

inspirations

Special COVID-19 Edition



Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Suddenly and unexpectedly we have found ourselves in the midst of a national health crisis that is testing us as individuals, as communities, and as a nation.

During this time of extreme strife and uncertainty, St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore has moved swiftly to respond. We continue to deliver critical meal and shelter services, while taking extraordinary precautions to protect safety, health, and well-being of our staff and those we serve.

St. Vincent de Paul has been serving those in need in the Baltimore area for 155 years and have weathered many storms. With the support of you and others in our community, we fully expect to weather this storm too, while continuing to provide critical services to the community.



Our staff at all sites are taking extraordinary precautions to protect the safety and health of our staff and those we serve.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are bracing ourselves for greater need, as many individuals and families will lose their income due to the economic fallout from this crisis. We need your support, now more than ever, to answer the calls for help with food, shelter, housing, and employment services.

MAKE A GIFT TODAY: We are incurring huge additional costs, including increased staffing, food, medical supplies and other materials in order to stretch our capacities to meet the need. Give online at vincentbaltimore.org/covid

DONATE SUPPLIES: Help supplement meals and support our residents with individually packaged food and cleaning supplies.

SPREAD THE WORD: Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @svdpbaltimore.

VISIT: vincentbaltimore.org for more information.

Men's Shelter Relocated in Response to Pandemic



In partnership with the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, we relocated all 135 men from our men's shelter located in East Baltimore. This move allowed us to better protect the men from the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus. The former shelter facility, due to dense living conditions, was not adequate to maintain recommended safe social distancing guidelines for the residents.

Most shelter residents were relocated to a vacant public school building, located on Greenspring Avenue in Northwest Baltimore. A portion of the school has been outfitted to accommodate up to 153 men.

Residents of the Monument Street shelter who were identified as medically fragile or with mobility restrictions were relocated to special accommodations with private rooms at a hotel site secured by Baltimore City.

"Our foremost concern was that we maintain a safe environment for both our residents and staff, in light of the virus"
said Dr. Toni Boulware,
Sr. Director of Homeless Services.
"This move was an improvement in both the amount, and quality, of the space for our residents."





It is not so easy to shelter “at home” when you don’t have a home. St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore is committed to continuing our work, and providing the critical services to those in need. Our four shelters have maintained on-site services during the COVID-19 Pandemic and continue to house individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Sheltering “at Home” When You Don’t Have One

Congregate shelters present high-risk environments for the spread of the virus due to multiple people living in close quarters, sleeping in the same rooms, and sharing bathroom and dining facilities.

“Unfortunately, people experiencing homelessness do not have the option of ‘staying at home,’ as they currently do not have a home,” said Dr. Toni Boulware, Sr. Director of Homeless Services for St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore.

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore operates four shelters: the Sarah’s Hope Family Shelter and Greenspring Men’s Shelter in Baltimore City, and the Hannah More and Innterim House Family Shelters in Baltimore County. All shelters have maintained on-site services during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In order to do this safely, the operational procedures have been changed significantly to protect the safety of both residents and staff, including daily health screenings, intensive disinfecting of facilities,

implementing social distancing and prohibiting visitors.

We are committed to doing everything possible to continue these essential services while protecting the physical and emotional health of both residents and staff.



FEEDING THE COMMUNITY

Beans & Bread Adapts Services

Beans & Bread has continuously maintained meal distribution services during this pandemic. Normally, Beans and Bread relies heavily on casserole style main dishes prepared off-site by volunteers in their homes, and served in our dining room by volunteers. To protect the safety of clients, volunteers, and staff, we had to halt normal, eat-in meal services, and instead operate with a “To Go” meal model. Our central community kitchen, KidzTable, has provided boxed meals throughout the crisis. Unfortunately, this change has had a significant impact at Beans & Bread due to the additional costs of purchasing food.

