



THE VISITOR

Vol. 10 - August 2024

www.svdppitt.org

Dear friends,

As we welcome August, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for the many opportunities and events that lie ahead for our Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This month marks a time of significant activity and community engagement, and I am delighted to share some key highlights with you.

On August 6th, we have the highly anticipated #ONEDAY donation drive, organized by the Pittsburgh Foundation. This is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together and support local charitable organizations, including ours. Your generous contributions on this day will make a substantial difference in the lives of those we serve, and I encourage everyone to participate and spread the word.

In addition to #ONEDAY, our Conferences are in full swing selling raffle tickets. These tickets not only support our ongoing initiatives but also provide a fun way for everyone to get involved. So, let's get buying and selling! Who knows, you might be the lucky winner!

Looking ahead, we are just one month away from our landmark Help Thy Neighbor Walk event, which will take place at two locations on September 8th. This event is a cornerstone of our community outreach, bringing together volunteers, donors, and supporters to walk in solidarity and raise funds for our vital programs. I encourage you all to mark your calendars and join us for what promises to be an inspiring and impactful day.

As summer gradually transitions into fall, we remain steadfast in our mission to serve those in need with compassion and dedication. Your unwavering support and commitment are the bedrock of our success, and I am deeply thankful for the role you play in this success.

Together, let us continue to make a positive difference in our community. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Your brother in Christ,

Ricardo

Ricardo Luckow
Executive Director



#ONEDAY

AUG. 6, 2024

PittsburghGives.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE PITTSBURGH FOUNDATION'S #ONEDAY CAMPAIGN: AUGUST 6TH

On Tuesday, August 6, we have a unique opportunity to make a profound impact on our community through [The Pittsburgh Foundation's #ONEDAY](#), a day dedicated to giving. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul relies on your generosity to continue our mission of providing critical assistance to households and individuals in need throughout Pittsburgh.

Your contribution on this special day can help us offer essential services, including food, clothing, emergency financial aid, and support programs that uplift and empower those who are struggling. The need in our community is great, and with your help, we can meet it head-on.

[We urge you to participate in #ONEDAY](#) and choose the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as the beneficiary of your donation. Every dollar counts, is matched by a pool of \$550,000 from generous Pittsburgh Foundation donors, and brings us closer to making a significant difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Please mark August 6 on your calendar and plan to give generously. And if you can't wait, early giving opens on August 1. Together, we can create positive change and offer hope to those who need it most. Thank you for your support and for being a vital part of our mission!

RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE: GET YOURS NOW!

We are excited to announce that raffle tickets are now available to purchase and to sell! This year, we have fantastic prizes up for grabs, including \$5,000 for the 1st prize, \$2,500 for the 2nd prize, and five \$1,000 prizes for the 3rd prize winners.

Tickets are sold at the price of \$5 for one or \$20 for five. The best part is that your conference keeps ALL the money raised from their own ticket sales. This is a wonderful opportunity to support our mission and your conference and potentially win big.

Winning tickets are to be drawn by Bishop Zubik at the annual Vincentian Bishop's Brunch in early October. Don't miss out—[purchase your tickets online today](#) or by contacting Karen

**PURCHASE YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS
HERE**

CALL TO ACTION: JOIN US FOR THE "HELP THY NEIGHBOR" FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 8**, as we come together for the annual "Help Thy Neighbor Walk" fundraiser, a cherished event to benefit the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We are joyed to announce this year's Platinum Sponsor is the [Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh](#).



We thank Bishop David Zubik and the Diocese for their strong belief in and support of the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Bronze Sponsors include [The Binkley Kanavy Group](#), [Helluva Containers](#), [Herbein & Company](#), [Minuteman Press South Hills](#), and [PNC](#). This year's Friends Sponsors include [Almatis, Inc.](#), [Blue Archer](#), Byzantine, Inc., [John A. Cochran, Esq.](#), [CTR Employment Management Services](#), [Langer Material Handling](#), Peters Electric, and [Pitt-Ohio](#). Please consider utilizing these businesses as they are leaders and supporters in our community.

This event is a wonderful opportunity for our community to support those in need while enjoying a day of fun, fitness, and fellowship.

Event Details

Date: Sunday, September 8, 2024

North Park Location: Harmar Grove (behind the swimming pool across from Pie Traynor Field. Outdoor Community Mass at 9:00AM followed by a leisurely walk up the hill and around the South Loop

South Park Location: South Park Fairgrounds in the Museum Building (the building with the clock). Indoor Community Mass: 10:00AM followed by a walk around the Fairground Oval

The "Help Thy Neighbor Walk" is more than just a walk; it's a community gathering that embodies the spirit of compassion and solidarity. Participants will enjoy a leisurely walk through beautiful surroundings, engage in the uplifting celebration of Mass, and connect with others who share a commitment to helping our neighbors in need.

How Your Participation Helps

Every step you take helps us provide essential services to those in need, including:

- **Emergency Assistance:** Providing food, clothing, and financial support to families facing unexpected crises.
- **Housing Support:** Assisting with rent, utilities, and housing resources to prevent homelessness.
- **Formation and Training:** Our Vincentian volunteers benefit from spiritual and practical enrichment programs that are vital in providing empathetic and effective aid to neighbors in need.

