

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ALTOONA/JOHNSTOWN



DECEMBER 2021

ALL IN A DAYS WORK FOR A VINCENTIAN

Earlier this month a woman from Washington State called the St. Vincent de Paul Diocesan office because she was worried about her daughter. Her daughter lives in Johnstown and was too sick to leave her home and was in need of food. She was told that we would see what we could do for her.

It was mid afternoon, would anyone be available at the at the St. Andrew's Pantry in Johnstown? Fortunately Bill Blum the pantry manager answered the phone and he said he could get some soup for the woman and also brought her some eggs, milk, and other items.



Needless to say the mother was very happy and relieved to know that her daughter was getting help.

You could say that Bill went above and beyond as a volunteer, and he certainly did, but then again, that is what volunteers at SVDP do. They go the extra mile many times because we are here to help those in need.



- **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022**
Friendsday Wednesday
Johnstown Family Kitchen
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022**
Friendsday Wednesday
Johnstown Family Kitchen
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
- **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022**
Friendsday Wednesday
Johnstown Family Kitchen
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM



Betty Richardson of [GBU Life](#) presents a \$1,000 check to the **SVDP Assumption Chapel Food Pantry**.

The proceeds are from a recent pie sale held for the pantry.

Left to right: Fred Pasquini, Pantry co-director, Betty Richardson, GBU secretary, Don Belsey Pantry Director, and Terri Weakland, pantry volunteer and GBU member.

Correction

The boy scout troop that collected food for the Ebsenburg food pantry was incorrectly listed in last month's newsletter as Troop 2094. The correct Troop was 2098.

CONTACT US

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Memory/ Honor of Donation



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

Famvin Quote of the day December 29

Keep far from me, Lord, the desire to be appreciated for everything I do. Instead, today I will go out of my way to thank someone I usually take for granted.

– St. Louise de Marillac

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS THANKFUL FOR HELP FROM BLAIR THERAPIES

For the past few years, Julie Sheetz, Executive Director at [Blair Therapies](#) and her band of “elves” have been helping with the **Christmas for Kids** program.

This year they purchased toys and clothing for nine kiddos in need. The Youth Ministry program is very grateful for their help. A sincere thank you to all of you for your time and generosity.



Julie McGeary “Elf” dropping off the gifts for the Youth Ministry Christmas for Kids.



JOHNSTOWN KITCHEN HAS THEIR OWN “SANTA”

Greg Karcher, **Johnstown Kitchen** Manager said, “I want to thank my old friend, Gina Valle Burkhard, for again taking the time to buy gifts for 50 some children for Christmas, not an easy task.”

Pictured above Gregg (in the Santa hat) with Gina and some of their helpers!

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CONFERENCE....BUSY, BUSY, BUSY

Dan Waver, **St. Rose of Lima Conference** President, said their conference was very busy this December making deliveries.

The conference adopted a local family in need and purchased gifts for a single mom and her two boys. Helen Mirenda took charge of the project, purchasing, wrapping and delivering the gifts.

Additionally this family and a few others received a large box of food and a turkey from Sister Paula.

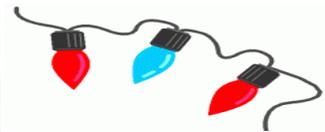
Hooded sweatshirts purchased by the conference were dropped off at the homeless shelter earlier this month.

And finally, [Kooman & Associates](#) held a food drive for the SVDP Food Pantry.

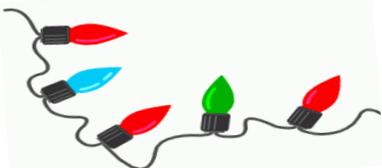
The St. Rose conference volunteered to deliver the donations. Joe Maschue and Tom Irwin picked up the donations and delivered them to the pantry.



Toys for the family St. Rose Conference adopted.



Kooman & Associates food drive delivery.



ST. JOSEPH'S CONFERENCE DELIVERS 200+ THANKSGIVING DINNERS

This is the 10th year that **St. Joseph's Williamsburg Conference** has made Thanksgiving special for the elderly and those in need in their community.

The volunteers prepared 240 meals and delivered them on Thanksgiving morning in Williamsburg and the surrounding areas.

Sandy Morelli, conference president said, "We are so thankful for our community of Williamsburg, so many friends of SVDP came out to help again this year. The love of Christ in action!!!"

Once again, SVDP volunteers, this is what we do.

Pictures of volunteers preparing, cooking and packing dinners to get ready for delivery.



Justice at the Margins

January 29–February 1, 2022

Virtual Gathering



The **Catholic Social Ministry Gathering (CSMG)** brings together people from around the country working to combat hunger, poverty, and injustice at home and around the world. This year, we will pray, learn, and advocate together on our Catholic vision for the post-pandemic world and call to bring justice to the margins.

This year's virtual gathering will include:

- Inspiring leading voices in Church and society.
- Workshops with policy experts and grassroots community leaders.
- Resources from dozens of Catholic social ministry organizations.
- And much more!

Check out special opportunities and events for **young leaders** in Catholic social ministry and learn more about the **Diversity Outreach Initiative** as well.

Registration is only \$50! Register now for the 2022 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering by [clicking here](#). *Scholarships are available to cover a portion of the registration fee.* [Apply here](#).

In November the **EADS Group Charitable Foundation** awarded a \$675 grant to SVDP. The grant will assist us in supporting our mission to help those less fortunate.

A sincere thank you to the EADS Group Charitable Foundation Fund, a fund under the umbrella of the [Community Foundation for the Alleghenies](#).



CAMBRIA COUNTY FOOD FOR FAMILIES INCLUDED IN THE FEDERAL ARPA GRANT

On December 9 **Hunger-Free Pennsylvania** announced that Pennsylvania food banks will receive nearly \$11.4 million from a portion of the state's allocation of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for cold storage and transportation resources.

The money will finance the purchase of equipment necessary to ensure that the high volume of fresh foods and perishable food items now available can be accessed more readily, stored properly, and delivered safely to families in need in all 67 counties.

Administration officials and state legislators joined charitable food organization representatives and community leaders to announce the funding during three events held simultaneously in Allegheny, Berks, and Chester counties. [Click here](#) to see the full press release and complete list of recipients.

SVDP Food for Families is so honored to be included as one of the programs receiving \$279,000.



Consider donating your unwanted vehicle to our car donation program. The pick-up is free and you can designate which SVDP Conference, Ministry or Food for Family program gets the proceeds.

Since January 2021 the SVDP Altoona Johnstown Council has received over \$4,000 in revenue from this program. Thank you to everyone that donated their vehicle.

[Click here](#) or call 1.800.322.8284 to start the process.