inspirations Winter 2021



New Promise Housing Programs to Help End Youth Homelessness in Baltimore

Youth homelessness has been increasing each year, nationally and locally here in Baltimore. According to Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, approximately 1.7 million American youth run away from home or are homeless every year. Here in our own community, we are seeing more young people between the ages of 18 and 24 experiencing homelessness.

In January 2020, St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore launched two housing projects aimed at meeting the unique needs of young adults struggling with homelessness. These projects operate under the name Promise Housing program and are funded as a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program.

Continued on page 3



New Promise Housing Program will include 53 units of housing for adults ages 18-24.





ANNOUNCING GOOD HARVEST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

We are excited to announce the renaming of our community kitchen as "Good Harvest Community Kitchen". Originally founded in 2010 under the name "KidzTable," Good Harvest is a social enterprise of St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore.

For the past ten years we have focused on expanding access to healthy foods primarily to low-income children. While the majority of meals are still for children, the enterprise has grown to serve other populations, expanding healthy food access to residents of shelters, seniors at community centers, and people at adult day care centers.

The Good Harvest name was selected to reflect the new, broader mission, and our focus on preparing and serving high quality, healthy food prepared from scratch using fresh ingredients that are sourced locally. The name also captures our

Kwantae Mallory (Good Harvest Community Kitchen Packing Supervisor) ready for another busy day of deliveries in front of one of our 8 Good Harvest delivery trucks

Continued on page 3

VOLUNTEERING

Good Harvest on a Roll

With the onset of the Pandemic,

had to shift gears quickly to start

packaged meals to be distributed

at community sites everyday. We

had volunteers step forward to

needed help! Fortunately, we have

provide a helping hand. Our Good

1,640 hours of their time to helping prepare and pack meals since March. We are blessed to have such a wonderful network of support.

Harvest volunteers devoted over

our Good Harvest social enterprise

preparing thousands of individually





When you volunteer, conduct a service project with your group, donate goods, or participate in an event, you often gain more than you give. To stay informed on ways you can get involved and make a difference in the community, visit our website vincentbaltimore. org or email us at *volunteer@vincentbaltimore.org*.



Good Harvest volunteers working tirelessly and with a smile packing meals at our community kitchen in Rosedale.



Volunteer Spotlight – Romeo Data

If you have ever been to Beans & Bread, you've probably met Romeo. 'Romy' has been volunteering at Beans & Bread for 28 years! He is an integral part of all our operations. While he cannot imagine his life without Beans & Bread, we can't imagine Beans & Bread without Romy. He greets everyone with a huge smile and wave. Consistently optimistic, Romy is quick with a laugh and spreads cheer while supporting our staff, volunteers and clients in every way. Romy is an important part of our Beans & Bread community, volunteering up to six days a week serving meals to those in need.

"I just like to help the clients and the community and love being here everyday."

Romy ready to serve for his volunteer shift at Beans & Bread

WHAT'S NEW



Good Harvest staff and volunteers prepare and package over 5,000 meals per day at our community kitchen.

New Covid Response Services Added

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore will be providing new services in the coming year in direct response to the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Beginning January of 2021, we began providing over 160 households impacted by Covid-19 in Baltimore County with eviction prevention and rapid rehousing services, and rapid rehousing services to 40 individuals in Baltimore City displaced by the pandemic and temporarily staying in hotels.

Good Harvest

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

GOOD HARVEST Continued from page 1

work in preparing people with barriers to employment for a career in the food industry, helping them create a better future for themselves and their families.

At Good Harvest, we believe that everyone deserves an opportunity to lead a healthy life, and that starts with good food and a chance at career employment. For more information visit our new website: goodharvest.org.

Promise Housing

Continued from page 1

Promise Housing includes a rapid rehousing program and a permanent supportive housing program, and is designed to provide intensive services specifically for young adults ages 18-24. By working with our specially trained case managers, young adults will obtain skills to secure and maintain permanent housing and achieve success.

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore's Promise Housing initiatives include 23 units of Permanent Supportive Housing and 30 units of Rapid Rehousing services, along with intensive case management and supportive services.

