



ADVENT APPEAL

SOCIETY of ST. VINCENT de PAUL OMAHA

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors Since 1868

December 1, 2020

Dear Friend(s),

I, the LORD, have called you for justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness. – Isaiah 42:6-7

It has been a harrowing year. So much turmoil and insecurity for so many of our neighbors has led to high levels of stress and despair

- as they watch their children struggle to learn online while the electricity is being shut off,
- as they watch their paychecks dwindle or disappear altogether,
- as they join long lines at schools or pantries to gather whatever food they can in a relentless attempt to feed their families,
- as they face the growing likelihood that they and their families may be on the street even as landlords, also stretched beyond their capabilities, struggle to respond to no rent payments for months

By the grace of God, the Society has been able to respond to some of our neighbors' desperate needs, both financial and personal. This chaos has a devastating effect on one's sense of dignity and hope. One of our mottoes is "serving in hope" because hope is a gift we have been given by God and can then give others. To suffer with those who are desperate is itself a gift. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of so many who have enabled us to continue to help and overwhelmed by the enormous and growing need.

Advent is a time for waiting; we are waiting with those who come to us, to reassure them of their dignity as God's children; and that God has not forgotten them, nor have we. We invite you to join in our efforts to offer hope to our neighbors in need. As you review our activities below, pray for the inspiration to help where you can. Pray for our neighbors; pray for us all! May the peace of the Lord, a peace the world cannot give, be with you this Advent season!

Kevin Engelkamp, President

Marty Smith, Executive Director



"Kimberly" came to us in August in need of rent and OPPD assistance.

She had been laid off in April from her job at an insurance company. She is a single mom with two children, 13 and 16. Child support had been suspended also since her husband had limited hours in home repairs due to Covid.

Kimberly managed her limited resources by utilizing the pantries, had a garage sale, and borrowed from family.

When August came, she found herself \$2400.00 behind in rent and \$288.00 in OPPD.

Without help to pay all of these bills, Kimberly would have been facing eviction in the future.

Generous donations took away the pressure of financial ruin and Kimberly put her energy into finding another job. She currently is employed and is catching up financially. Her 16-year-old is even helping out with wages from fast food.

We thank the Ryan Foundation and all of you who have helped this year!

Please donate to our Annual Appeal today:
svdpomaha.com/donate



CONFERENCES

- We welcomed St Benedict the Moor back to the Society.
- Our 31 conferences have helped more people than ever this year thanks to extra funding and donations.
- A grant from the UP foundation provided cleaning supplies to many people living in senior housing towers.
- Our Conferences worked with our Thrift Stores and other local organizations to help many families left homeless by a fire in Sioux City.



FOOD PANTRY

- Our food pantry reverted to a drive-through box pick up once COVID became a pandemic and doubled the number of people served each week.
- We have doubled the amount of fresh produce and dairy products we distribute.
- Pantry box deliveries became possible through a partnership with Support Your Neighbor COVID-19.
- We had a very successful Stuff the Bus collection event with our partners.



GARDENS

- Our Pantry Garden has continued to provide lots of fresh produce to our own pantry.
- Our Churchyard Community Garden at Holy Family was very busy with full garden plots and new benches and tables.
- We have formed new partnerships to support community garden development anywhere in the city.



THRIFT STORES

- Our stores remained open throughout the pandemic year and we continued to pick up donated goods.
- Your abundant donations have allowed us to increase the amount of free furniture, clothing, and household goods we provide through our conferences.
- We will be opening a new store at 120th & Center in early 2021.

SHOP OUR STORES

21st & Leavenworth 24th - Downtown
804 Tara Plaza - Papillion

DONATE ITEMS: 402-341-1688

24th & P - South Omaha
90th & Fort - Northwest

COMING SOON: 120th & Center in Westwood Plaza

HOLY FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER

- We took over the care of the Holy Family Church building after the parish merged with St Francis Cabrini.
- The Holy Family Ministries of Sack Lunch Program, Closet Door, and Street Outreach continue to expand.
- We are developing a Chapel Arts Program which will offer concerts, storytelling, and shared meals when possible. The Arts have always provided powerful expressions of our innate dignity and beauty, an experience we want to share with our neighbors in need.



"Donald" was a client who came to us in July after losing his job due to COVID-19 and cutbacks at his company. His wife was also furloughed from her job. They have four sons aging from 4-12. At first,

they were confident that they could find work since Donald had a college degree. Both he and his wife applied for jobs willing to take anything to keep the bills paid and took advantage of our local pantry.

But no jobs were available, and they used up their savings trying not to go into debt. Once July came, they reached out to us for help with their mounting

MUD bill. All other bills such as OPPD, car insurance, Cobra payments and food/gas were current.

We were able to help them with rent of over \$1,000 and generous donations helped us stop a shut off and pay off the MUD bill which was \$1,134.75. This also made it possible to get onto a level payment which they could manage once they both became employed. Once this family had the burden of late fees and threat of a shut off lifted, they could focus on their family and their future.

Thanks to all the generous donors this year, we could not have supported our neighbor's great levels of need without you!

SHOP. VOLUNTEER.
DONATE. PROVIDE.

DONATE: www.svdpomaha.com/donate volunteer

EMAIL: volunteers@svdpomaha.com



**Society of St Vincent de Paul Omaha
at Holy Family Community Center**

1715 Izard St
Omaha NE 68102

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**Advent
Appeal**

The need this year is greater than ever...

With the help of our donors and new, temporary funding



495 families

received assistance with rent,
utilities, transportation and more



\$396,131 in funds

were distributed through our network
of 31 volunteer run parishes

Our Advent Appeal-Please consider helping our neighbors in need during this difficult time.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness, and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.



WAYS YOU CAN HELP US SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS

DONATE

online, by mail, planned giving,
corporate sponsorships, Amazon
Smile and Wish List

GIVE

to pantry and stores,
donate old vehicles

VOLUNTEER

spread the word