



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ALTOONA/JOHNSTOWN

MAY 2021

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR ORGANIZATION

Without volunteers St. Vincent de Paul would not be able to help people in the capacity that communities have come to expect. While there are employees the vast majority of the dedicated staff are volunteers. People volunteer for a variety of reasons. Some have retired and have extra time, some have community service hours to complete. One staffer who came to do community service hours and stayed has been part of the SVDP family for over 2 years. He said, "I am here because it keeps me busy and that is what I need."

There are many stories and reasons why our volunteers are here. "The Little Thrift Store" (below) is one such story. This essay was written by Audrey Clement a high school student and volunteer at the SVDP thrift store in State College.

THAT LITTLE THRIFT STORE

"Volunteering? As in, not getting paid to do work?" my seventh-grade self thought. My mom had seen an advertisement soliciting Sunday volunteers at the local Saint Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. She told me that I should accompany her, since I needed the community service hours. I despised having to do any form of work on Sundays, but I could see that there was no point in arguing. So I put on a smile and went with her to what I thought was going to be a boring afternoon. What I was not prepared for was an experience that would change my life forever.

When we started out, it was just my mother and me. With only the two of us pulling for the entire store, Sunday afternoons at the store were quite tedious. My mom suggested that I recruit some of my friends to help, since they were also in need of service hours. Suddenly, I began to look forward to those Sunday afternoons with my friends. Those two hours were soon filled with laughter as well as work. There were contests to see who could carry the most shirts at once, deep discussions about the questionable fashion choices of past and present generations, and fashion shows down the length of the store. Eventually, we came to be known among the other volunteers as the "Sunday Crew."

[Continued on page 3](#)



- **NOW THROUGH JULY 15, 2021**
Virtual Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community
- **SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021**
Feed the Need Summerfest
Peoples Natural Gas Field, Johnstown
3:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021**
13th Annual Rio Golf Outing
Park Hills Country Club, Altoona
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

CONTACT US

(814) 943-1981

avcdepaul@atlanticbbn.net

www.svdpcares.org



Memory/ Honor of Donation



[Click here](#) for daily reflections and a quote of the day.

Famvin Quote of the day April 25

Sometimes the poor can be very demanding and want their needs met at the most inconvenient times. When these situations arise, remind me, Lord, that I am their servant.
St. Vincent de Paul

THE LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Most Holy Trinity Church in Huntingdon dedicated “The Little Free Pantry” on Friday, April 23 after a mass praying for those in need.

During the dedication Fr. Gene Tucker, St. John’s Episcopal Church, said how proud he is that Most Holy Trinity and SVDP have taken on the Pantry to feed those in Huntingdon. Fr. Tucker initiated the first pantry in Huntingdon.



Dolores Hopkins who purchased the pantry and Joni Weyant and avid supporter said the “take what you need and give what you can” process helps in feeding the poor.

The pantry was dedicated to St. Vincent de Paul and to the memory of L.E. “Red” Hopkins. Red a local business owner and member of Most Holy Trinity Church who passed away in 2019. Dorothy Baron, SVDP President, reflected on her experience with Red Hopkins and SVDP, “The Little Pantry is right in line with Red’s service to the community and SVDP’s mission of helping those in need”.



Pictured above, the dedication wrapped up with Fr. Mark blessing the pantry with holy water.



Like many fundraisers and other community events the **Johnstown Food for Families** had to cancel two of their biggest fundraisers last year; Feed the Need Truck Rodeo and the Duck Race. The two events had promised to be fun and successful. The Rodeo was excited to feature local singing artist Josh Gallagher.

This year Food for Families decided to combine both fundraisers in to one blowout event... **Feed the Need Summerfest**.

The event will include celebrity duck “un”racers, booths from local businesses and nonprofits, the area’s finest food trucks and **“The Voice” Season 11 finalist and Nashville recording artist, Josh Gallagher**.