“Beans and Bread has been hard-hit” said Michelle Boyle, Vice President of Development and Marketing. “The critical nourishment of our clients has always depended almost entirely on volunteers for donations and meal service.” We are currently in need of individually packed drinks, snacks, and meal items for these meals.

If you or your company is able to assist, please contact giving@vincentbaltimore.org for more information.



St. John the Evangelist School, Long Green Valley conducted a bagged lunch collection for Beans & Bread to help us continue serving meals to those in need.



St. John the Evangelist, Long Valley volunteers ensured social distancing with their curbside drop off system.



We have increased the number of volunteers at our community kitchen, KidzTable to prepare meals that are being delivered in the Baltimore area.



Felici Café has been providing over 600 meals per week to Beans & Bread. Their delicious food is homemade with fresh, healthy ingredients and is delivered to Beans & Bread Monday through Saturday.

KidzTable Feeds a Community in Crisis



The COVID-19 health crisis had a huge financial impact on our KidzTable central community kitchen, as 70% of the community kitchen revenue suddenly disappeared with the closing of schools, after school programs, day care, and Head Start programs. “Like many businesses, we were faced with a devastating blow to our ability to continue to operate,” said John Schiavone, President and CEO of St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore. “But as certain doors closed for meals, other opportunities slowly emerged.”

KidzTable ramped up its shelter meals program, and retooled its operation to begin producing individually packaged, box meals for over 60 community distributions sites throughout Baltimore City and Baltimore County. KidzTable is now producing up to 5,000 of these meals a day, in addition to close to 1,000 meals for shelters. Our dedicated KidzTable staff members continue to be on the front lines of this crisis, serving the most vulnerable in our community.

Patrick Moon has volunteered over 100 hours packing countless meals for shelters and distribution centers.



Thank you to Fr. Patrick Carrion of St. Bernadette's Parish for organizing and thank you to Safeway for donating 50 turkeys to KidzTable to assist in feeding the community.



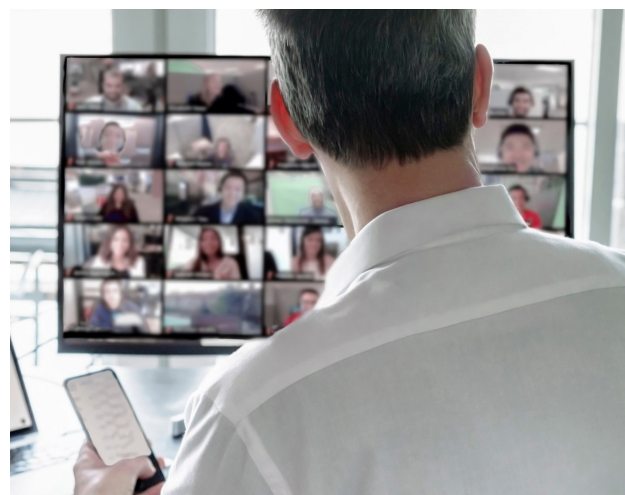
RESPONSE DURING A CRISIS

Housing, Employment and Education Services Go Remote

The COVID-19 health crisis has forced SVDP to adapt our services across all programs. Our rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, and employment services programs are operating remotely by computer and phone. Hundreds of men, women, and families in our housing and employment programs are receiving case management, support, employment services, and housing placement services to ensure they are able stay to safe and housed. Head Start and Early Head Start has been forced to close center-based instruction, but continue to provide family support services and have transitioned to remote classroom instruction.



During the COVID-19 Pandemic, our Head Start program has created remote teaching walls with activities related to the theme of the month's unit/lesson plan as well as reading videos and science activities. Teachers are able to play matching, stacking and sorting games with their students via Zoom.



St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore staff connecting with clients and team members to engage regularly in all services.

AT&T Awards St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore \$25,000



We are extremely grateful for the generous and timely support of AT&T. Their critical support of our work in the community is extraordinary!

