



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ALTOONA/JOHNSTOWN

DECEMBER 2018

MOST HOLY TRINITY DISTRIBUTES CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS TO OVER 180 FAMILIES

The SVDP Most Holy Trinity Conference in Huntingdon distributed Christmas Food Baskets for the poor on Saturday, December 15. The baskets included all the ingredients to make a turkey dinner plus fresh dairy, fruits, and gifts for the children.

“An event like this could only happen with the help of many people working together. Contributions of a frozen turkey, canned goods, cash, or their time in this effort of love was appreciated from parishioners and people in the community.” said Joseph Masciangelo, vice president of the Huntingdon Conference. Joseph goes on to say, “All this work was done with the love of the poor and following in Jesus’ footsteps.”



This year the conference had the most contributions of items for the food baskets. A heartfelt thank you to the Faith Formation students and the other youth that helped with the heavy lifting and distribution.

LOCAL SCOUT TROOP LEARNS VALUE OF GIVING TO OTHERS

Members of Troop 2025, Richland Township, under the leadership of Scoutmaster Eric Lindrose, wanted to do something for their community. So, in early November, they contacted the Johnstown Family Kitchen with their idea to put together bags for those less fortunate.

The idea was good but the scouts were not sure what items would be needed and most appreciated. The staff at the Johnstown Family Kitchen stepped in and suggested bags of snacks or personal care items.



The troop made both snack and personal care bags and on December 19 the Family Kitchen distributed the “Blessing Bags”. Thank you to Troop 2025 for making 75 male, 75 female, and 50 children bags.



ASSUMPTION CHAPEL HOLDS FOOD GATHERING ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

Seen are Lisa Georgianna and Paula and Paul Aigner headliners in the food gathering project for the SVDP Assumption Chapel Food Pantry. Smiling approval is seen from Don Belsey and Fred Pasquini, Pantry directors. The drive filled the pantry van.



The Johnstown Tomahawks hockey team is shown supporting the December SVDP Johnstown Kitchen's [Friends-day Wednesday](#) monthly soup fundraiser.



SVDP ALTOONA/JOHNSTOWN SEES INCREASE IN THE CAR DONATION PROGRAM

We are seeing an increase in donated vehicles. Since September over ten vehicles have been donated and are awaiting pickup or have already been sold. A sincere thank you to everyone that has taken advantage of this program.

Your generous donation supports St. Vincent de Paul Altoona Johnstown so we can continue to help those in need not only at this time of year but all year long.

[Click here](#) or call (800) 322-8284 to find out how you can donate.



On Monday, December 17 students from the Divine Mercy Academy came a caroling and entertained visitors at the SVDP Johnstown Soup Kitchen.

JOHNSTOWN FOOD FOR FAMILIES RECEIVES GRANT



SERVING BEDFORD, CAMBRIA, SOMERSET, AND INDIANA COUNTIES

In early December the SVDP Johnstown Food for Families received a \$200 grant made possible through a donor requested distribution from the DeMario for Children fund; a fund under the umbrella of the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.

It is through organizations such as the Community Foundation that SVDP is able to continue to do good work in our community. A sincere thank you to the Foundation.



The Altoona Thrift Store hosted a Christmas Brunch for the staff and volunteers of the store, and the Altoona district council on Saturday, December 8 at the Dream in Hollidaysburg. The morning included a scrumptious breakfast buffet, Christmas gifts, and fellowship. A special thanks to Deb Wright–Adams, store manager and Charlotte Airhart, assistant manager for making the brunch a festive event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2018

- **SUNDAY, JANUARY 6**
[Our Faith in Action](#)
[EWTN](#)
3:30 pm
- **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9**
[Friends-day Wednesday](#)
SVDP Johnstown Soup Kitchen
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm



The Johnstown District Council and Thrift Store hosted their annual Christmas party on Sunday, December 9th at Our Son's Main Event.

Sixty-two volunteers and staff enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner and a fun filled evening with games, door prizes, service awards and the infamous cookie smorgasbord.

The Johnstown District Council takes this opportunity each year to extend their heartfelt thanks to all those who faithfully serve.

ALTOONA SOUP KITCHEN HOLDS CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

On Friday, December 21 the Soup Kitchen and Warehouse hosted their annual toy drive for local families in need. 350 people received presents and boxes of food thanks to the volunteers, and Sister Paula and Sister Pauline.



St. Mary's in Nanty Glo hosted a Christmas party for their volunteers on Tuesday, December 11 at St. Mary's church.

It was an enjoyable evening that included dinner, games, and Christmas gifts.



VOLUNTEERING HAS ITS OWN REWARDS

It was a chilly, cloudy day filled with the light of giving at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Huntingdon on Saturday, December 15. (see story on page 1) On behalf of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul a sizable team of volunteers ranging in age from young teenagers to the more seasoned were honored to share their time, talents and treasures. As a result of community contributions, they got to be the eyes of charity and grace by putting together Christmas “baskets” filled with food and gifts for the children of those less fortunate in the county. One prized job was being a “runner,” to help people get their baskets to their vehicles and send them on their way for a Merry Christmas.

Following one such delivery on Washington Street, a runner noticed a man with his curly-haired dog on the other side of 6th Street waiting for the light to change.



She waited for them to cross toward her since dogs are her great passion, and found out the slightly chubby, middle-aged pup’s name was Sam.

Sam and the runner shared a minute or two with kisses, pets and the “knowing” connection of human and dog, while she casually chatted with Sam’s dad, asking his name, how he was doing and whereabouts he lived in the area. Eventually, they wished one another a Merry Christmas and she returned up 6th Street to the church.

[Click here](#) to read the complete story of SAM, I AM.

CONTACT US

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS

The Knights of Columbus Council 4245 in Duncansville held a Chicken BBQ fundraiser on Sunday, December 16 to benefit the SVDP Altoona District Council human needs department. An amazing 472 BBQ chicken dinners were sold!



Above from left are Knights of Columbus member Ray Gregorchik, Knight and officer Rich Moyer, Grand Knight presenting a check for \$1,900 to Rose Dixon, St. Therese Altoona Conference President and Sonny Consiglio, SVDP Executive Director.



Thank you to all the members that participated to help make the fundraiser a huge success. A special thanks to Dan Weaver, SVDP volunteer that spearheaded the project



YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

The SVDP Altoona Johnstown Youth Ministry coordinates many projects during the year such as the back-to-school back pack program, summer reading programs, and summer lunch programs. One of the biggest projects is Christmas for Kids. This year the Christmas for Kids helped over 100 kids receive gifts.

A sincere thank you to individuals and groups of employees in local businesses who gave their time to go shopping and donate gifts.



Network Television Premiere!
A Movie about the Society on EWTN

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

**SEE THIS POWERFUL & TOUCHING
MOVIE OF VINCENTIANS LIVING
THEIR FAITH**

The National Council is proud to announce that our feature-length film, "Our Faith in Action," will make its network premiere on Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) on Jan. 6, 2019.

The film is based on our network TV series "Our Faith in Action: Today's Society of St. Vincent de Paul."

Movie Description

The spirit and charism of a 400-year-old French saint lives on through the examples of charity by nearly 100,000 dedicated men and women of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The feature-length presentation "Our Faith in Action" tells the spiritually uplifting, personal stories of our Vincentian members in direct service with people in need across the country.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

3:30 pm Eastern

2:30 pm Central

1:30 pm Mountain

12:30 pm Pacific

[Click here](#) to find the EWTN station in your area.

**Click the boom box to
listen to and download
the original song
"Finding Vincent" from
the movie.**

