



# The Samaritan

Fall 2023

**St. Vincent de Paul  
Society, Naples**

## ***Feed. Clothe. House. Heal.***

*We believe in the intrinsic value of every person—to serve and be served. Join us in fostering the common bond of humanity to bring wholeness and healing for all.*



### **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

Family Assistance  
Center

4451 Mercantile Avenue  
Naples, Florida 34104

239.775.2907

Fax: 239.775.2412

### **Meals on Wheels:**

239.775.2907

### **Thrift Stores:**

3810 Tamiami Trail E.  
Naples, FL 34112

239.775.2907

3725 Bonita Beach Rd.  
Bonita Springs, FL  
34134

239.775.2907

(Boutique)  
3725 Bonita Beach Rd.  
Unit 7  
Bonita Springs, FL  
34134

[www.svdpneples.org](http://www.svdpneples.org)

Every day, individuals walk through our doors with a story to share and the hope that in return we can share our time, effort, knowledge and resources to help and to heal. With every story there is always a beginning, a middle and an end. Sometimes God only brings us together for that beginning or middle and we are grateful to be a part of their continued journey through the healing process. However, there are those times that we get to be a part of their “new beginning” and it’s in those stories of healing that make the greatest impact on us here at St. Vincent de Paul. As our gift to you during the season of giving, I would like to share a few of those stories with you now...

A single father called us one day in a panic as he was about to be homeless with two young boys at home. While I was listening to his story, I find out that he is also a veteran. He had recently lost his job and was going to be evicted but didn’t want his boys to be living on the streets. I also learned that he had been proactive in that he was already working with another organization that was helping him secure a job and had reached out to an additional organization that was helping him secure a new place to live. Although he had done everything right in looking out for his family, there was still that gap of his first paycheck and signing a new lease where he had no one and no place to go. It was at this time that SVDP stepped in and secured him a stay, at a local hotel. This provided him with some peace and comfort during a time of turmoil. At the end of his stay he called me to let me know he had signed a lease and had started his job. They would be “okay.” I have since talked with him and they continue to be “okay,” as they are safe and secure in their new home as a family.

A young family (mom, dad and toddler) had been experiencing homelessness on and off for 3 years. They came to us in August of this year in need of shelter. We provided them with food, clothes and a hotel stay for a few nights in the hopes that they would be able to collect their thoughts and plan their next step. Thanks to one of our caseworkers knowledge and resources, they were able to speak to another organization whom helped them secure a permanent residence. They both now have a stable job, a stable home and a solid family foundation.

This past week we got to experience the joy of our Life Skills program blossoming and growing. Lely High School brought in 11 students to sit in on our budgeting class. Through this class, students learned how to budget the monies they will have in the future so that they won’t fall into the poverty cycle. This is where education starts and poverty stops. This is how we can take the first step on helping to end poverty...stopping it before it starts.

# Welcome to SVDP

*Please welcome Rick Roth to SVDP. Rick joined St. Vincent de Paul Society, Naples District Council this July as our Director of Strategy and Development.*



It's a privilege and honor to be here. I am inspired every day I walk into our building, experiencing the gentle buzz of volunteers and staff dedicated to helping the less fortunate. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this amazing organization.

But why?

Let me share a story.

Like so many of you, I was introduced to the St. Vincent De Paul Society by my parents. My father, US Postal carrier in Southern California, walked 12 miles daily but once a

month, he joined a group of other Vincentians to load large trucks with donated clothes and drive them across the border to aid the needy in Mexico. It was tough weekend work, but it was the time he was happiest all month. He took me with him, starting when I was 10 years old and it made a deep impression on me. Although my parents were certainly not rich, they were determined to help their “neighbors” in need. When my dad was asked why, he would simply say it was the right thing to do, and it “made a difference.”

During the majority of my professional career I led strategy and marketing teams for major global companies. However, I never forgot those special days helping my father and other Vincentians load the truck and make the trip to Mexico.

So here at the St. Vincent De Paul Society we continue to make a difference. We capture that spirit by describing our mission in four words: Feed. Clothe. House. Heal.

I feel honored to contribute to an organization that quietly and humbly has helped so many people in so many ways for more than 5 decades in the Naples community.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is unlike anything else: its neighbors helping neighbors, of course, but not through a maze of programs, through the enormous power of human relationships. We personally visit those we serve, understanding their needs and how their lives are unfolding.