HOLIDAY GIVING

THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

Thanks to many generous donors, we were able to brighten the holidays for those impacted by homelessness and poverty!

ADOPT A FAMILY PROGRAM



Over 40 corporate, religious and civic groups participated in holiday drives, provided meals for families in our shelters, or offered other support during the holiday season including:

FILL A PANTRY PROGRAM

HYGIENE NEEDS

CANNED FOOD DRIVES

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

COLD WEATHER CLOTHING DRIVES

150 HEADSETS FOR OUR HEAD START VIRTUAL LEARNING

BOOT DRIVES

TOY DRIVES

MOVE-IN KITS

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Special thanks to the Bar Association of Baltimore City Young Lawyers Division for hosting a Holiday Zoom Party for families living in shelters. Everyone enjoyed delicious dinner, a Zoom visit with Santa and received a warm coat too!



David Sanders and Evan Gough (SVDP Volunteer Coordinators) accepting boot donations from the Morelli family.



GIVING & MAKING A DIFFERENCE

PARISH CONFERENCES HELPING THOSE IN NEED

For more than 150 years, St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore Conferences have been a direct provider of emergency assistance across the state. Over the past 10 months, we've seen an outpouring of resources in response to those struggling throughout the pandemic. Conference members have worked tirelessly to increase food access and housing stability. Our St. John's Columbia SVDP Conference recently distributed 624 boxes of food, totaling 19,032 pounds of fresh produce, meat, and dairy directly to those experiencing food insecurity.



St. Isaac Jogues distributed bags of food and gift cards to over 100 needy families during their holiday distribution in the Parkville community.



St. John's Columbia Conference Food Distribution.

PEPSI DONATES CRUCIAL EQUIPMENT TO GOOD HARVEST

The PepsiCo Foundation's Food for Good program has proved to be a valuable partner for our Good Harvest Community Kitchen. Pepsi recently provided Good Harvest with a new combi-oven to assist in meeting the increased demands for meals. PepsiCo also provided a heat seal lidding machine and ongoing logistical support to the Good Harvest management team. We

are grateful for the ongoing support of Pepsico in

making nutritious food more accessible to lowincome children, adults, and families.



TOWSON HIGH STUDENT CHALLENGES COMMUNITY TO HELP HEAD START FAMILIES

Isabel Fitzgerald, a sophomore at Towson High School, contacted us with a simple request: "To help our families and challenge our community." Isabel challenged her Lake Falls neighbors to provide essential remote learning supplies for the children at our seven Head Start locations.

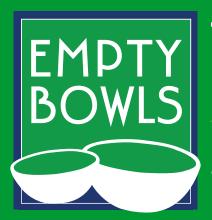
Thanks to Isabel's efforts, we acquired over 270 items for our Head Start students — about \$1,800 for in-kind donations! Thank you Isabel and thank you to everyone who donated to assist our Head Start families!

Isabel Fitzgerald accepting donations at the Lake Falls Giving Challenge



GIVING TUESDAY SURPASSES \$10K GOAL

Thanks to your generosity this Giving Tuesday, we raised **nearly \$15,000** targeted to prevent evictions for individuals and families affected economically by the pandemic.



15th Annual Empty Bowls (Drive-thru Edition)

April 10, 2021

Empty Bowls is St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore's fun, family-friendly event that raises funds, friends, and awareness for our mission to assist those impacted by hunger, homelessness, and poverty in our community. The 2021 Empty Bowls will be a Drive-thru event due to the pandemic.

DATE: TIME:

April 10, 2021 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

Outdoors at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

\$20 per person until March 10th (Tickets will increase to \$25 after March 10th)

To purchase tickets or more information, visit vincentbaltimore.org/tickets

For more information about Empty Bowls email giving@vincentbaltimore.org or call (410) 662-0500.

JOIN US FOR...

- TO-GO SOUP SELECTIONS FROM TOP RESTAURANTS
- FREE HANDCRAFTED BOWLS
- GIVEAWAYS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- A SAFE, FUN, OUTING FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

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 healthy food, and healthcare, 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

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

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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