

SVDP Opens New Head Start Facility

St. Vincent de Paul celebrated the opening of a new Head Start facility on April 12th at 1010 Somerset Street in East Baltimore. Head Start parents, staff, supporters and well-wishers gathered together to cut the ribbon and officially open the building. Representatives from project partners Whiting-Turner and Murphy and Dittenhafer were also on hand. Archbishop Lori joined the celebration to offer remarks and a blessing.

The fully renovated building is the result of a \$3 million dollar investment in the historic East Baltimore community. Formerly the home of Ss. James and John Catholic School in East Baltimore—one of the oldest Catholic School buildings in Baltimore City—the new Head Start facility features ten refurbished classrooms with fully integrated technology, improved ventilation systems, and many other state-of-the-art improvements.

Sr. Charmaine Krohe, Provincial leader of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, joined the celebration and provided a surprise gift of \$64,582 to Head Start in honor of the 176 years of service at the former Ss. James and John School.

Head Start early education programs provide support for lower-income families that extend beyond the classroom. The Whole Child/Whole Family model for



Years of hard work paid off in April as the doors finally opened to Somerset Head Start families. Community leaders gathered to celebrate the momentous occasion and Archbishop William E. Lori offered a blessing at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Head Start changes the trajectory of intergenerational poverty by meeting families where they are with the resources they need for long-term stability. The result is higher test scores and graduation rates for scholars and improved health outcomes and financial stability for their families.

“We are excited to be moving into our new home at the historic Ss. James and John School,” said Olutunde Clarke, Vice President of Child and Family Services at St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore. “This investment strengthens our commitment to providing quality, tuition-free early childhood education along with parent support services for low-income families.”



SPOTLIGHT



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17th Annual Empty Bowls Event Shines

Empty Bowls 2023 was a wonderful, fun-filled evening thanks to the support of thousands of attendees, volunteers, bowl makers, and sponsors. This year's event introduced a Southwestern theme that was evident in the décor, entertainment, and foods. Over 800 guests enjoyed delicious soups and other foods from more than a dozen area restaurants while taking in a variety of fun and engaging performances and activities.

Empty Bowls began in 2007 as a way to spread awareness of the hunger that exists among us and raise needed funds to support our food access services. Since then, it has grown into an annual tradition of fellowship and celebration—complete with good food and great company.

Food insecurity is a critical issue in Baltimore and addressing it is essential for the health and well-being of many city residents. One in five residents in Baltimore City are food insecure, with the risk rising to one in three among children.

St. Vincent de Paul remains committed to providing nutritious food for disadvantaged populations in Baltimore City and County—providing over 1.2 million meals last year alone. But as inflation continues to impact the food industry and household budgets, a growing number of low-income, Baltimore area residents become even more vulnerable to food insecurity.

This year's Empty Bowls event raised \$128,000 in support of our efforts to reduce hunger in our community. Our thanks to everyone who bought tickets and donated funds, time, or talent to make it such a success.



THANKS TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS

Presenting Sponsor Whiting-Turner Contracting Company; M&T Bank, WBAL-TV, Asbestos Specialists Inc.; Lieutenant Thomas Joseph Hill Memorial Foundation; BGE; Friendly Inn Association; H&S Bakery; Kelly Benefits; PricewaterhouseCoopers; Constellation; Ellin & Tucker; Murphy & Dittenhafer, Inc.; The Law Office of Peter T. Nicholl; Niles, Barton & Wilmer LLP; PSA Insurance & Financial Services and Leonard Paper Company.





Thank you to all of our amazing food and soup vendors for providing a wide array of delicious offerings from around the world!

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Linwoods | The Center Club | Ni Hao Baltimore |
| Gertrude's | The Point Restaurant Group | Samos Island Grill |
| Chesapeake Kitchen | Squire's | R&R Taqueria |
| Absolutely Perfect Catering | Mama Rosa Grill | Sophomore Coffee |
| Miss Shirley's | KSB African Cuisine | Woodlea Bakery |
| Good Harvest | Xquisite Catering | Dulceology |
| Mo's Seafood | Richardson Farms | We Bake and Brew |
| Richardson Farms | La Tolteca | |



SAVE THE DATE FOR EQUINOX

Saturday, September 16, 2023, 6pm-11pm at the Baltimore Museum of Industry

Join us for a spectacular, fun-filled event in support of St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore's mission to end homelessness in our community.

A memorable evening is planned at the Baltimore Museum of Industry as we illuminate the waterfront to help others find a pathway out of homelessness. Guests will enjoy amazing food, an open bar, and live music while spending time with friends dancing under the stars or enjoying games of chance. There will be a brilliant, candle-themed display and eclectic exhibits to explore at the museum, so don't miss out! Funds raised will support St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore's family homeless shelters and housing programs.

Visit equinoxbaltimore.com to get your tickets today!



Head Start Holds Day of Service Event

On January 16, members of the Head Start community came together at the Head Start location at Somerset Street to hand out coats and school supplies for an MLK Day of Service event. Mayor Brandon Scott dropped by the event, took a tour, and shared his opinion of the new facility. “I’m very thankful to the folks at St. Vincent de Paul for investing in this neighborhood. This is the kind of thing we have to continue to partner to do if we want Baltimore to be the best version of itself,” said the Mayor. “Head Start is something we should do for every single young person in our city.”

