

Celebrating the Trusted Impact of Head Start

Throughout October, St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore proudly celebrated National Head Start Awareness Month, honoring the simple but powerful belief that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive. By combining high-quality early childhood education with comprehensive family support, Head Start helps children and families embrace new possibilities and ignite their potential, creating a foundation for lifelong growth and achievement.

At St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore, this vital mission comes to life daily across six Head Start and four Early Head Start sites throughout Baltimore City. In these programs, young scholars receive full-day instruction, free nutritious meals and snacks, and the holistic support they need to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

The program's lasting impact is driven by deeply dedicated staff. This year, 12 SVDP educators celebrated 15 years of service, including teachers Alison Hawkins and Judith Jones. Hawkins says her favorite part of the job is helping children prepare for kindergarten and the opportunities that lie ahead. "I love getting them ready for the next step," she says.

Jones deeply appreciates Head Start's dedication to unlocking the potential of every scholar. For her, watching reserved children blossom and grow is the ultimate reward. "I want them to be their best selves," she shares.

Head Start's impact reaches far beyond the classroom. Family Service Coordinator Cheryl Boykin, who also celebrated 15 years with SVDP, works with both children and parents, helping connect families with the resources and support they need to thrive. She describes Head Start as a vital starting point in a child's social, emotional, and educational journey. "The skills they learn here lay the groundwork for their future success," Boykin says. By supporting the whole family, Head Start helps build stronger, more stable communities.



Through reading, storytelling, and daily classroom experiences, Judith Jones works to help children build confidence and develop independence.



Michelle Goines is one of 12 teachers who celebrated their 15th anniversary with St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore this year.

In celebrating National Head Start Awareness Month, we celebrated the educators, support staff, and parents who make Head Start possible. Every day, they help children build early literacy skills, learn how to work and play with others, and gain the confidence they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. At the same time, families gain needed resources, support, and encouragement to help create stability at home. Together, these everyday successes add up to a lasting impact that can be felt for generations.

To learn more about the ways to support St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore's Head Start and Early

Head Start programs, email giving@vincentbaltimore.org. Volunteers are needed to help provide classroom materials and enrichment supplies.

Making Summer Brighter for Children Experiencing Homelessness

This past summer, nearly 200 children experiencing homelessness enjoyed a safe, enriching, and joyful season at Camp St. Vincent — the region's only free summer camp exclusively serving children facing housing instability.

Over seven weeks, campers participated in a blend of educational and recreational activities designed to prevent summer learning loss and promote social-emotional growth. An extraordinary 98% of campers maintained or improved their scores in both reading and math, a testament to the dedication of our staff and the effectiveness of our program.

Alongside daily academic instruction, children stayed active through soccer, basketball, flag football, and swimming, while also exploring their creativity through arts and crafts, theater, and dance.

Field trips were a highlight of the camp season, opening doors to new experiences, discoveries, and adventures. Campers visited the Maryland Science Center and the Baltimore Museum of Industry, picked berries at Butlers Orchard, and cheered on the Orioles at a home game - an unforgettable first-time experience for many.

We are deeply grateful to the volunteers, staff, donors,



"Mr. M." came to the SVDP Eastside shelter with his daughter after tragically losing his rental home in a fire. Since they usually only listened to games on the radio, they were delighted to attend the Orioles game field trip. Mr. M loved seeing his daughter make new friends at Camp St. Vincent.

To learn more about Camp St. Vincent, scan this QR code to view our new video!

partners, and supporters whose efforts made this summer an unforgettable and transformative experience for all who participated.

Candlelight & Clay 2027: Shining a Light on Hunger

Thursday, April 8, 2027

6:00 to 9:30pm

DoubleTree by Hilton, Pikesville

Mark your calendar for the fourth annual Candlelight & Clay on April 8, 2027! Enjoy an evening of local restaurant tastings, an open bar, live dueling pianos, a silent auction, and handcrafted ceramic bowls to take home.

Save the date, invite your friends, and be part of a night that changes lives! Whether you buy a ticket, reserve a table, become a sponsor, or make a donation, your support will help light the way for those in our community who need it most.

Candlelight
& Clay



Scan to learn more about Candlelight & Clay and to purchase tickets.



“Pampered With Love” at SVDP Eastside Shelter

St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore was delighted to welcome members of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Eastern Region to the SVDP Eastside Shelter for the “Pampered With Love Baby Celebration,” a special event for new mothers that took place in August.

The celebration focused on maternal wellness, self-care, and overall well-being, creating a fun and encouraging space for mothers to relax, connect, and feel celebrated. Attendees enjoyed a day full of thoughtful activities designed to bring comfort, joy, and a sense of community during an important chapter in their lives.

