsonist's torch and was now set to open the doors again.

It was wonderful! Working together, somewhat calmly, taking everything in stride, the volunteer store personnel and staff greeted the happy customers, who were not the least bit upset that a long, long line had formed at the checkout.

Chatting with friends they had not seen since the store closed in late May, persons who had been daily visitors in the past were now glad to be reconnected. The store personnel, continually brought out the inventory (the clothing, hard goods, books, and everything else that generous people have donated to us).

God bless our wonderful volunteers who planned and worked so well and so many hours to get our store back in operation. You have made many, many people happy!

## “Missionaries of Mercy” - A Day of Reflection

All those involved in Society of St. Vincent de Paul: Uniontown Area Conference are invited to an opportunity to follow Pope Francis’ request that we reflect upon our corporal works of mercy and equally consider the spiritual works of mercy in this Jubilee Year.

The free retreat day, 11:00 to at the beautiful Mt. St. Fr. James Clark, celebrant, There will be informal group help identify and discuss what are and how they may be seen in the lives of those around us; Missionaries of Mercy offering need. You will be introduced professionals who donate their cost. Their goal is to provide the same quality of care in attending to the Spiritual Works of Mercy that the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store has already been giving to the Corporal Works of Mercy for many successful years.



3:00 will feature Sunday Mass Macrina’s Trinity Center with homilist, and retreat master. discussions and reflection to the spiritual works of mercy as needed in our own lives and and how we can act as spiritual comfort to those in to the licensed and/or certified services through SVDP at no

Lunch of sandwich, beverage and dessert is included. Reservations are required. Sign up at any of the SVDP Uniontown buildings or call 724.439.9188. If not actively involved in St. Vincent de Paul or bringing a guest, the fee is only \$15.00. Please complete the below. We must receive it at St. Vincent de Paul by Sunday October 16th. Make payable to S.V.D P., P.O. Box 195, Uniontown PA 15401.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Check

Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Dana Krofcheck, St. Vincent de Paul,  
Emergency Food Pantry Case Manager

## **Beyond the Pantry**

You do more than nourish the body when you donate food or funds to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. You help feed the souls of others who are hungry not just for physical food but spiritual food as well. Food for the soul.

As I take a person into the food pantry to fill the cart with food items, I talk with them about life. Their stories are important and should be heard. Some people have lost everything and are rebuilding again, some have struggled throughout their life due to poor upbringing or poor choices. We are blessed if we have never experienced such things in our own lives or families. But nevertheless telling their story is part of the healing journey.

As I help them load their car I ask them (if the spirit leads me to do so) if there is anything I can pray for them about? Many ask for prayers for their families, children or for employment. Some just say EVERYTHING! My response is "God's knows the details of your heart and is listening." A smile of thanksgiving lights up their face as if their hearts were reignited with the Love of Christ right then and there.

Without your donations and Christ-like actions, both the body and soul would go hungry. Thank you for all you do for St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

## **Help for Homeless**

As winter is right around the corner, I have begun a project for the Homeless in Uniontown. I am the coordinator for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. My job goes beyond the pantry, it feeds the souls of my brothers and sisters that are homeless and in need. This project has many levels and will be ongoing all winter long.

First your prayers, it is not my place to judge others and their choices are not mine, but I have not walked in their shoes and not lived their life. My choice is to help my brothers and sisters and need your prayers that God will spark the light within you and help through prayer, donation and support.

The second thing is to get lockers (old school) lockers so they can keep their sleeping bags dry during the day. If you know where I can get these lockers please let me know.

Third, I am asking for donations of sleeping bags and tarps. The zero degree and under sleeping bags are the best for outdoor sleeping.

Matthew 25: 40 "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." Thank you and God Bless.

## **The 14th Gospel Sing and Fall Festival**

Well, someone turned up the heat on September 10 for our annual outdoor Gospel Sing, and the musicians added a bit more, rocking their favorite songs and entertaining the crowd that gathered throughout the day. Thanks to Travis Jones for organizing and promoting and his niece Melissa Wieler (who drove from Canada to sing for us), Taylor Made Praise Band with Raymond Rhodes, Becky Bowlen, Sharon Honsaker, and The John Wyrick Band.

