



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ALTOONA/JOHNSTOWN

JUNE 2019

CAN WE DO IT... YES, THEY DID

Six years ago, the Board of the Queen of Peace Food Pantry in Patton decided to seek community donations through an annual appeal. The donations would be used mainly for the operation of the food pantry, keeping in mind that the direct service to the poor would not be compromised.

In March of 2019, a discussion of the pros and cons of installing a walk-in-freezer began and as the planning started they asked themselves “*can we do it?*”. After many inquiries, the decision was made to purchase a 12 foot by 8 foot freezer from Sherry’s Refrigeration located in Carrolltown.

Work began in May removing walls, relocating food, cutting a hole in the ceiling for ventilation, electrical work, leveling a floor space, and many other chores.

“The development of a bond that goes deeper than just team work was put into action in making this project a success. Who we are does not matter; what we have in common does: our desire to keep SVPD Mission alive.” said Jerry Greiner, Patton Food Pantry Manager.

- ◀ Today the Patton Food Pantry is able to provide the high quality service in a safe and efficient manner for the volunteers and the people they serve.

Special thanks goes to the community for their donations and the volunteers for their countless hours and dedication.



Pantry volunteers in front of the new walk-in freezer. From left Eleanor Baker, Lois Davis, Barb Greiner, Jerry Greiner, Terry Bender, Becky Yeckley, Jim Anna, Dave Kibler, Mary Davis.



The Johnstown [Food for Families Kitchen](#) held their “Feed the Need” Food Truck Rodeo on Sunday, June 16, 2019, at Peoples Natural Gas Park in downtown Johnstown.

The event raised almost \$6,000.00 and will go toward an ongoing freezer/cooler project for the Johnstown warehouse.

Thank you to the more than a dozen vendors that participated and to our corporate sponsors:

Bantly Hardware
H&R Block
Highmark
The Tax Lady, LLC

To see more pictures from the “rodeo” [click here](#).

CONTACT US

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www.svdpcares.org

EASTERN MEETING

Vincenians from across seven states came together earlier this month for a day of spirituality, friendship, and learning.

Participants attended workshops, mass, lunch, and closing prayer at the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Maryland.



Eastern meeting keynote speaker, Father Gregory Gay, CM.



National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

SVDP MONASTERY COMMUNITY GARDEN

In late April volunteers planted lettuce in one of two high tunnels at the Community Gardens in Hollidaysburg. One month later over 50 pounds of buttercrunch lettuce was harvested and delivered to the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry in Altoona.

The [Monastery Community Gardens](#) was gifted with two high tunnels. These high tunnels will help extend the growing season so more fresh healthy vegetables can be distributed to the people in our area who are in need.

One of the tunnels was dedicated in April in memory of Lisa Belsey Pufka, beloved daughter of Assumption Chapel food pantry director, Don Belsey. Don said, "Looking forward for great produce to be harvested from this tunnel under Lisa's watchful eye and the hard work of Dotty Caminiti and Joan Tomlinson and all other volunteers."

For information on volunteering [click here](#) or contact Dotty Caminiti at (814) 330 0866.



Steve Beschler and Joan Tomlinson picking the first batch of lettuce this season; grown in one of two high tunnels.



Kathy Balconi loading the lettuce at the Community Gardens in Hollidaysburg for distribution at the Altoona kitchen and pantry.

The memorial for Lisa Belsey Pufka was constructed in one of the high towers by, dedicated Garden volunteer, Mike Icenroad.





The Altoona Needs Office volunteers accepting a check and Certificate of Achievement from fund2org. From right: Sandy Lear; Rose Dixon, Altoona Needs Director; and Ed Garlina. Back row, Dan Weaver. Missing from the photo are Monica Watson, and Cindy Lytle.

SHOE DONATION EXCEEDS GOAL

The Altoona Human Needs held a shoe donation campaign this spring. The fundraiser was unique in that they were not asking for monetary donations; they were asking for shoes. Specifically gently worn or new men's, women's and children's shoes. The goal was 100 bags (2,500 pairs of shoes). The organization funds2orgs agreed to pay 40¢ a pound with an estimated value of \$1,000.00.