[Tickets](http://www.svdpcares.org) for the event are available on line at www.svdpcares.org

SUMMERFEST FEED THE NEED

Saturday, August 7, 2021

3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

People’s Natural Gas Park, Johnstown, PA

CONSIDER BECOMING A SPONSOR

Sponsor levels include:

\$3,500 Platinum

\$2,500 Gold

\$1,500 Silver

\$500 Bronze

For more information on the event or sponsorships contact Kathy Irwin Morrell (814) 341-2049 or Georgia Lehman (814) 242-2083.

Continued from page 1

What I thought was going to be another boring volunteer experience became an activity I eagerly anticipated every weekend.

A typical Sunday afternoon at the thrift store is busy but rewarding. The store sells a variety of merchandise, including men's, women's, and children's clothing, housewares, jewelry, shoes, books electronics, wedding dresses, and art. The store uses a color coding system to sort the donations when they arrive in the store. Items received for a particular week are tagged with a unique color. Once that color has been displayed in the store for six weeks, it is the Sunday Crew's job to pull any remaining items with that color tag. These items are then donated to third world countries. If we have time after cleaning out all the racks, we sort incoming donations and tag them for pricing. Additionally, we clean up around the store and straighten the displays. Finally at the end of the day, there is time to shop. Almost no one goes home without a purchase from the store.

Volunteering at the store has reaped many benefits for me and has taught me some very important lessons. First, the time spent with my friends is invaluable. Volunteering has given me the opportunity to interact with the seniors in my community since the average age of a thrift store volunteer is sixty- five. I have been inspired by the Saint Vincent de Paul Society's mission to carry out Jesus' command to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 12:31) by serving those in need. Every person that works in the store is a volunteer including the store manager. Finally, for someone who loves fashion, I have been able to find clothing that I love to wear without harming the environment (or my bank account). I love to get creative and remake old and outdated clothes into something new. Volunteering at the store has taught me to be resourceful, creative, and organized. I have also learned how to work as a team while still having fun. Volunteering at the store has been filled with friends, fashion, and fun.

That little thrift store changed my life. From the time spent with my friends to all the lessons I have learned, my experience at the store has helped me grow into the person that I am today. Most importantly, it has changed my whole view on community service. When I do volunteer work, I get to help others while growing as a person. I can then take those values I have learned and not only apply them in my everyday life but also inspire others. I will look back on my six years of volunteering at the Saint Vincent de Paul Thrift Store as one of the most formative experiences of my life.

For information on volunteering go to svdpcares.org/volunteer/



Audrey Clement poses in a dress she purchased from the SVDP State College Thrift Store.

13TH ANNUAL SVDP YOUTH MINISTRY GOLF OUTING

The **SVDP Youth Ministry** program has been able to help hundreds of children in our area because of individuals and businesses in the community that have participated and/or became a sponsor for this annual event.

On Thursday, September 2, why not join us for a fun day of golf while helping SVDP help others.

Registration begins as 9:00 a.m. at the Park Hills Country Club in Altoona. A shotgun start tee time is 9:30 am. Entrance fee is \$75 per golfer (\$300 per foursome). This includes green fees, cart, skills contests (Mulligan package \$20 per team), course refreshments, and luncheon.

For more information and to register contact Sonny Consiglio at 814-659-8773 avcdepaul@atlanticbnn.net.



TOURNAMENT SPONSOR

Corporate Sponsorships

GOLD TOURNAMENT SPONSOR

Banner Display
Cart and Sponsor Board Display and One Tee Sign
Two Foursomes
Recognition at Luncheon
\$2,500.00

SILVER MAJOR SPONSOR

Cart and Sponsor Board Display and One Tee Sign
Two Foursomes
\$1,000.00

BRONZE CORPORATE TEAM SPONSOR

Sponsor Board Display and One Tee Sign
One Foursome
\$500.00

TEE SPONSOR

One Tee Sign
\$100.00