Volunteers are needed for several Head Start programs! If you’re interested in making a lasting impact on Baltimore-area children, please email David Sanders at david.sanders@vincentbaltimore.org.



Left: Members of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. were among the many community members who came to volunteer. Right: Olutunde Clarke, Vice President of Child and Family Services was interviewed by WJZ-TV on what this new Head Start really means for the East Baltimore community.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Good Harvest Food Service Training Builds Skills, Changes Lives

February 3, 2023, was Graduation Day for a recent cohort of SVDP’s Good Harvest Food Service Workforce Development Program. The intensive 12-week course provides Opportunity Youth (ages 18-24) classroom instruction with hands-on experience in the Good Harvest commercial kitchen, and it results in industry certifications that are especially valuable to potential employers.

Chef Damien Bagley, the program’s director, is proud of everything his students accomplish. The training, he stresses, is designed to help them overcome barriers to employment and develop critical soft skills in addition to technical ones. “We meet all our students where they are,” he explained. “We talk about their goals in life as well as career, and we give them all the support we can to help them get there.”



Much More than a Meal:

Beans & Bread Provides Help and Hope to People Experiencing Homelessness

In Baltimore City, over 1,500 people experience homelessness on a given night. Beans & Bread is part of a network of care that seeks to engage those facing a housing crisis and deliver critical services to help them find stability and permanent housing.

Beans & Bread day resource center is a place where people who are hungry have access to low-barrier services and effective client engagement navigation. They are assisted with coordinated access intakes, case management, and housing navigation. They can also access referrals to health, mental health, recovery, and employment services that help individuals experiencing homelessness reduce barriers, obtain permanent housing, and become self-sufficient.

Helping people achieve housing stability is a key focus of services at Beans & Bread. Our case managers begin the housing navigation process by screening people for eligibility for housing assistance. Because each person or family faces unique challenges, an individualized approach is utilized to determine the level and type of assistance needed. Case managers help with identifying and resolving any number of housing barriers, such as income, substance use, or criminal history. A housing plan is then developed and executed, and clients are connected with additional resources as necessary to ensure their long-term success.



Beans & Bread clients Diane (top), Jimmy (lower left) and Carroll (lower right) and enjoy the meals at Beans & Bread, but also come in regularly for the showers and laundry services they provide.



In addition to housing, Beans & Bread assists clients with a range of related services, such as obtaining benefits, accessing healthcare services, and applying for necessary documents like an ID or birth certificate. Case managers can also refer individuals to behavioral health, substance use or employment counseling.

“The people who rely on our services are some of the most vulnerable members of our community. It is essential that we do everything possible to help make housing and other essential services more accessible to them,” said Beans & Bread Director Hendrik Schulte.

Over 200 people come to Beans & Bread each day for meals and other services. More than 150 people in need of housing assistance were served through Beans & Bread over the past year. If you'd like to support the important, multi-faceted work of our hunger services programs, go to igfn.us/form/wXUJTQ or scan the QR code.



Beans & Bread clients enjoyed some TLC on May 12 when All Free Cutz came for some cuts and shaves. Everyone looked fabulous!

A New Shake Shack Opens in Canton, and a New Partnership Begins

On Wednesday, December 14th a highly-anticipated Shake Shack opened its doors in Canton to a very hungry crowd.

As part of their larger mission to Stand for Something Good, Shake Shack donated a dollar for every sandwich sold on opening day to Good Harvest Community Kitchen. The entire Southeast community was excited to have the first drive-thru Shake Shack in Maryland in their own backyard, and WMAR covered the grand opening event and fundraiser. At the end of the day, more than \$1,500 was raised to help Good Harvest provide meals to at-risk communities around Baltimore.

We're very grateful to have Shake Shack as a new partner! Together, we can help take a bite out of hunger across many underserved Baltimore communities.



Majid Zaghari, Vice President of Enterprises, addresses Shake Shack employees on opening day about how Good Harvest Community Kitchen stands for something good.

Empower4Life Teaches Children Living in Shelters About Health and Wellness

Empower4Life is a Baltimore-based non-profit organization that serves children experiencing homelessness by teaching them how to achieve health and happiness. They have been providing Hannah More and Interim House children with three transformative educational programs since 2015. *Fitness for a Future* empowers children impacted by homelessness to implement movement in their lives as a pathway to a better future. *Health for Hope* teaches children how to make good

choices in life that help build and maintain their mental, emotional, social, and spiritual health.

Resources for Rejuvenation provides at-risk children with basic necessities including food, bedding, clothes, personal care products, school supplies, and more. Children take wellness lessons and participate in a variety of interactive games and exercise activities led by fitness professionals.