But the true power of the relationship is that those we serve get to know us and how **our** lives are unfolding. With God's grace, we can share a friendship and catch a glimpse of the sacred within this relationship.

It is almost a truism, but worth remembering: We who serve are also served by those we help.

If you have never visited our building on Mercantile Ave. in Naples, I would like to extend a personal invitation to visit us. Just contact me [rroth@svdpnaples.org](mailto:rroth@svdpnaples.org). Also, think about the young people in your lives who may just need someone to take them by the hand and show them something special and sacred.

I encourage you to volunteer. If you can donate, donate. Say a prayer for us, as we pray for you. In gratitude - Rick



## President's Update

I offer a special welcome back to our northern friends and happy you will be returning to assist us in our wonderful Mission. For those of us who live here full time, we say, how fortunate you were to avoid the severe heat that we experienced this past summer! But worse than this climate discomfort has been the growing amount of financial need requested by our neighbors due to significant increases in rent, mortgages, home insurance and electric bills.

As I speak with other NDC conference members and with our Diocesan Vincentian friends north of here, I have learned that we are all in the same ark! This has translated into a significant impact on conference treasury holdings and the ability to provide substantial financial relief.

While many of us worry about financial sustainability, I ask you to yield your fears and worry to Him. We need to replace our anxiety with faith and trust that He will provide. This does not mean we relinquish our fiduciary responsibilities, but rather we learn to manage with less as our neighbors do all the time!! And maybe, just maybe, this is a lesson for us!! That is my *glass half full rather than half empty* mentality!

Lastly, we pray that divine providence will prevail. I know He is listening, so continue to be prayerful in our daily endeavors! God Bless.

Anita Creamer  
President, SVDP Naples District Council



## Executive Directors Update

**You have been with SVDPNAPLES almost 15 years, what changes have you seen in our community during that time?**

When I first came to SVDPNAPLES, we were providing over 8,900 services to families with food, rent, and utility assistance. As I sit here today, we provide over 17,900 services to families with more than just the basic three necessities. A living wage has become harder to come by, with expenses growing exponentially.

In addition, just in the last several years, two hurricanes and a pandemic have changed the way we serve those in need. Our two biggest transitions had everything to do with Covid. We had to find a way to help people with their financial issues without anyone leaving their home. In doing so, our crew of Vincentians and volunteers began a major learning process in computer technology. The second big change came with our newest version of the Choice Food Pantry. Not only has it given the individuals dignity in deciding for themselves but it also eliminated waste. We are providing a small grocery store experience and have received positive feedback.

These are just a fraction of the changes we have made to accommodate a larger population and greater need, yet as they grow, so does the need for more space to serve. We have already outgrown our space and are well on the way to needing more. Knowing that, and planning for it, is a major undertaking. I am sure we will need all the help we can get from our Naples community, both physically and financially. Therefore, we need you to: donate, volunteer, mentor, etc... We hope to encourage all to get involved in our mission.

Kim Schul  
Executive Director, SVDP Naples District Council





# Make a difference this Christmas...

## Adopt-A-Family

Every year families are unable to provide the kind of Christmas that every child deserves. Start a new Christmas tradition this year by adopting a family in need! Sponsoring a family is a wonderful way to keep the true spirit of Christmas. It's a great project for families, office groups, organizations, clubs, and schools.

We visit with those families in need and provide a detailed list of names, ages and wishes for each sponsor.

If you would like to adopt a family this Christmas, call us no later than December 1st to become a sponsor: (239)775-2907 and ask for Samantha or email: [smaturo@svdnpnaples.org](mailto:smaturo@svdnpnaples.org). Reach out and spread the joy this Christmas season!



## SPECIAL THANKS TO

### Food Pantry & Meals on Wheels Donors (InKind donations)

Collier Harvest  
Esplande at Hacienda Lakes  
Knights of Columbus—San Marco  
Knights of Columbus—St. Peter the Apostle  
The Marco Island Knitters  
Mr. & Mrs. Lang  
March Aviation  
Publix Super Markets, Inc.