The sorority also provided an array of essential baby and maternal care items, including nursing pads, baby bottles, teething rings, pacifiers, wipes, and Diaper Genie refill bags.

We are deeply grateful to our community partners for sharing their time, generosity, and compassion with those we serve. For more info on how your group can get involved, please email us at giving@vincentbaltimore.org.



Thank you to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for helping welcome little ones with love! Their generous donation of diapers and other baby essentials is providing families at our SVDP Eastside Shelter with the support they need during an exciting new chapter.

Planned Giving Changes Lives

Mary Lou Hill, a lifelong Baltimore resident and former Oakcrest resident, passed away in December 2025 at the age of 89. A quiet and humble woman, Mary Lou nevertheless lived a life defined by generosity, faith, and deep compassion for those in need. While she never sought recognition, her actions consistently reflected a heart devoted to service.

This spring, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore was honored to receive a generous \$180,000 legacy gift from Mary Lou's estate. Her bequest will strengthen the organization's mission of providing vital resources and assistance to low-income individuals and families throughout Baltimore.

Mary Lou faithfully served her community as an active participant in social ministry programs at her church and at Oakcrest. We are deeply grateful that Mary Lou chose St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore as part of her estate plans. Her legacy will continue to bring hope and support to countless neighbors for years to come.

As we enter the season of gratitude and generosity, there are many meaningful ways to support the programs of St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore. Recent changes under the SECURE Act 2.0 have created new opportunities for charitable giving, particularly for donors who are age 70½ and older and wish to use their retirement assets to make a gift.

Strategies that have potential tax advantages while maximizing philanthropic impact include:

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs): If you are age 70½ or older, you may transfer funds directly from your IRA to SVDP. These distributions are generally excluded from taxable income and may also satisfy all or part of a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Legacy IRA Gift: One of the most exciting provisions introduced by the SECURE Act 2.0 is the ability to make a one-time charitable gift from an IRA to create lifetime income. This provision allows individuals age 70½ and older to make a one-time transfer from their IRA to fund a Charitable Gift Annuity for SVDP.

Charitable Gift Annuities: Through a gift annuity, you make a charitable contribution and, in return, receive fixed payments for life. At the conclusion of the annuity, the remaining funds are used to support SVDP.

Estate Planning: Many supporters choose to include SVDP in their wills, trusts, retirement plans, or beneficiary designations. Planned gifts allow donors to leave a lasting legacy while potentially preserving assets during their lifetime.

As you consider your year-end charitable plans, we encourage you to consult with your financial, tax, or legal advisor about which giving strategies may be right for you.

To learn more about charitable giving opportunities that benefit both you and SVDP, please contact us at giving@vincentbaltimore.org or 443-681-1939.



Spread Some Joy this Holiday Season!

As the holiday season approaches, over 500 families in SVDP programs need your support. Help brighten the holidays for families in our homeless shelters, supportive housing and Head Start programs by being a part of our Adopt a Family Program, which matches you or your organization with a family to sponsor for this holiday season. If you are interested in participating in Adopt a Family, contact us at giving@vincentbaltimore.org.



WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION AND WORK

Please invest in our mission to help individuals and families in our community. For more information and to get started, scan the QR code below or visit www.vincentbaltimore.org.

MAKE A GIFT TODAY

You may make a gift today by visiting www.vincentbaltimore.org or by mailing a check payable to SVDP to 2305 N. Charles St., Ste. 300, Baltimore, MD 21218.



BECOME A MONTHLY GIVER

Join our Good Samaritan Monthly Givers Club and make easy, automatic gifts that help us have a reliable, steady source of support and lower our fundraising costs. Visit <https://www.vincentbaltimore.org/ways-to-give/give-monthly/>

DONATE YOUR CAR

Vehicle donations are tax deductible, and the process is quick and easy. We accept all types of vehicles, running or not. To get started, go to <https://www.vincentbaltimore.org/ways-to-give/car-donation/> or call us at 443-681-1939.



MAKE A GIFT OF STOCK

To make a gift of appreciated stock that might reduce your taxes, please email us at giving@vincentbaltimore.org or call us at 443-681-1939 for our stock transfer instructions.

JOIN OUR LEGACY SOCIETY

Please consider naming SVDP in your will to leave a lasting legacy of generosity.



We recommend that you consult your tax or financial professional for advice and questions. For more information, please contact us at giving@vincentbaltimore.org or 443-681-1939. Visit www.vincentbaltimore.org or scan the QR code to make a gift or learn more.