Thanks to John Ellis of JohnE's BBQ who generously cooked and offered hot dogs and burgers for the crowd; The Kleinsasser Family of New Meadow Run (spin painting); Marilyn of Cellurale's for mums; Arnie Amber of WMBS (radio ads); HeadStart of Fayette County; Domestic Violence Services of Fayette County; John Davidson and Carmel Garafola for Catholic Church info, and Joshua and Lisa Davis—woodworking and crafting, and to our many SVdP volunteers who helped set up, take down, sell, and do whatever else that was needed.

**Music Up** Wow! That seems to sum up the awesome musical presentation arranged by Olivia Rakas and friends! If you missed this treat at the State Theatre on September 4, you'll just have to hope for a repeat performance.

Thanks go to Olivia and her entertaining group of friends who created this enjoyable show for the huge crowd. Throughout the afternoon, we were favored with a variety of uplifting melodies produced through voice, combined voices, and musical instruments of so many kinds.

As a special advantage, Cindy Hanzes, signed the performance in American Sign Language for the group of persons who are Deaf or have hearing loss. Olivia has donated the proceeds from the show to St. Vincent de Paul, and we are grateful to her, her family, friends, and musicians.

Photos gallery and information about the musicians and event can be seen on Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/events/297915320559172/?active\\_tab=posts](https://www.facebook.com/events/297915320559172/?active_tab=posts)

**Handfuls of Mercy** Hi Everyone! Changes have taken place in our group since the last *Inside Buzz*. Seeing violence on the news, there are people at risk: police, firefighters, and military personnel. We were inspired to make a "mini-cross" to fit in a pocket, boot, or backpack on the person. They are very well received and 100 plus have been distributed.

September began our third year, and we have made approximately 1700 crosses and distributed more than 600. We have seven devoted senior ladies who do some work at home. The Holy Spirit is at work, as people donate materials, poly-filling, and thread.

Most of the responses about the crosses from the residents whom we visit are:

- 1: How much are they? (Answer: They are free!)
2. They are beautiful! (one can see the appreciation in their eyes.)
3. Please come back again!

We welcome new members and they are needed. Thank you,

Mary Ann Kosport

# THE REILLY

**Thanks to long time volunteers, Thomas and Elinor “Nan” Reilly, SVDP:**

Uniontown Area Conference has a new stream of revenue that is used to assist people! If another tragedy would befall the SVDP Thrift Store as happened this spring, income would still be coming in to help people. The Reillys’ donated their multi-family home this spring. The home has a rich family history and is zoned for apartments. The configuration for the home is three apartments in the main house and one apartment that was converted from a detached garage into an apartment. Features include elegant woodwork, sun room, a courtyard, plenty of storage spaces, and off street parking spaces.



The Reillys understood the mission and efforts of SVDP and were willing to support SVDP’s ongoing efforts. After discussing their desires for the property, the Reillys designated this wonderful donation so that SVDP: Uniontown Area Conference could enhance its aid and programs to those in need from the rental income from the four apartments. The tenants in The Reilly are a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

## Hear Fayette Program News

Our group for Women with Hearing Loss has a big change! We will now meet from 11 am. till 1 p.m on the first Thursday of each month in the Samaritan’s Well at St. Vincent de Paul. It’s a great time cause we are all in the same boat! We know how it feels to be left out, and you will not be left out with us. A light lunch is served, too.

Coming soon! We will have a Technology Day, a chance for everyone to see and try special phones, TV ears, and Pocket Talker listening devices. Watch for flyers at the store or check Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/HearFayetteSVdP/>

Afternoon Reflection for Persons with Disabilities will take place Sunday, October 30, 2016 from 1 to 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Grace R.C. Church 1001 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA. All are welcome! Hila Saxer will interpret for our Deaf friends.

On November 2 and 3, we will be at the Hearing Loss Expo 2016 in Harrisburg, PA, and our Christmas Party is on the calendar for Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge, Route 51, Perryopolis PA.

Watch <https://www.facebook.com/HearFayetteSVdP/> for more details.



Be a Volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul

We **WELCOME** any volunteer time you have to give. Share your time and talent with us. Areas to serve at St.

Vincent de Paul

Retail Store

Furniture Store

Food Pantry

Seasonal Shoppe

Recycling

Call 724-439-9188 Ext. 213.