SVDP Receives Generous Grants from WBAL, Safeway, TJX Companies

Corporate partners support key initiatives for children and families

Recently, a \$12,500 Kids Campaign grant from WBAL was awarded to sponsor children to attend Camp St. Vincent. We also received an \$8,555 award from Safeway for our Good Harvest program, which combats food insecurity in the community by preparing and delivering nutritious meals to our neighbors in need. This is the second grant from the company's Nourishing Neighbors campaign in the last year, as we received an \$8,250 grant for Good Harvest in July. Finally, the TJX Foundation awarded SVDP a \$10,000 grant to benefit Hannah More Family Shelter. The Foundation is a philanthropic arm of the parent company of T.J. Maxx, Marshalls, Home Goods, and others. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of WBAL, Safeway, TJX, and all of our many corporate supporters.

Serving Those Who Serve: Beans & Bread Volunteer Appreciation Gatherings

Not all the “regulars” at Beans & Bread day resource center are clients of the program. On the contrary, a dedicated and selfless group of volunteers come to Fells Point from near and far every week to help serve nutritious and delicious meals to those in need.

Laurie Thompson makes the trek to Beans & Bread with several other members of their parish, St. Paul Catholic Church in Ellicott City. A retired college counselor, Laurie got the volunteer bug while working at Loyola Blakefield where she regularly accompanied the students on service trips, one of which involved serving meals at St. Vincent de Paul in Philadelphia. “I knew right away this was something I wanted to do more of,” Laurie recalled. “So in 2013, right after I retired, I started volunteering at Beans & Bread and have been here ever since!”

Sally Callihan loves working in the kitchen at Beans & Bread for the camaraderie with staff, clients, and other volunteers. “There is NO stress, and at the end of every shift, someone thanks me for being there to help,” she said, adding, “I don’t recall once in my corporate/health care career being thanked at the end of the day for my efforts!” But it’s also personal for the Cockeysville resident, who shared, “This is a way for me to honor the memory of my mom who worked as a school lunch lady for 30+ years.”

Occasionally, the tables are turned and volunteers are treated to lunch themselves in appreciation for all their hard work and



Beans & Bread Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, left to right: Anne Kelly, Laurie Thompson, Debbie Mitchel, Sally Callihan, Lorraine Miller, Larry Miller, Karen Dupree, Joel Dupree. Not pictured: Robin Brinkley and Katherine Avery.

the positivity they help generate. But this group will tell you that serving is its own reward. Karen Dupree of Ellicott City, who volunteers with her husband Joel, summed it up, “We have been blessed with so much in our life, and this is our opportunity to give to those who are needy, to hopefully brighten their day. It is a privilege for us to volunteer at Beans & Bread!”

If you’d like to volunteer at Beans & Bread or other St. Vincent de Paul programs, email Victoria.Ezeji@vincentbaltimore.org.

SVDP’s Emerging Leaders Committee

Cause-minded young professionals are committed to volunteerism, networking — and fun!

If you are looking for an opportunity to serve, learn, grow, and have fun, consider joining SVDP’s Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC). Whether you work for a nonprofit, government entity, or in the private sector, the ELC and the community need you and your talents!

Visit vincentbaltimore.org/ELC to learn more.

Emerging Leader Committee members met at the first Volunteer then Beer event in Fells Point on March 30th. After a cleanup outside Beans & Bread, they walked over to Slainte Irish Pub to talk about the goals of the committee. They plan to have more Volunteer then Beer events, so sign up for their newsletter if you’d like to be a part of the next one.





2305 N. Charles Street, Suite 300
Baltimore, MD 21218

SPONSOR A CHILD FOR CAMP THIS SUMMER!

Camp St. Vincent is a unique, summer enrichment program dedicated to serving children experiencing homelessness in the Baltimore area. You can make a big difference in the life of a child. Become a Camp Sponsor today! Donate at vincentbaltimore.org/camp



OUR MISSION

To ensure those impacted by poverty have the skills, resources, and opportunity to achieve their full potential.

OUR VALUES

DIGNITY: We see God’s image in every person, recognizing their inherent value by offering respect and compassion, and giving special care to those who are materially poor, marginalized, and vulnerable.

INCLUSION: We promote diversity and embrace the unique attributes, characteristics, abilities, cultures, classes, faiths, orientations, and races that make people who they are, recognizing that we are one human family.

EQUITY: We believe in eliminating systemic disadvantages so that all people are guaranteed fair treatment and have the opportunity to live in decent, safe, and affordable housing, receive quality education, be employed at a fair wage, have access to healthy food and health care, share in prosperity, and reach their full potential.

EQUALITY: We see those we serve as our equals in every way, seeking to understand the road they have traveled to reach our door, recognizing they know what is best for themselves and their families, and encouraging them to make their own choices.

COLLABORATION: We believe in the transformative power of building relationships and community and in actively engaging partners in our work toward the well-being of all.

SERVICE: We humbly recognize service as an opportunity to receive as much as give.

EXCELLENCE: We relentlessly pursue the highest standards in all that we do, embracing innovation and best practices.

STEWARDSHIP: We use our resources responsibly and efficiently, and we hold ourselves accountable for the highest levels of integrity, transparency, and measurable results.

www.vincentbaltimore.org
giving@vincentbaltimore.org
(410) 662-0500

