



St. Vincent de Paul Newsletter



Welcome to our new manager!



Mary Laughlin
General Manager

The third of seven siblings raised in Jackson's St. John's Parish, Mary (Brisboe) Laughlin feels blessed for her holy upbringing. After graduating from Lumen Christi Catholic High

School, she went on to raise her own family at Queen's Parish and guided her four children through the high school halls where she once walked.

Mary's business background includes a 31-year commitment to a small Jackson business where she worked as the office manager and bookkeeper. In 2010, alongside her husband, Mary took a leap of faith and followed a dream, building Laughlin's Slice of Spice restaurant in Spring Arbor. The wood-fired brick oven

pizzeria is operated by her husband, Daniel, giving Mary the opportunity to embark on a more impactful role in her community through this position.

Mary joins the St. Vincent DePaul family with a hope of nurturing the many existing relationships the organization already has, as well as building new ones and guiding the organization through new growth and initiatives. She brings to the table leadership, business experience, service and respect for the St. Vincent DePaul community and hopes to continue to provide the compassion, support and resources in partnership with the various agencies she is being introduced to along the way.

"I am thankful to the Society of St. Vincent DePaul Council for their faith and continued support. I realize I have big shoes to fill and am up for the

challenge. While working with former general manager David Kemler, I have gotten to know him personally and admire the passion he has for this society and the underprivileged of our community. He has built a wonderful organization of staff and volunteers, of which I'm so grateful and will continue to nourish. David will be dearly missed.

As we move forward, I plan continued success with this ministry and the partnerships David has formed with agencies like Together We Can Make A Difference, St. Luke's Clinic, Catholic Charities and Jackson's various food pantries, to name a few. I pray this transition moves smoothly and may God bless David and his wife Connie with many joyful years of retirement."

Welcome, Mary!



David Herrmann from Northwest Early Elementary was our first place winner. Congratulations! Good job!

Big Seed & Garden Giveaway

The annual Big Seed Contest (butternut squash) and Garden Giveaway took place Saturday, May 18 at the We Make A Difference House. There were 48 volunteers that served 119 families totaling 431 people with 159 free small gardens and 81 free portable gardens. A flower sale was also held to raise money. Thank you to all our volunteers and sponsors.



Our second place winner was the Rurka family from Jackson Christian Elementary.



Rayah Moore of Hanover was our third place winner.



Manager's Corner

Summer changes



David Kemler
General Manager

This is my final newsletter article. After 18 years of service I will be retiring as general manager of the St. Vincent de Paul stores at the end of May.

At the beginning of my ministry here I felt that this was exactly what God had called me for and prepared me to do. I feel equally sure that God is now calling me to do something else.

Over the years I have served in the ministry of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, I have met a lot of people and made a lot of friends. I will miss the many faces that have become so familiar to me. I have accepted many challenges over the years, for better or worse. For many I have been the face of St. Vincent de Paul in the Jackson community. I have visited your homes, schools, churches and businesses. I have spoken to civic and religious groups, I have manned information booths. I have settled disputes and counseled the uncertain. I have picked

up donations, unloaded cars and trucks, sorted hundreds of bags and boxes, stocked shelves and racks. I have cleaned floors, bathrooms and display cabinets. I have cleaned, painted, planted and weeded. I have laundered clothing and linens. I have cooked meals, visited sick employees, volunteers and customers. I have planned parties and appreciation events. I have chaired meetings and reported to committees. I have celebrated happy occasions and comforted the sick and bereaved. I have attended weddings and funerals. The days, weeks and years have been busy and full.

I would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to thank the wonderful management team we have here at St. Vincent's. I will forever be grateful to John, Brian, Lola and Karen for always doing their jobs so well that it made me look good. I thank the teams of employees and volunteers at our East Michigan Ave. and Spring Arbor Rd. stores and our Furniture Showroom. I also thank the ever patient store's committee and members of the Jackson District Council. Thank you

also to the churches, schools and agencies who have partnered with us for many events. A special thank you goes to Wendy Wight of Together We Can Make a Difference. Thanks to my lovely wife, Connie who kept dinner warm on late nights and willingly made pots of soups, casseroles, sloppy joes, cookies, cakes and other goodies for many meetings and events. Connie has also taken on many sewing projects. Thank you to my children and their spouses who were often "volunteered".

