

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>

One phone number answers all 724-439-9188

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

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

Fall/Winter 2017

Thanksgiving and Christmas remind us of the blessings we have received and the good-hearted people who have shown their generosity throughout the year. We are grateful to our God for inspiring and sending them to us. Some of them are the volunteers. Without their many hours of planning, without their sharing of their talents, brainpower, and muscle, the Society would be unable to help the many people who know St. Vincent de Paul in Uniontown as a light in the midst of the storm.

We thank the generous donors of household goods, furniture, clothing, hard goods. You provide the inventory we need to maintain our stores and provide help of all kinds when people are in need of help and hope. We are grateful to the persons who contribute financially and let us know they support our efforts.

In order to provide emergency food to our people, tons of nonperishable foods are needed. People have come in asking for lists of things to buy. Groups have had drives and brought pickup trucks full of groceries, local supermarkets have provided their stores as a place for food collection and other stores have donated pallets of food to us. We very much appreciate all of your goodness and efforts. You give us the chance to see tears and smiles of the working poor, the elderly, the men, women, and children who just need a few bags of food to get by.

We appreciate the churches, agencies, and nonprofits who join efforts to make our community a kinder place. And most of all we appreciate your prayers, your good thoughts, your compliments, and your encouragement through the years.



Handfuls of Mercy unique ministry has created hundreds of soft, beautiful crosses that have become a source of comfort to persons who are in nursing homes or confined to their own homes due to illnesses.

The women who belong to this ministry go much farther than just making the crosses but also prepare packets of cheerful items to take with them when they visit individuals in local care homes.

And that is often the best part of the ministry to people who do not get many visitors. If you are interested in serving within this group, please call 724-439-9188.

Hear Fayette is a special group within SVdP Uniontown that assists persons who have hearing loss. Members are men and women who have lost their hearing or who were born Deaf. Sign language classes and practice sessions continue throughout the year. Hearing aid help and free telephones are made available through a state-wide program and through commercial caption phone providers.

Questions can be asked through Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/HearFayetteSVdP> or by calling 724-439-9188. Personnel are at the Samaritan's Well in the red brick building each Thursday from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. You are welcome to visit.

Dismantling/Reclaiming What happens to broken items that come into our store? If they are small appliances or electronics, it's possible that they can be tested and repaired and resold. If not, those items are dismantled and, together with other metal items, are sold to local recyclers. Anyone who wants to help is very welcome. No experience necessary!

Bible Study conducted by Molli Vasser meets each Tuesday (with some exceptions announced on our Facebook page). You are welcome to join in. You don't have to be a scholar to enjoy these sessions!

The Christmas Shoppe is now open in the Furniture Department! Come in to find the perfect wreath, tree, or decoration. Pick up a few glasses or coffee mugs to fill with candy as a sweet little gift for a friend. Find paper, ribbons, and other items to wrap your presents. And lights!! We have lights! We have Santa and angels. And best of all we have Jesus. Come in and find a Nativity set or a missing piece from your Nativity Set.

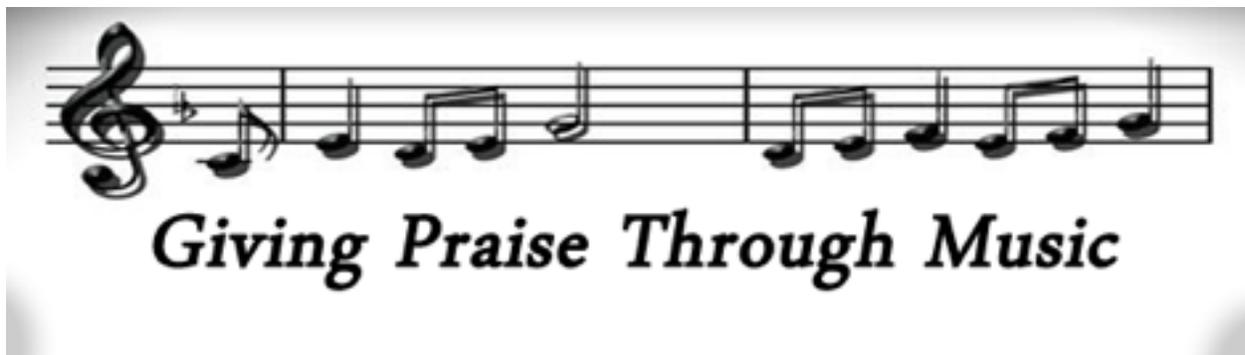


Furniture Department has many great, affordable, clean pieces of furniture donated by generous people. A sign outside reads, "Come in and sit a spell." Mattresses are available at much lower prices, too. Photos of furniture are shown weekly on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stvincentdepauluniontown/>

Good Samaritan Quilters Our Good Samaritan Quilters meet each Monday to design, measure, cut, press, and sew small, colorful quilts for children in local hospitals and shelters. Through Facebook, they have been receiving messages from some parents of these children, expressing their gratitude.