Sponsorship and Advertising Opportunities

To ensure the success of this vital fundraiser, we are seeking sponsors and advertisers for the event. Your sponsorship or advertisement will not only support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's mission but also provide excellent visibility for your business or organization within the community.

How to Get Involved

- Attend the Walk
- Become a Sponsor: Contact [Jennifer Thoma](#) via email or at 412.321.1071x1204 to learn about sponsorship opportunities available.
- Advertise in the Mass Booklet: Submit your advertisement details and payment to [Jennifer Thoma](#) via email or at 412.321.1071x1204 by August 15, 2024.

We invite everyone to participate, whether by walking, volunteering, sponsoring, or advertising. Your involvement will make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors in need.

Join us for a day of community, compassion, and commitment at the "Help Thy Neighbor Walk" on Sunday, September 8. Together, we can make strides toward a better future for all.

For more information, please contact [Jennifer Thoma](#) via email or at 412.321.1071x1204. We look forward to seeing you there!



SVDP INTRODUCES "ART WITH HEART: AN EVENING OF CHARITY"

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2024

Time: 5PM – 6PM VIP Reception; 6PM – 9PM Main Event

Location: Shrine Center, 1877 Shriners Way, Cheswick, PA 15024

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the inaugural Art with Heart: An Evening of Charity, that brings together art enthusiasts, philanthropists, and community supporters to celebrate and support the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh.

Event Highlights:

- Art Sale: Discover an array of thrift store artworks and work donated by talented local

- contemporary artists. Take home a unique masterpiece while supporting a worthy cause.
- Live Music and Entertainment: Enjoy the spirited performance by the Small Hours Jazz Quartet throughout the evening. The live music will create a vibrant and lively atmosphere, making this a night to remember.
- Gourmet Dining: Savor a delectable selection of gourmet hors d'oeuvres. Cash bar will be available, offering a variety of beer, wine, cocktails, and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Raffle Baskets: In addition to the art sale, participate in our raffle featuring exclusive items and experiences generously donated by local businesses and sponsors.
- Meet the Artists: Engage with the artists behind the work. Learn about their creative processes, inspirations, and the stories behind their works.

Why Attend?

"Art with Heart" is a charitable event organized by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) to celebrate community, creativity, and compassion. By joining us, you'll help make a tangible difference in the lives of those facing financial hardships, ensuring they receive the support necessary to overcome their challenges and achieve stability.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

We offer various sponsorship packages that provide unique visibility and recognition for your business. Be part of this entertaining inaugural event. For more information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact [Jennifer Thoma](#) via email or at 412.321.1071x1204.

Call for Volunteers:

Join us in making a difference! The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh is seeking dedicated and passionate volunteers to serve on the committee for our upcoming "Art with Heart" event. This exciting initiative combines the beauty of art with the power of philanthropy to support our mission of helping those in need.

As a committee member, you will have the opportunity to contribute your skills, creativity, and enthusiasm to help plan, organize, and execute a memorable event that will impact countless lives in our community. Whether you have experience in event planning, marketing, fundraising, or simply a heart for service, we invite you to be part of this meaningful cause. Join us in bringing art and heart together for a purpose that truly matters! Interested? Contact [Jennifer Thoma](#) via email or at 412.321.1071x1204.

Get Involved:

Whether you're an art lover, a philanthropist, or someone who simply wants to make a difference, Art with Heart is the perfect opportunity to show your support for a great cause. Purchase your tickets today and be a part of an evening that promises to be as inspiring as it is impactful.

For More Information and Tickets:

[Visit our event page](#) or contact [Jennifer Thoma](#) via email or at 412.321.1071x1204.

Join us for a night of art, music, and compassion at Art with Heart: An Evening of Charity. Together, we can make a difference in our community.

CALL FOR DONATIONS: SUPPORT "ART WITH HEART"

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh is seeking art donations for our

upcoming event, Art with Heart: An Evening of Charity, scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2024. We are looking for both unique "second-hand" art pieces and new contemporary works to feature in our art auction.

Why Donate Your Art?

By donating your artwork, you can make a meaningful impact in the lives of those in need within our community. The proceeds from the art auction will directly support the Society's various programs which provide crucial assistance to individuals and families facing financial hardships.

Types of Art We Need:

- Unique "Second-Hand" Art: We welcome donations of pre-owned artwork that hold historical, cultural, or aesthetic value. These pieces can add a rich, diverse dimension to our auction, attracting art enthusiasts and collectors who appreciate the charm and story behind second-hand art.
- New Contemporary Works: We are also seeking contemporary art pieces from local artists. Whether you are an emerging artist or an established name in the art world, your contribution of new works will showcase the vibrant creativity within our community and appeal to a wide range of tastes.

Benefits of Donating:

- Support a Worthy Cause: Your donation will help raise funds for essential services and programs that provide direct assistance to those in need.
- Promote Your Work: Gain exposure and recognition within the Pittsburgh art community and beyond. Your artwork will be showcased to a diverse audience of art lovers, collectors, and philanthropists.
- Tax Deduction: As a nonprofit organization, donations to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul may be tax-deductible. Donors will receive an acknowledgment letter for tax purposes.