I leave this ministry confident that our new general manager, Mary Laughlin will continue the fine work I have started. Please join with me in wishing Mary good wishes and success in her new position.

David-
We will miss you around here. You have become a good friend to us all. Thank you for all your dedication and hard work in this ministry. Happy Retirement! We love you,
- Your friends and family at St. Vincent de Paul



6' or 8' tables -
\$5.00 per day

Summer rentals

Now is the time to reserve your tables, chairs, and other items for your spring/summer events! For more information visit the website at www.borrowedblessings.org



Metal folding chairs -
\$1.00 per day



10' x 10' canopy with sides -
\$25.00 per day
(other sizes available)





Going 'green'

A regular feature on 'green' living to help you live a more earth-friendly life!

The lowly mason jar...



Puffy paint creates a fruit-inspired beverage cup.

They've been around for generations. Holding our fruit and vegetables, jams and jellies, bugs and buttons. Here are a few ideas for using mason jars in a new way, giving them the respect they deserve.



This pretty packaging takes the cake!



Summertime sun tea can be made ahead and left out in the sun for your guests.

Citronella candles give off light and keep the bugs away.



Hot air jubilee

Come and see us at the annual Hot Air Jubilee on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 18 - 21 at Sharp Park in Jackson. We will have information about our ministry as well as 'balloon' items available for a donation.



Jackson County Fair

St. Vincent de Paul will have an informational booth at the American 1 Events Center during the fair Sunday, August 4 through Saturday, August 10. Stop by for information about our ministry and upcoming events.

Civil War Muster



Our booth in the Arts & Crafts section of this year's Civil War Muster at Ella Sharp Park will feature handmade items and 'period' pieces available for sale.

Show your support by stopping by to see what great things we have to offer. Ministry information will be available.





What's happening

Sunday, June 2

Rose Parade

Saturday, June 8

Second Saturday Sale

25% OFF all donated merchandise at the Furniture Showroom

Thursday, July 4

Independence Day

Stores closed



Saturday, July 13

Second Saturday Sale

25% OFF all donated merchandise at the Furniture Showroom

Friday, July 18 - Sunday, July 21

Visit St. Vincent de Paul at the Hot Air Jubilee

Ella Sharp Park, Jackson

Sunday, August 4 - Saturday, August 10

Visit us at the

Jackson County Fair

Saturday, August 10

Second Saturday Sale

25% OFF all donated merchandise at the Furniture Showroom

Saturday, August 24 & Sunday August 25

St. Vincent de Paul will be at the

Civil War Muster, Ella Sharp Park



Monday, September 2

Labor Day

Stores will be closed

Every month...

Mondays - Fill a blue basket with clothing for only \$10.00!

- Clergy discount day - 25% Off with ID

Tuesdays - Student & teacher discount day - 25% Off with ID

Wednesdays - Senior citizen discount day - 25% Off with ID

Thursdays - Military (active or veterans) discount day for service people and their immediate families - 25% Off with ID

Fridays - Fill a blue basket with books for only \$5.00!

(E. Michigan Ave. location only)

Would you like to help?

Summer is a great time to try some volunteering. We are always looking for a helping hand. It is a good way to try something new while helping others. Opportunities to volunteer include:

- Retail store
- Merchandise donations
- Merchandise refurbishing
- Furniture repair
- Store improvement
- Toy store
- Special event promotion
- Fashion show
- Fundraising
- Marketing team
- Donation drives
- Office/computer/technical

Contact any of our locations for more information.
Thank you!

Spring Arbor Road

1812 Spring Arbor Road
Jackson, Michigan 49203
517-784-0721
Mon.- Fri. 9 - 7, Sat. 9 - 3

East Michigan Avenue

1509 E. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, Michigan 49202
517-784-0609
Mon.- Fri. 9 - 7, Sat. 9 - 3

Furniture Showroom & Bookstore

1501 E. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, Michigan 49202
517-784-8377
Mon.- Fri. 9 - 7, Sat. 9 - 3