San Marco Conference  
Saving Grace Pet Food Bank  
Seed to Table  
Shoe Warehouse  
St. Agnes Conference  
St. Ann Conference  
St. Ann School  
St. Ann School—Mini Vinnies  
St. Elizabeth Seton Conference

St. Finbarr Conference  
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
St. John the Evangelist Conference  
St. Peter the Apostle Conference  
St. William Conference  
James & Therese Twomey

## Donate to Feed a Hungry Neighbor Today

*Give today to help us provide nourishing meals for our hungry neighbors, especially our senior citizens in need*



- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Soup
- Dry Beans
- Rice
- Boxed Potatoes
- Canned Beans
- Canned Meat
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Oil
- Snacks/Crackers
- Cake Mix
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Flour
- Sugar
- Canned Fruit
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Condiments
- Juice
- Hygiene Items
- Paper Products
- Diapers
- Laundry Detergent

*\*We welcome donations at our Family Assistance Center (4451 Mercantile Ave. Naples, FL 34104) Monday—Thursday 9am—4pm and Friday 9am—3pm\**

# Donate your car today...

## Make a Difference In Someone's Life Tomorrow



When you donate your car to St. Vincent de Paul you can help put food on a family's table, a roof over someone's head or keep the electric on in a home.

Schedule a free pick-up of your car donation by calling (239)775-2907.

We'll take care of the paperwork for you and provide a tax receipt.

## HELP US HELP OTHERS

### You can help us in our ministry of serving those in need by...

- Making a monetary donation—use the envelope provided in this newsletter, visit our website at [www.svdpnacles.org](http://www.svdpnacles.org) or donate through your local Catholic Parish.
- Making a gift of Stock or other Securities.
- Donating to our thrift stores—we accept CLOTHING, FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, CARS, BOATS...any gently used item is appreciated.

Call (239)775-2907 opt. 1

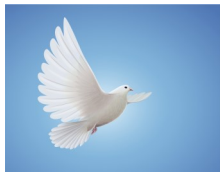


- Donating non-perishable food to our pantry—drop off food at our office at 4451 Mercantile Avenue, either store, or during your Parish food drive.
- Consider a PLANNED GIFT. Through a planned gift, you are able to help the Society for years to come. Planned gifts can be made through wills, trusts, insurance, and gifts of property. We encourage you to talk to your financial planner or attorney to learn ways in which you can ease your tax burden while investing in the lives of the needy of our community.



Our legal name is ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY NAPLES DISTRICT COUNCIL, INC. We are a 501 (c)3 agency. Donations may be tax deductible; please consult your tax advisor.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer service by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.



# Vincentians we have lost in 2023

**Eileen Varoski**

*"and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" 2 Peter 1:11*

## *Tributes*

Tributes made from March 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023

**In Memory of  
Jo Ann Babiarz**  
Tom & Ginny Tette

**In Memory of  
H. Norman Benedict**  
Craig Benedict

**In Memory of  
Suzanne K. Benedict**  
Craig Benedict

**In Memory of  
George D'Amico**  
Aexcel Corporation  
Jerrie Lee Rispoli

**In Memory of  
Members of the De Petrillo  
Family**  
John Ruscito

**In Memory of  
Theodore Gage**  
Patty McNicholas

**In Memory of Fr. Thomas  
Glackin**  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Duch Jr.

**In Memory of Robert  
McCullough**  
Tom & Ginny Tette

**In Memory of Barret Mills**  
Gerri Daum

**In Memory of  
Lawrence Mills**  
Gerri Daum

**In Memory of Donna Norman**  
Angela & Thomas Barris

**In Memory of  
Edward O'Connor**  
Janice Burns  
Aliccann & Jack Cronin  
Mr. & Mrs. John Kroll  
Jordan, Tara, Reid & Cash Wells

**In Memory of Members of the  
Ruscito Family**  
John Ruscito

**In Memory of  
Larry & Mark Savage**  
Odilia Savage

**In Memory of  
Eileen Varoski**  
Lori Boelig  
James & Jeannette Braga  
Ray & Debbie Grimard  
William & Erika Johnson  
Bernard Kokinos  
Richard & Deborah O'Brien  
Salvatore Pitta  
Ronna Ramalho  
Jayne Rudberg  
Gary & Rhoni Scarpelli  
Suzanne Trevors  
Mary Ann & Dan Varoski &  
Family

**In Honor of  
Terrence Cavanaugh**  
Highmark Health

**In Honor of  
St. Ann Mini Vinnie's**  
Art & Carol Anti

**In Honor of SVDP Vincentians,  
Employees and the Neighbors  
in Need**  
John Ruscito

We make every effort to include and accurately publish all tributes. If you notice an omission or error, please call us at (239)775-2907.

