

Easter Appeal



SPRING 2021

Executive Director's Message

My Dear Friends,

For over a year we've been largely forced to sequester ourselves at home and abandon many of the simple pleasures we took for granted before the pandemic hit. But if COVID taught us anything, it was that we could survive with the simplest of lifestyles. We brought church and sporting events into our homes with a simple click of a mouse. Ordered food the same way. Kids Zoomed with teachers and classmates. We caught up with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and conducted business without having to leave the safety of our homes. We started to believe in the axiom "Less is Best" while decluttering our lives.

But for many, this was not simply a time burdened by inconvenience and change of lifestyle. COVID continues to result in job loss, food insecurity, intense stress and desperation. For so many, this continued to be a heartbreaking time to prioritize what was truly important; paying rent or utility bills or buying food for the family. Paying a medical bill or fixing the family car. Asking for help or continue to struggle because pride got in the way. A simple existence, for many families and individuals, was forced upon them quickly, with no emergency plan in place.

The response to our most recent COVID appeal makes the adjective "generous" wholly inadequate. It was absolutely humbling. Your gifts enabled St. Vincent de Paul to help with **\$765,661 in emergency funding to 4,079 households in 2020** who came to us in desperation. And yet, all of us know that the effects of COVID upon the poorest among us remain unrelenting. I often think to myself what St. Vincent de Paul would say had he lived during the time of COVID and a particular quote comes to mind: "**The poor have much to teach you. You have much to learn from them.**" Like Vincent de Paul, who was consumed in his ability to lift up the least among him in his community, Oregonians have let those we support teach us what life would be like without all of the many things we take for granted in our own lives, even as we struggle in our own way. Let St. Vincent de Paul instill in you a habit of realizing that, especially in times of a worldwide pandemic, the need for the basic elements of human dignity never disappears. And to God, no soul is less important or less worthy than any other. In gratitude for your support.

God Bless, Brian Ferschweiler

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27th Annual Jim Alenhofen Memorial Golf Tournament

Golf Tournament Announcement

We are ready to be back on the fairway with you! We plan to play on Friday, August 20th, 2021, but COVID restrictions may still be in effect. Please check our website for updates as we finalize the details. If you have any questions, call Brian at 503-234-5287.

Registration details TBA



Welcome
to the
Team!

New Staff

Finance Manager Matt Niehaus started with St. Vincent de Paul this past December. Matt was born in Portland and has lifelong connections to the communities served by SVdP, having attended St. Rose, St. Joseph the Worker, and Holy Family grade schools, and Central Catholic and LaSalle ('79) high schools. He also holds an Accounting degree from the University of Portland ('83). Matt states, "I am honored to have the opportunity to help contribute to the important mission of SVdP in the Portland area." Welcome, Matt!

Donate Your Vehicle —Help a Neighbor!

Have an unwanted car or truck taking up space in your driveway? Consider donating it to SVdP to support our emergency assistance programs! Vehicle donations are easy and tax-deductible. SVdP covers all towing and administrative costs.

For more information on how to donate your vehicle, please contact Katie at 503-595-2286 or email cars@svdpportland.org.



Want to include SVdP in your estate plans? Have questions about financial donations? Call Brian Ferschweiler at 503-234-5287.



Interested in volunteering your time and talent? Fill out the interest form on our website, www.svdppdx.org, or call 503-595-2290 for more information.



It is easy to donate stocks and securities! Contact Kimberly Cimmiyotti at 503-225-9493 or kim@byrdfinancial for more information.