



St. Vincent de Paul

ASSISTANCE • SHELTER • HOPE

“No work of charity is foreign to the Society.”

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul serves persons in need regardless of race, creed, color, or religion. We strive to meet our neighbors with compassion wherever they are on their journey, providing a continuum of services to meet individual needs. To assist our neighbors in a variety of ways, the Dayton District of St. Vincent de Paul offers ongoing support through the following ministries.

Neighborhood Ministry

Each of our 30 neighborhood ministries (known as conferences) is usually centered in a parish and is financially supported by its parishioners to assist families in its neighborhood. “Neighbors helping neighbors” through home visits is at the heart of the neighborhood ministries serving throughout the Miami Valley. Located in parishes or schools, and with one refugee ministry conference, these ministries provide person-to-person assistance to impoverished members of their own communities. The neighborhood volunteers, known as Vincentians, visit those in need in their homes and show God's love by offering material help, compassion, and hope. There are over 650 Vincentians serving the Miami Valley. In 2022, they served nearly 27,000 individuals through personal visits or calls.

The Dayton District Council supports Vincentian neighborhood ministry in several ways:

- Orientation, training, and faith formation for all Vincentians throughout the Miami Valley, which helps them develop practical skills to help our neighbors and grow in the understanding of St. Vincent de Paul's Mission.
- Some neighborhood ministries receive direct financial support from the District to assist neighbors in need.
- Housing assistance and the associated counseling, and SVdP thrift store vouchers (for clothing, household items and furniture) serve all neighbors in need throughout the Miami Valley.

Shelter Ministry

When a person becomes homeless, St. Vincent de Paul is there to offer food, clothing, and shelter. St. Vincent de Paul operates two shelters: The Apple St. Shelter for Women & Families, and the Gettysburg Ave. Shelter for Men. Both shelters are open 24/7, 365 days a year. No one seeking assistance is ever turned away.

On any given day, our shelters serve approximately 500 men, women, and children. We provide three meals a day, showers, clothing, personal care items, mail and messaging service, and personalized case management. In 2022, the average number of guests per night was 464 men, women, and children.

Our guests have access to full-time case managers who assist them in achieving housing based on their needs. Each year approximately 4,000 people come to us for shelter. In collaboration with our community partners, we help individuals transition from the shelter into permanent housing. A thrift store voucher is offered to those leaving our shelters to buy household items to help them re-establish their homes.

Each year, nearly 900 volunteers assist our staff sorting donations of food, clothing, linens, personal care, and household items; preparing and serving meals; laundering linens; answering phones; sorting mail and attending to guest needs.

→

DePaul Center Supportive Housing

DePaul Center provides permanent supportive housing to single men who are homeless. Long-term case management services are provided to support and house about 40 DePaul residents as they work on reaching their goals. This involves an action plan which includes personal finances, home management, education, employment, permanent housing, and personal development. Referrals are made to other agencies to provide health care, mental health services, educational and vocational opportunities, legal services, and job placement.

Kettering Commons - Supportive Housing

St. Vincent de Paul's Kettering Commons provides permanent supportive housing for families in which the head of household has a diagnosed disability. The program provides housing for 25 families who have moved from the emergency shelter system into their own apartments.

St. Vincent de Paul is the property owner and manager and provides on-site case management and other supportive services for the tenants. Referrals are made to other services to provide physical and mental health care, educational and vocational opportunities, legal services, childcare, and job placement. We provide assistance in obtaining and maintaining employment, and after-school enrichment and academic programs for children.

Safe Haven Supportive Housing

Safe Haven provides safe, supportive transitional housing for 14 single adults who are chronically homeless and have serious and persistent mental health issues that cause significant difficulties in obtaining and maintaining housing. These are neighbors who will not or cannot connect with mental health services. Through this program, they are provided long-term case management and an environment conducive for growth that encourages positive change. Nutritious meals, clothing and personal care items are provided. Participation in mental health recovery, life skills, and physical fitness and spirituality groups is encouraged, and assistance from area agencies is provided.

St. Vincent Supportive Services for Veteran Families

This ministry serves 13 counties in the Miami Valley area and provides case management and other vital supportive services to more than 150 veteran households annually. St. Vincent Supportive Services for Veteran Families provides rapid re-housing and prevention services to veterans and their families.

St. Vincent de Paul Community Store - CityThrift

Donations of clothing, furniture and other household items are collected and through a voucher system, given to neighbors referred by the St. Vincent de Paul Conferences, or provided to those moving from our shelters into community housing. CityThrift is a low-cost resource for those on a budget seeking essential items, and 100% of the proceeds support St. Vincent's ministries.

Our staff and volunteers collect, unload, sort, organize and display items for shoppers and our neighbors in need. Furniture of a practical nature is typically in high demand for those transitioning into new housing, so our Furniture Bank is a valuable resource for those moving into a permanent home.

Urban Outreach Center

This drop-in location serves neighbors in zip code 45417. Neighbors-in-need can come for limited financial assistance for immediate needs, such as utility bills. Most significant though, the Urban Outreach Center offers a place for face-to-face interaction. Working together, our neighbors and trained volunteers can identify ways to create positive change and, ultimately, lead to more stable lives.

Systemic Change

Systemic change initiatives enable our neighbors themselves to engage in the identification of root causes of poverty and create strategies to change them. A part of this process requires transforming attitudes. To help our neighbors make systemic changes in their lives, the Dayton District Council offers financial literacy and Getting Ahead classes. The six-session financial literacy class helps participants change habits – become better shoppers by understanding the difference between needs and wants, create a budget, and start saving. Getting Ahead participants meet weekly for 16 weeks to examine their poverty experience, assess their own resources and ways to build them as they move toward self-sufficiency, and write goals designed to help them move toward a more prosperous life for themselves and their families.