## Recognition Opportunities

**Honor and Memorialize loved ones  
and friends with our Giving Tree  
Opportunities**

**Palm Frond (Leaf) \$500**  
**Coconut \$1,000**

\*Please call (239)775-2907 to  
take part in this opportunity





# Spiritual Corner

Hi, have you tied together the recent Gospels on Forgiveness. Let me share some thoughts.

1st...Every time we pray the "Our Father (Mt 6: 12—15), we ask God to "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive other."

In other words, God judge me and forgive me as I judge and forgive others.

2nd...When Peter asks Jesus, Peter came and said to Him, (Mt 18:22) "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven time?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

Who do we let hurt us 490 (70x7) times? Family? Supervisors? Coworkers? How many times have we said I am not going to have anything to do with \_\_\_\_\_ because of what they have done to us? God forgives us for our many sins. We should follow His lead.

3rd...Scripture also says (Mt 5:23—24) "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go: first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Is God not telling us that your relationship with others is most important.

The two great commandments are "Love God and Love our Neighbor."

We can follow both when we Forgive all and ourselves.

Ask God to forgive you and assist you in forgiving others.

Deacon Hugh Muller  
Spiritual Advisor, Naples District Council



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Deacon Hugh Muller, Spiritual Advisor

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Pam Black, President, St. Peter the Apostle

Joseph Hamberger, President, St. William

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## St. Vincent de Paul Staff

Kim Schul, Executive Director

Samantha Maturo, Program Director

Rick Roth, Director of Strategy & Development

Carol Harris, Meals-on-Wheels Coordinator

Kim Tucker, Senior Accountant

Brianna Cox, Social Media Assistant

Kathleen Casey, Volunteer Coordinator

Hilda Mowbray, Intake Specialist

Berlye Derival, Mission Admin Assistant

Joe Demkosky, Dispatch/Facilities

Jerry Fenelon, Bonita Store Manager

Manuel Alcantara, Naples Store Manager

Catherine Sciandra, Bonita Asst. Manager

Ida Martinez, Naples Assistant Manager

### Store Staff & Drivers:

Anthony Alphonse

Aaron DeLeon

Jeffrey Dunstan

Alex Hernandez

David Phillips

Ethan Sawyer

Wilbert Sirenord



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**  
**4451 Mercantile Avenue**  
**Naples, FL 34104**

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## Upcoming Dates & Events

<b>November</b> Thursday Thanksgiving Holiday Family Assistance Center & Stores Closed	<b>23</b>	<b>December</b> Tuesday Christmas Holiday observed Family Assistance Center Closed	<b>26</b>	<b>February</b> Thursday Caseworker Meeting 9:30 am St. John the Evangelist Parish	<b>15</b>
<b>November</b> Friday Thanksgiving Holiday FAC Closed	<b>24</b>	<b>January</b> Monday New Year's Day Holiday Family Assistance Center & Stores Closed	<b>1</b>	<b>February</b> Monday President's Day Holiday Family Assistance Center Closed	<b>19</b>
<b>December</b> Thursday Volunteers' Christmas Celebration St. John the Evangelist Parish 6:00pm—8:00pm	<b>7</b>	<b>January</b> Friday Feastal Mass & Volunteer Luncheon St. Elizabeth Seton Parish 11:00 am	<b>12</b>	<b>March</b> Thursday Ozanam Orientation 9:00 am St. Peter the Apostle Parish	<b>7</b>
<b>December</b> Friday Feast of the Immaculate Conception	<b>8</b>	<b>January</b> Thursday MOW Driver Meeting Family Assistance Center 9:30 am	<b>18</b>	<b>March</b> Friday Good Friday Family Assistance Center & Stores Closed	<b>29</b>
<b>December</b> Sunday Christmas Eve Holiday	<b>24</b>	<b>January</b> Tuesday Day of Recollection St. Agnes Parish 8:00 am	<b>23</b>	<b>March</b> Sunday Easter Holiday	<b>31</b>
<b>December</b> Monday Christmas Day Family Assistance Center & Stores Closed	<b>25</b>				

