

September is

St. Vincent de Paul Awareness Month

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a worldwide organization founded by Frederick Ozanam in Paris, France, in 1833. Ozanam was a 20 year old man inspired by the principles of St. Vincent de Paul in the early 1600's. St. Vincent de Paul vowed his life to serving the poor with humble service.

We are a group of lay Catholic volunteers from all walks of life – neighbors helping neighbors right here in Ozaukee County. This help may include financial assistance with rent, utility bills, offering store vouchers for clothing and household goods, information on the various food pantries and/or other helpful services available to county residents.

On a person-to-person basis, through a Home Visit, members offer help, hope and encouragement to people in need – an ear to listen, a hand in a time of crisis and a hope to guide people toward programs that can bring lasting change into their lives. Vincentians offer “a hand up, not a handout,” with the goal of helping others get on their feet and avoid needing assistance in the future.

There are five conferences in the Ozaukee County St. Vincent de Paul council, all of whom are supported by our store. They include: St. Joseph, St. Francis Borgia, Lumen Christi, Divine Savior, and St. John XXIII. Our St. John XXIII conference responds to a high proportion of the calls for Ozaukee County citizens in need. As need is so high in our communities, we ask that parish members prayerfully consider joining us in our mission.

We hold monthly meetings, at which we strive to increase member spirituality, encouragement and fellowship, as well as review requests for assistance and follow up on assistance already given. As we assist members of the community, we meet people from all backgrounds and learn about the variety of services and resources available to county residents. All members are trained before meeting with clients, and visits are always done in pairs so we are never alone on our mission. In addition to personal growth, members also receive a 25% discount at our thrift store!

OUR STORE ~ 2673 Hwy C • Port Washington, WI

Our thrift store helps provide financial assistance for the services offered by Vincentians throughout Ozaukee County. All funds raised remain in our communities, helping local families in need. Monies generated by the store operations go toward medical, housing, clothing, personal needs and organizations serving our common goal.

Shoppers can find a wide selection of merchandise, including: clothing, furniture, household items, books, entertainment, toys, sporting goods, religious items, electronics, knick knacks, appliances, seasonal decorations and more!

Donations of gently used items are always welcome! We will even pick up donations! Call 262-284-4673 to schedule a pick up time.

Did you know:

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017,
803 FAMILIES HAVE BEEN HELPED**
by the 5 Ozaukee County conferences of
St. Vincent de Paul.

This includes assistance with rent, utility bills, vouchers for clothing, furniture, toys, linens, and emergency temporary housing.

“After the love of God, your principal concern must be to serve the poor with great gentleness and cordiality, sympathizing with them in their ailments and listening to their little complaints... for they look on you as people sent by God to help them. You are therefore intended to represent the goodness of God in the eyes of the poor.”

- St. Vincent de Paul, 1657

“Knowledge of the poor and needy is not gained by pouring over books or in discussions with politicians, but by visiting the slums where they live, sitting by the bedside of the dying, feeling the cold they feel and learning from their lips the causes of their woes.”

- Blessed Federic Ozanam, 1845



www.svdpoaukee.org

If you have some time to spare, we are always looking for volunteers to help sort and merchandise donations. Please stop in the store for a volunteer form if this interests you.

Questions? Want to join our team of Vincentians?

Contact Joe DeLucia, President of St. John XXIII St. Vincent de Paul Conference at 262-470-3061

In need of assistance? Contact Tracey at 262-284-4673

Know somebody in need of assistance? Please encourage them to call.