How to Donate:

1. Contact Us: Reach out to [Tom](#) to express your interest in donating artwork.
2. Provide Artwork Details: Share information about the artwork you wish to donate, including its title, medium, dimensions, and any relevant history or background.
3. Arrange Delivery: Coordinate with us to arrange the delivery or pickup of your donated artwork. We will ensure that your pieces are handled with care and displayed prominently at the event.

Deadline for Donations:

To ensure ample time for preparation and promotion, please submit your artwork donation by September 1, 2024.

Join Us in Making a Difference:

Your generosity can help us create a memorable and successful event, bringing together art, community, and charity. By contributing your art to Art with Heart, you play a crucial role in supporting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh's mission to uplift and empower our neighbors in need.

Thank you for considering a donation to Art with Heart. Together, we can make a significant impact and celebrate the power of art to transform lives.

For more information, to volunteer, or to donate, please contact [Jennifer Thoma](#) via email or at

UNDERSTANDING POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS IN PITTSBURGH

Each year, Allegheny County takes part in a national census mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to count the number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night. This census, known as [the Point-in-Time count](#), enumerates individuals who are homeless within the county, including those in emergency shelters, those living in places not meant for human habitation, and those in short-term supportive housing programs such as transitional housing and safe havens. On January 30, 2024, in Allegheny County, 1,026 individuals were staying in emergency shelters or experiencing unsheltered homelessness (compared to 913 in 2023).

Poverty and homelessness are complex issues with deep roots in various socio-economic factors. In Pittsburgh, as in many other cities, these problems are multifaceted and require a comprehensive understanding to address effectively.

The causes of poverty and homelessness can be broadly categorized into economic, social, and systemic factors. Economic factors include unemployment and underemployment, where a lack of job opportunities or jobs that do not pay a living wage can lead to financial instability. The rising cost of living, with housing and basic expenses outpacing wages, makes it increasingly difficult for individuals and families to make ends meet. Income inequality further exacerbates these challenges, resulting in a significant portion of the population struggling to afford life's necessities.

[READ MORE](#)

AUGUST IS NATIONAL MAKE-A-WILL MONTH: A CHANCE TO LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY WITH THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

As we step into August, we are reminded of the importance of planning for the future and taking steps to ensure our loved ones are cared for. Only about [32% of Americans say they have a will](#). **But August is National Make-a-Will Month, a time dedicated to creating or updating your will.** This month offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the legacy you wish to leave behind and to consider how your resources can continue to make a difference long after we are gone.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh invites you to consider including our organization in your will. By naming the Society as a beneficiary, you can leave a lasting legacy that supports our mission of providing assistance to those in need. Your gift can help ensure that we continue to offer vital services, such as food, clothing, and shelter, to individuals and families throughout the Pittsburgh area.

Creating a will is a powerful way to express your values and priorities. It allows you to support the causes you care about most, while also providing peace of mind for you and your loved ones.

Including the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh in your estate planning is a meaningful way to extend your impact and help us continue our work for generations to come.

If you already have a will, this month is an excellent time to review it and make any necessary updates. If you have yet to create a will, we encourage you to take the first steps towards securing your legacy. There are numerous free or low-cost online services such as [FreeWill](#) or [Trust&Will](#). We also recommend consulting with a legal professional to ensure your wishes are clearly documented and legally binding. And you can contact [Jennifer Thoma](#) via email or at 412.321.1071.1204 for more information or guidance.

Thank you for considering the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Council of Pittsburgh in your estate planning. Your support is invaluable, and together, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CONFERENCES

St. Michael the Archangel Conference is excited to announce nine new members this year. They hope to have the Commissioning and Annual Commitment Ceremony on September 24, 2024. Please join us in welcoming these special new members:

Dan Carmody
Sara Castelano
Tim Flaherty
Denise Kulesik
Karen Pesich
Lauren Pucci
Sue Quinlan
Christie Rowing
Paul Yagelski

Additionally, the St. Winifred Food Pantry has a new home at 2840 Library Road, the Tri River Building, 15234. This location is next to a T-Station, which increases accessibility, and it remains in the area of need—currently serving over 2,100 people a month. No food-insecure person is turned away.

This food pantry is supported by four Vincentian Conferences and their parishioners: Our Lady of Hope, Resurrection, St. Michael the Archangel, and St. Paul of the Cross. To learn more, [visit the food pantry website](#). And thank you to all who care for food-insecure families and individuals in the community.

To Keep in Your Prayers:

Mike Durr, former president of the Our Lady of Grace SVdP Conference, who passed away on July 13, 2024.

**YOUR DONATIONS HELP US
SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS**

DONATE TODAY

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR GREAT DEALS IN OUR STORES + STAY UP-TO-DATE
ON WHAT WE'RE DOING TO HELP OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED EVERY DAY!



The Society of Saint Vincent De Paul | 3048 Pioneer Ave | Pittsburgh, PA 15226 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!