



St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter



Annual 'Priceless Gift' Toy Store underway



The Priceless Gift Toy Store opened its doors on Friday, November 25th. We served over 1,666 children as of December 2nd. The store is located at the **Dream Center** on Tomlinson Street between Pringle Street and Page Ave. This annual ministry provides free toys for children and babies as well as teen gifts and health items for families at Christmas.

Over 200 volunteers have helped put this year's toy store together. There are about 80 regular volunteers working at the toy store.

Thank you to the Dream Center for hosting this year's event!

The store will be open through Thursday, December 15th, with a special day for grandparents to shop on December 15. Store hours are Wednesdays through Saturday, 1 - 5 pm and Thursdays 1 - 7 pm.



Manager's Corner

Combating negativity



David Kemler
General Manager

As I write this there has been another incident of violence on the national news. Locally we have had weekly heroin overdoses. It seems that the world is caught up in a web of violence and negativity. What should be our response to hatred and violence?

On Sunday, November 27 the Catholic Church and several other Christian dominations began the liturgical season of Advent. The scripture readings leading up to this season have stressed the End Times. The Church counsels us to prepare for the coming of Christ, not just at Christmas but for the end of our lives.

In this season of preparation for the coming of the Prince of Peace there are several constructive ways to combat the negativity of the world. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have several suggestions on how we can observe the corporal Works of Mercy.

- Feed the hungry.
- Donate to a Christmas food drive. Our St. Vincent de Paul Conferences maintain local food pantries, serving Jackson and Lenawee counties.
- Contribute financially to organizations that serve the hungry. That's us again!
- Try not to purchase more food that you are able to eat. If you notice that you end up throwing groceries away each week, purchasing less groceries would eliminate waste and allow you to donate the savings to those in need.
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Donate to help build wells for water for those in need.
- Donate bottled water to shelters and/or food pantries.
- Make an effort not to waste water.

- Shelter the homeless.
- Volunteer time at our local homeless shelters.
- Donate time or money to organizations that build homes for those who need shelter.
- Many homeless shelters need warm blankets for their beds. If you can knit or sew that would be an extra loving gift. Our local Catholic Charities operates a linen closet giving free bed linens and blankets to those in need.
- Visit the sick.
- Give blood.
- Spend time volunteering at a nursing home – get creative and make use of your talents.
- Visit an elderly neighbor.
- Offer to assist caregivers of chronically sick family members.
- Send a card or letter to a shut-in individual.
- Visit the prisoners.
- Get involved in prison ministry.
- Volunteer to help out or donate to charities that give Christmas presents to children whose parents are incarcerated.
- Bury the dead.
- Send a card to someone who has recently lost a loved one.
- Give alms to the poor.
- Skip the morning latte and put that money in the collection basket at church.
- Find a charity that is meaningful to you (like SVDP) and volunteer your time or donate.
- Give up eating out at restaurants. Pack your meals and donate the extra money to charities.

In addition to these suggestions the Priceless Gift Toy Store, our partnership with Together We Can a Difference is open until December 15. Please consider donating your time and/or toys to this very worthy cause.





Giving back this season



St. Vincent de Paul held its first annual Thanksgiving 'Giving Back' Dinner on Tuesday, November 22 at our Spring Arbor Road store. This was a group effort with many volunteers and staff participating. We served 135 people. Donations for the dinner were provided by Dawson Foods, Bob Evans Restaurants, Kutchas Rental and the Walton Insurance Agency. Thank you!

Can you help?

As the year ends and a new year approaches, we find ourselves in need of many to maintain our stores. Below are some the the most needed items/ services. Please consider making a year-end donation. Thank you!

1812 Spring Arbor Rd.

- New flooring, carpet and tile.
- Interior and exterior paint
- Waterproofing for basement

1501 East Michigan Ave.

- Volunteers to work in store, paint and do maintenance
- Insulation for entire building
- Paint for building exterior
- New windows installed
- Two handrails for handicap ramps
- New fax machine

1509 East Michigan Ave.

- Interior and exterior paint (white) and painters

- Central air conditioning
- Tile flooring 5000 square feet
- New front entryway
- Bicycle racks

Sister Rosalie's Community Garden

- Volunteers to plant, maintain and harvest garden
- Garden seeds

And as always we are looking for volunteers to help us further our ministry here in Jackson.



This cute little tree is made from buttons and string.



We have many 'old' chairs that can be used for a porch decoration, as well as skates, blankets and other winter items.

Going 'green'

A regular feature to help you live a more earth-friendly life!

Easy and fun Christmas decor

Decorating for the holidays can be stressful at times. Why not make it fun and help a good cause at the same time? The decor ideas here are made from items that are readily available at our thrift stores. Stop in soon and see what you can create!



An empty frame and some string become a great way to display greeting cards.



Volunteers Bill Nichols and friend Sierra on the St. Vincent de Paul 'Christmas in Toyland' float.

Christmas Parade

Thank you to all our volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul who participated in the annual Christmas Parade in downtown Jackson on Friday, November 18. A lot of work went into this project. We could not do it without your help!





What's happening

Saturday, December 10

Second Saturday Sale

25% OFF all donated merchandise at the Furniture Center

Thursday, December 15

Last day for the Priceless Gift Toy Store

Located at the Dream Center on Tomlinson Street

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Stores closed at 3 pm

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

Monday, December 26

Christmas Holiday

Stores Closed

Saturday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Stores closed at 3 pm

Sunday, January 1

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1

New Year's Holiday

Stores closed

Saturday, January 14

Second Saturday Sale

25% OFF all donated merchandise at the Furniture Center

Every month...

Mondays - Fill a blue basket with clothing for only \$10.00!

- Clergy discount day – 25% Off with ID

Tuesdays - Student and teacher discount day – 25% Off with ID

Wednesdays - Senior citizen discount day – 25% Off with ID

Thursdays - Military (active or veterans) discount day for service

people and their immediate families – 25% Off with ID

Fridays - Fill a blue basket with books for only \$5.00!



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

– Isaiah 9:6

**Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Blessed New Year!**

**Be our guest
this Christmas!**



A community-wide Holiday Dinner will be held on Christmas Day, December 25 at 2:00 pm at Queen's Parish Social Center, 811 S.

Wisner in Jackson. Please call 784-9212 for reservations. Doors open at 1:15pm. To volunteer your help please call 524-7572.

It's not just a dinner, it's the hospitality of Jesus alive and well among us!

Spring Arbor Road Thrift Store 1812 Spring Arbor Road • Open Mon.- Fri. 9 am - 7 pm, Sat. 9 am - 5 pm
East Michigan Avenue Thrift Store 1509 E. Michigan Ave. • Open Mon.- Fri. 9 am - 7 pm, Sat. 9 am - 5 pm
Furniture Showroom 1501 E. Michigan Ave. • Open Mon.- Fri. 10 - 6, Sat. 9 - 5