AT&T awarded a \$25,000 grant to help us cover increased expenses for food, PPE, and sanitizing products so that emergency homeless shelters can safely respond to the higher demand resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic. This grant will be part of a nationwide commitment by AT&T and the AT&T Foundation to provide much needed support for first responders, medical personnel and others impacted by COVID-19. "One of AT&T's core values is to 'Be There' when people need us. Now more than ever, Baltimore's most vulnerable residents — and the organizations that support them — need help," said Denis P. Dunn, President — AT&T Maryland, Delaware and Washington, DC.



Volunteers have provided over 1,000 masks during the COVID-19 Pandemic for our staff and individuals and families we serve. Amazing!



Mask Makers

A special thanks to all of those who have generously stepped up to provide or make masks to protect our staff and those we serve. We have received over 1,000 masks to date.

Vilma Anderson

Hedy Clothier

Irene Knott

Joyce Lombardi

Kate McGraw-Pokorny

Mari Beth Mouton

Margaret Ann Nolan/
Font Hill Neighborhood Assoc.

Kim Pants

Lisa Rogers

Lisa Smith

Laura Starsoneck

Church of the Resurrection,
Ellicott City SVDP Conference

Domesticity

Hero Masks

Holy Family, Randallstown SVDP
Conference

Innovation Works

Most Holy Redeemer SVDP
Conference @St. Mary's

Annapolis

PPE Baltimore

St. Isaac Jogues, Parkville SVDP
Conference

St. John, Columbia SVDP
Conference

St. John, Westminster SVDP
Conference

St. Joseph Sykesville SVDP
Conference

St. Ursula, Parkville SVDP
Conference

Camp St. Vincent During the Pandemic

Now, more than ever, children experiencing homelessness need Camp St. Vincent, and its specialized curriculum aimed at reducing the negative effects of homelessness and preventing summer learning loss. Just as importantly, Camp St. Vincent provides much needed recreation, lifts spirits, and provides hope to children who have lost so much, and have so little.

This summer, in light of the pandemic, we are not able to hold the camp at its normal Patterson Park location due to the increased health risks of transporting the children by bus, and assembling in larger groups. But we are still holding camp!

The Camp St. Vincent program will be decentralized this year, bringing its services directly to shelter and programs locations serving children experiencing homelessness. We will operate in small groups, and each day will include reading, math, and STEM enrichments activities, along with sports, dance, art and water play activities. Most importantly, we have added special social/emotional modules to specifically help children cope with the increased trauma caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We still have many children in need of sponsors. With your help, Camp St. Vincent will provide six weeks of summer camp to children experiencing homelessness.

Please visit: vincentbaltimore.org/camp today to sponsor a child for camp.

OUR MISSION

To ensure those impacted by poverty have the skills, resources, and opportunity to achieve their full potential.

OUR VALUES

DIGNITY: We see God's image in every person, recognizing their inherent value by offering respect and compassion, and giving special care to those who are materially poor, marginalized, and vulnerable.

INCLUSION: We promote diversity and embrace the unique attributes, characteristics, abilities, cultures, classes, faiths, orientations, and races that make people who they are, recognizing that we are one human family.

EQUITY: We believe in eliminating systemic disadvantages so that all people are guaranteed fair treatment and have the opportunity to live in decent, safe, and affordable housing, receive quality education, be employed at a fair wage, have access to health care and healthy food, share in prosperity, and reach their full potential.

EQUALITY: We see those we serve as our equals in every way, seeking to understand the road they have traveled to reach our door, recognizing they know what is best for themselves and their families, and encouraging them to make their own choices.

COLLABORATION: We believe in the transformative power of building relationships and community, and in actively engaging partners in our work toward the well-being of all.

SERVICE: We humbly recognize service as an opportunity to receive, as much as give.

EXCELLENCE: We relentlessly pursue the highest standards in all that we do, embracing innovation and best practices.

STEWARDSHIP: We use our resources responsibly and efficiently, and we hold ourselves accountable for the highest levels of integrity, transparency, and measurable results.



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