

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **A Generous Gift Lightens the Load**
- **We Love East Lake**
- **Enlisting the Help of Others**
- **2018 Holiday Coat Giveaway**

A Generous Gift Lightens the Load

Did you ever hear the trick question, Which is heavier, a pound of feathers or a pound of rocks? (A pound is a pound, of course.) It's like that at St. Vincent de Paul's Distribution Center, home of Vinnie's Hope food bank. Whether workers are moving strawberries or canned beans, those pallets of donated food are HEAVY!

Until this year, the workers have unloaded our refrigerated truck with a hand-operated pallet jack truck. They pumped the jack by hand and used their own strength to push and pull it.

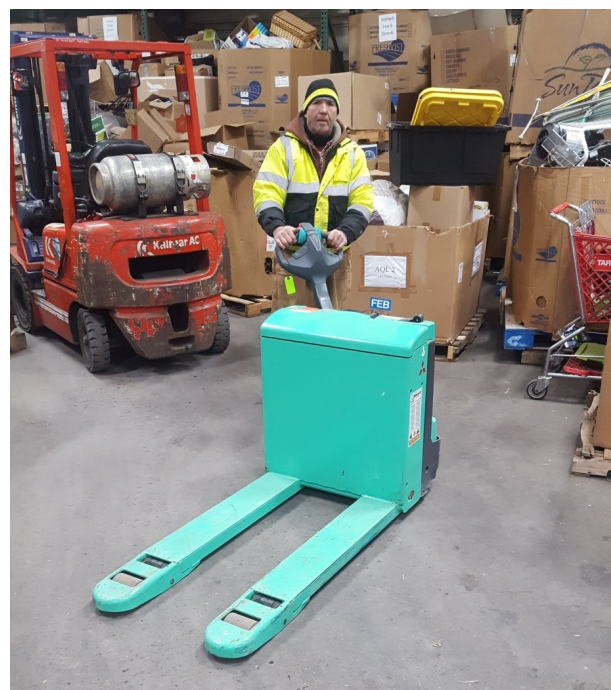
Then the St. Vincent de Paul conference of St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Bloomington donated \$3,700 to purchase an electric pallet jack truck for Vinnie's Hope. This green truck is

battery run and self-propelled. Controls on the handle raise and lower the jack. Made by Uline, the pallet truck can carry 3,000 pounds.

St. Bonaventure's SVDP president, Ray Dick, explained that the conference works closely with Vinnie's Hope. "We run a food shelf," he said, "and we get a car load of food every week from the distribution center. We

became aware of the need for a pallet jack and decided to do our bit."

St. Vinnie's executive director, Ed Koerner, expressed thanks to the St. Bonaventure conference. "Our prayers have been answered once again," he wrote. "We truly appreciate the support, and you have no idea how many back muscles you have rescued."



We Love East Lake

Next time you come to St. Vinnie's Minneapolis thrift store, be sure to check out our neighbors along East Lake St. From the world's only Somali Museum to the country's oldest science-fiction bookstore, Uncle Hugo's, you can tour the world in just a few blocks. Stock up on lingonberries at Ingebretsen's Nordic Marketplace then choose from the world cuisine on offer at the Midtown Global Market. Just south of St. Vinnie's is Powderhorn

Park, site of the annual Heart of the Beast MayDay Festival. This year may be its last so be sure to make it on May 5, 2019.

St. Vinnie's works with neighborhood organizations such as the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) to promote a positive community. In 2018 we participated in the Love East Lake initiative. This was a series of events designed to encourage a family-friendly East Lake.

It grew out of the South Minneapolis Public Safety Coalition (SMPSC). This group brings together city representatives, business owners, and the public to support a vibrant, clean, and safe city.

In November, St. Vinnie's hosted the Wrap Up Celebration, to close out Love East Lake's year. Kids got tickets to exchange for gifts at the thrift store. Gift-wrappers and Santa were on hand to help families enjoy the free holiday shopping event.



To our staff and volunteers: we greatly appreciated your support and assistance during the event. Thank you so much for your incredible performance!

The work of the Public Safety Coalition is ongoing. Everyone is invited to attend their next meeting on April 9th, 6 pm at the Salvation Army at 1604 Lake St.

Enlisting the Help of Others

St. Vincent de Paul said, "We should assist the poor in every way and do it both by ourselves and by enlisting the help of others.... To do this is to preach the gospel by words and work."

As Vincentians in the Arch-

diocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, we seek to preach the gospel every day by our words and good work. In 2019, we will receive help to assist the poor. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Twin Cities will be added to the 2019

Catholic Services Appeal Foundation (CSAF) as a fund recipient.

What does this mean for St. Vincent de Paul Twin Cities?

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Enlisting the Help of Others Cont.



- Adding capacity to its transportation budget will allow the Society to source an additional 500,000 pounds of

food, clothing and other donations

- Increasing membership and parish conferences to carry out spiritual and emergency assistance
- Developing additional opportunities and partnerships that directly impact those in greatest need such as shelters, food pantries and other outreach

As a collective ministry with CSAF, we are part of a great group of Catholic ministries that receive funding from the Foundation. When a person supports the CSAF in reaching its goal,

they help CSAF support St. Vincent de Paul Twin Cities.

St. Vincent de Paul Twin Cities does not receive government funding and we rely on the generosity of donations to support our brothers and sisters in need. We are most grateful for this support that will allow St. Vincent de Paul Twin Cities to continue to "assist the poor in every way".

Please feel free to share this wonderful news of our new partnership with CSAF and visit their website to learn more: <https://csafspm.org>.

2018 Holiday Coat Giveaway

When the cold weather blew in a bit early last fall, St. Vincent de Paul Twin Cities was busy gathering and donating coats, hats, gloves, and much more to communities in need. On the day after Thanksgiving, known as "Blue Friday" to us, St. Vincent de Paul gave away 5,379 coats to more than 20 local and regional churches, food shelves, shelters, and other non-profit organizations.

SVDP TC partners and affiliates were invited to pick up donated coats, hats, gloves, shoes, pet food, toys, and personal hygiene items at the Distribution Center.

Besides donating to our regular food partners, fourteen of our SVDP groups, better known as conferences, were also invited to pick up coats and other supplies for their clients.

We're glad to say that 2018's Holiday Coat Giveaway was a success, and we plan to continue 2019.

If you are interested in helping on "Blue Friday", or can offer assistance in securing donations for this special giveaway, please contact Ed Koerner at 612-722-7882.



SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
TWIN CITIES

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2939 12th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407

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Vinnie's Voice

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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Twin Cities
2939 12th Avenue S. Minneapolis, MN 55407
Phone (612)722-7882, Fax (612) 722-0667

Editorial Staff

Ed Koerner, eekoerner@svdpmpls.org
Wayne Bugg, wbugg@svdpmpls.org

OUR GOALS

- Promote greater spiritual growth at every level of the Society
- Enhance the image of the Society to become a more visible sign of Christ
- Encourage greater unity at every level of the Society
- Develop greater solidarity with and care for people who are poor
- Build strengthened relationships with the Church, Vincentian Family, and other organizations which serve people in need

To contribute story ideas, or pictures, please email Wayne Bugg at wbugg@svdpmpls.org

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Minneapolis Store

2939 12th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 722-7882

Wayne Bugg, Store Manager
wbugg@svdpmpls.org

St. Paul Store

461 7th St. W.
St Paul, MN 55102
(651) 227-1332

Julene Maruska, Store Manager
jmaruska@svdpmpls.org

Help Us to Help Others