## *Twenty-five Years: Happy Anniversary to Us!*

If you are a statistics person, you might try to calculate how many hours or days are in 25 years, or how many work hours were given, how many volunteers, their average age, how many visitors to the stores, how many people donated their belongings, how many cars and trucks have come and gone through our parking lot, or how many dresses, pants, hats, socks shoes came in one door and left through another.

Maybe you want to count the number of people that were helped when no one else could help, or the dollars that kept someone's home lighted, the number of people whose dignity was kept intact when they had to come for help. We can't measure the weight of despair or the number of tears that wet the faces of men, women, and children who brought themselves and their stories.

There's probably no way to calculate the combined number of aching muscles, sore feet, and general fatigue gathered by our volunteers day after day. Or the number of smiles and jokes among them that often lightened the burden of that work, or the number of homemade goodies that were brought in for lunch.

How many volunteers believe that SVdP is their "life," their place to be, their way of following Jesus? How many faces has Jesus worn all these years?

As we approach the end of another year, are you at that time of Life, when you may want to consider a major gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

Consider donating **Your home, land, securities or business**

to

Society of St. Vincent de Paul: Uniontown Area Conference.

Your **donation, planned gift, or bequest** can provide direct aid to the poor or generate income to provide ongoing support to our efforts.

Can your gift make a difference....**yes!**

Let's THINK out of the box

- could a house be sold or rented and the proceeds used to help people when in need?
- could securities be sold to purchase a franchise which would provide employment to those in need?
- could your business provide employment to your loyal employees while generating income for St. Vincent operations?
- could vacant land be put to use to benefit people?

See or call Roy at 724-439-9188 to discuss how your gift can be structured to meet your specific goals and aid people!

# FULFILLING THE MISSION

**What is EXoDUS?** EXoDUS (**EX**ansion of **D**irect **U**rgent **S**ervices) is a fulfillment of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul: Uniontown Area Conference's mission of "providing help and hope to those in need." For 25 years, since 1991, SVDP has provided emergency help to those in need. We have done that extremely well! Unfortunately, it often has been similar to applying a band-aid; and a few months later, the person is suffering through another crisis. Meanwhile, the hope part of our mission has been minimal. We have not given people the hope that will change people's personal situation to remove them from poverty nor change the community's systems that keep them in poverty. Hope comes from the Holy Spirit, enlivening us to be welcoming, joining in fellowship with those in need, spreading the message of Hope, and together, with those in need, seek solutions.

**Helping and avoiding crisis.** One EXoDUS service is an enhanced direct aid to those in need. Currently, we are partnering with other organizations to provide assistance. Splitting the assistance with these other organizations resulted in SVDP supplying less dollars-aided but increased the number of cases-served.

People are provided initial budgeting advice during their crisis. Although not as many people accepted post-crisis budget coaching as we liked, we respect their decision to avoid a repeat crisis in the future without budget coaching. Unfortunately, their choice could result in us choosing either to aid them again or to aid someone else who has not received any aid before.

**Food; a basic need.** After suffering a tremendous loss of food during the arson, our Emergency Food Pantry has becoming more proactive in the person's **situation** instead of reacting to a person's **need**. For those coming for food who are homeless; and yes, there are some that do, we also offer a mat that volunteers make from plastic shopping bags. Volunteers are still needed to help! Put your crocheting to a humanitarian use. The homeless can also receive Emergency Food Bags. Another area that we are being proactive is with seniors living in senior residences. We are testing if it is feasible to grocery shop for those without transportation.

**Better to teach how to fish instead of give a fish.** We provided job coaching to people seeking employment and provided a job training site here at the Stores. For those that have a dream of starting a business, we have coached them in entrepreneur and strategic skill training.

**The Spiritual; the other side of the Mercy coin.** Volunteers have been implementing a structure for spiritual and personal growth. In the past year, we have had weekly Bible study. This is in addition to the daily prayers and reflections that are done to begin the day in our store and programs. In order to increase self-esteem, improve relationships, and make good decisions

for a woman's emotional well-being, volunteers offered personal and group coaching. A program for the Spiritual Works of Mercy later in October is detailed in this issue.