Feast Day Celebration On September 27 in celebration of the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, visitors were treated to a hot dog and snacks. Then on the 28th and 29th, we had a fantastic sale with prices half-off in the thrift store and Vintage Vinny's and 25% off furniture.

Hats off to the seemingly tireless volunteers and staff who sorted, moved, placed or rearranged articles on racks and shelves, served as cashiers and baggers and kept the store stocked and customers happy.



15th Annual Gospel Sing. On September 9, Travis Jones organized the 15th Annual Gospel Sing in our tree-lined area near the St. Vincent de Paul Store. Travis' friends and talented musicians played the sweetest praise music, entertaining the people who came throughout the day. Thanks to these talented people who give their time and talents.

The Giving Tree

Helping Those
in Need



The Giving Tree is a heartfelt story written by Shel Silverstein about a tree that spends its life serving a little boy into old age.

We mirror this story at SVDP in Uniontown as we serve the homeless and the poor by attaching ropes around the Giving Trees in the grassy area on the property. These trees are filled with winter items to help keep those in need keep warm in the months to come. We are calling you to action to be like the Giving Tree to think of others first and bend in the winds of winter.

Come place ziplock bags under the ropes, you can fill bags with any or all of the items: Hats-Gloves-Scarves-Socks-Snacks-Winter coats--Blankets-Sleeping Bags (Please put a trash bag over larger items to keep them dry). This begins in November. It takes all of us to serve as a giving tree to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Have nothing to give? Oh yes, you do! Read on.

So often when we think of giving, we think only of giving money, and when we are experiencing lack in our lives, we believe we don't have money to give. Look around you and discover something.

You don't have to give money! Give smiles; give love; give simple acts of kindness; give attention; give time; give understanding; give a hand! And be grateful for the opportunity of giving!

As Mother Teresa said: "We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked, and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for is the greatest poverty of all."

Last year, St. Vincent de Paul Uniontown Area Conference celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the opening of its original store. Following is a brief reminiscence of that wonderful beginning based on an interview with Father John Sedlak, Spiritual Adviser of St. Vincent de Paul Greensburg Diocese.

God speaks through the imagination of those who love Him even though they do not realize it!

Just before opening the now “old” St. Vincent Store, one humble, dedicated woman was on her hands and knees, scrubbing the floors to prepare for the next day. The image of that devotion has stayed in the memory of Father John Sedlak, Spiritual Advisor of St. Vincent de Paul Greensburg Diocese.

He recalls that it was Mrs. Shinski, “scrubbing on her hands and knees...I can’t get that out of my mind because it just showed the kind of dedication that people had to this kind of work...this charitable work.”

Father said Greensburg Diocese Roman Catholic Bishop Anthony G. Bosco had assigned him to St. John the Evangelist Parish and had mentioned “there are a lot of poor in Fayette County.” Father took that as a kind of suggestion on his part that something should be done about it.

Eileen McCay was one of the first persons that Father Sedlak spoke with about a store, but others had recognized the need as well. Several sites were discounted before the old Salvation Army Store became the best site available.

The best things that ever happen begin with the working of the Holy Spirit: a need, a brief thought, an idea, love of neighbor, compassion, a meeting of people and minds, discussions, challenges, hard work, endurance, and finally, a place was created—to bring people in to serve and be served.

Mat Makers Last year, a group simply called the Mat Makers began a project to crochet plastic mats for homeless individuals in our community. They gathered thousands of plastic grocery bags, cut the plastic into pieces called “Plarn” and they crocheted the heavy duty sleeping mats, some with beautiful designs. The group continues to make these articles throughout the year. Beginning in November, the group will meet on the first Saturday of the month from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Samaritan’s Well.



Two benches and a table with benches attached were made for use in the shaded grassy area near our St. Vincent de Paul buildings.

These outdoor items were made from wooden pallets by Bernard Sulak. They provide a nice spot for resting or contemplation.



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Thoughts for Thanksgiving and Christmas

**“Don't wait until the fourth Thursday in November, to sit with family and friends to give thanks. Make every day a day of Thanksgiving!”
— Charmaine J. Forde**

**“Yet as I read the birth stories about Jesus I cannot help but conclude that though the world may be tilted toward the rich and powerful, God is tilted toward the underdog.”
— Philip Yancey**

**“Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.”
— G.K. Chesterton**

“One of the things that Christmas reminds us is that Jesus Christ was once a child.” — Hark Herald Sarmiento