Funds2orgs redistributes the shoes to small businesses in developing countries, like Haiti, to create, maintain, and grow small businesses where economic opportunity and jobs are limited.

Several churches in Altoona, Newry, and Roaring Spring along with Thompson Pharmacy agreed to be drop off locations. Altoona and Northern Cambria thrift stores donated shoes and Northland Properties in Altoona donated space to store the shoes until they were picked up in May.

Most of the shoes were in good condition. Some people went over and above donating new shoes and some even included notes stating the shoes were cleaned.

The committee collected the shoes during the week and bagged shoes on Saturdays. The first Saturday, after 17 bags were collected, it was hard to believe they would collect enough shoes to fill 83 more bags.

When the campaign ended in April the human needs office collected over 3,000 pairs of shoes and received a check for \$1,489.20. Thank you to everyone that donated shoes, the churches, businesses, and stores and everyone that helped collect and bag the shoes.



Bagging shoes at Northland Properties warehouse. Tom Morning, (sitting) Ed Garlina (standing) Nancy Garlina (far left), Sandy Lear (middle).



EMPTY BOWL CHECK PRESENTATION

SVDP Executive Director, Sonny Consiglio, attended the check presentation at the Greater Johnstown High School from the Key Club's 10th Annual Empty Bowls project held April 26, 2019. Pictured are members of Key Club, club advisors, and representatives from the organizations that received a check that included: the Women's Help Center, the Cambria County Backpack Project, and SVDP Food for Families. Each organization received \$1,640.00.

“These funds will go to support the Johnstown Family Kitchen and we are appreciative of the work of the students and advisers who dedicate hours to make the beautiful bowls and put on a wonderful event.” said Georgia Lehman, FFF representative.

Thank you JHS Students and Key Club members for including us in your project .



Feed the Need Rubber Duck Race Family Fun Day Sunday, August 4, 2019 Noon to 6 P.M.

Sandyvale Memorial Park, Hickory Street, Johnstown PA
Ducks \$5.00

**Entertainment, Food, Games, Refreshments
Fun for the Whole Family**

For Tickets call: 539-7811 or 270-4111



Proceeds from this event to benefit
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Food for Families
Johnstown Family Kitchen



Follow on [Facebook](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2019

- **SUNDAY, AUGUST 4**
Feed the Need Rubber Duck Race
[Sandyvale Memorial Park](#), Hickory St.
 Johnstown
 Noon to 6:00 pm
- **FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 9 & 10**
St. Therese Flea Market
[Father Kelly Hall](#), 2412 5th St, Altoona
 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
- **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**
25th Annual Crab Fest
[The Casino at Lakemont Park](#)
 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm
- **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**
SVDP Annual Liturgy Dinner
 St. Francis University
 4:00 pm



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GOLF OUTING

A heartfelt thank you to this year's golfers and businesses that supported the [SVDP Youth Ministry](#) Golf Outing. Their support will help the youth ministry provide several programs to area youth in need. The summer feeding and reading program is currently underway and in the fall the back to school backpack program will give kids a new back pack and school supplies to start the new school year. The program also helps with Christmas for many kids and throughout the year helps families with utilities and other needs.

THE KEY SPONSORS FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENT INCLUDE:

TOURNAMENT SPONSOR



MAJOR SPONSOR

Misti Development Group

CORPORATE SPONSOR

Altoona Curve
 Ameriserv Bank
 Cantanese Group
 M&T Bank
 Somerset Trust Bank
 Young, Oakes, Brown & Co.

Southern Alleghenies Chapter of the American Culinary Federation Presents the

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL

Chef's Crab & Sea Feast



Friday, September 13, 2019

The Casino
 at Lakemont Park

Benefits
 St. Vincent dePaul
 Food for Families Soup Kitchen

Hors D'Oeuvres at 6:00, Dinner at 7:00
 Donation \$60.00
 Cash Bar - Casual Dress - Dinner

FEATURING

*Steamed Crab Legs - Peel & Eat Shrimp
 Herb Roasted Chicken, and MUCH, MUCH more*

in 2018 the St. Vincent dePaul Food for Families Soup Kitchen, in Altoona,
 served more than 70,000 meals at no-charge

For ticket information [click here](#) or call
 (814) 944-6302.