**Volunteerism: the fuel that runs SVDP.** Of course with all of the above, it is about the volunteers; because without volunteers none of the programs would be successful. Our volunteer recruiter has been orientating new volunteers, recruiting more volunteers and will soon be exit interviewing people who no longer wish to volunteer in order to develop a volunteer retention program. Also, she and volunteers have been working closely with a Girl Scout for her Gold Star project, which will result in an exciting method to tell people about our organization, its Corporal Works of Mercy, and to encourage them to be part of helping. There will be more in-depth about this project in our next *Inside Buzz*.

**Identifying; to change a broken system.** In this first year of EXoDUS, we were shown the impact of how there is not fairness in distribution when one part of the food distribution system is removed. For example, the food distribution system is fragile, and our Emergency Food Pantry plays a key part when the system malfunctions.

- In October 2015, the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen closed for a month. People were coming to us for food.
- Also, this occurred when the Community Action Food Bank was flooded in June 2016 and people could not get enough food from their monthly pantry.
- Additionally, there is not equity in a monthly food box from one pantry to the next.
- We also identified two gaps in the food distribution system with seniors and those with earned income.

If a person is on disability or a person has a low household income, sometimes a change can result in the person losing their health insurance.

There is a need for mattresses among those living in poverty. Many children do not have beds to sleep on!

Transportation systems are unreliable in bringing people to employment and appointments.

**Challenges.** With this, there is a dedication to make SVDP sustainable through all of its programs: thrift stores, Hear Fayette, EXoDUS, Samaritan Quilters, etc. from the challenges of aging volunteers, global collapse of the used clothing market, closing of vendors that we sent people to for assistance, the changing rules from a utility company that makes it difficult for customers to maintain service, increased reporting requirements for higher levels of SVDP and the government, competition from new and mega thrift stores.

I believe, the Holy Spirit is instrumental in this opportunity, by drawing together volunteer and paid staff that will overcome these challenges, if we continue to allow God to guide us and work

together as a team. God knew beforehand that we would need help beyond our capabilities to meet those challenges. If we did not have all of the pieces that HE placed beforehand, we would be in a far dire different situation today.

**Transparency.** The EXoDUS services are enhanced for required reporting that we need in order to be transparent to our donors, to volunteers that make aid possible to those in need, customers, and also to the various levels of St. Vincent de Paul and the government. One example is what we reported to the volunteers, that in July, even though the first part of the month we were struggling with the effects of the arson, we still helped with \$4331.17 worth of gap utility assistance so that people could stay in their residence and not find themselves homeless!

Roy Sarver

## *We are excited to announce!*

Our Seasonal Shoppe, located in the Furniture Department, opened on September 23. The shoppe will change with each season to give you ideas, crafts, and decorations throughout the year. But right now the Shoppe is sparkling with everything Christmasy!

We've got so much and so many beautiful things to share with you to bring cheer and beauty to your home, school, office, or party.

You can peek at the goodies on Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/SVdPChristmasShoppe/>



# *Society of Saint Vincent de Paul*



## *Advent Appeal Campaign*

Please use the form below when making your contribution.  
As always, thank you for your continued support.

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I (We) support the programs of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. For more program details, please read our newsletter. Please use the following contribution to:

support the Society's ongoing efforts or greatest need  
 provide food to the hungry  
 offer long-term solutions through EXoDUS including budget coaching, case management and job coaching and training  
 support the efforts to help the poor with hearing loss through Hear Fayette  
 support preventing homelessness and providing shelter to the homeless  
 \$250 or more    \$249 to \$100    \$99 to \$50    \$49 to \$25     
other

Would you be interested in making a monthly or quarterly pledge?

\$  Monthly      \$  Quarterly. We will be happy to send you pledge reminders.

Your name (s):

Your address:

Your phone:  email

Please send and make payable your contribution to:

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul: Uniontown Area Conference  
P.O. Box 195  
Uniontown, PA 15401

The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that a donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is deductible for federal income, gift, and estate tax purposes. A person's donation is eligible for a deduction on their annual income return dependent upon the individual's circumstances. A donor should consult their accountant in order to determine if circumstances apply.

The official registration and financial information of Society of St. Vincent de Paul Uniontown Area Conference may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

