



## SVdP: St. Francis of Assisi Conference - Steuben Co. Community Update Fall 2024

### WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES YOU A NUDGE....

By example of our patron saint, St. Vincent de Paul, we strive to see Christ in the poor and suffering, to help us live out Jesus' calling, " ...whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." ( Matthew 25:40). Many of us have seen those in need on the corner asking for help. That's where Beth found herself one afternoon. Beth had been taking care of her mother in Coldwater, but her mother had recently passed. She was trying to get back down to Florida to live with the rest of her family and had been dropped off at our local Meijer gas station with no other place to stay. That's when she was spotted by a member of our St. Anthony St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) team. As many do, after seeing her sitting with a bag and a blanket, it would have been easy to fill the tank and drive away, but not today. He felt the Holy Spirit nudging him to help. After introducing himself, he asked if she was OK, listened to her story, and asked where she planned to sleep that night. She pointed to the Meijer sign on the lawn and planned to stay there until the next evening when another family member was coming to get her. It only took one call to our SVdP leadership team to do the right thing and put her up in a hotel for the night as she awaited her family to pick her up. With the help of fellow neighbors, she was taken to the hotel, provided some food, prayed with, and was left knowing she could rest easy for the night.

A few weeks later, Beth and another person, were outside Meijer sleeping on the grass just 10 feet from the busy Wayne Street. It was disheartening as it felt like her story must not have been true. The SVdP team member prayed that the Holy Spirit would again give him a sign that he should proceed to talk with Beth again. He stepped out of the car and turned to see if he knew anyone that could join him in approaching her, and he immediately saw a St Anthony's parishioner. After introducing himself and explaining the situation, the parishioner agreed to join him to go talk with Beth. We were thankful we gave Beth the benefit of the doubt. We learned that she had gotten into a terrible car accident in Dayton, Ohio on their way to Florida and that the man she was now with was a relative.

### Christmas Shopping Yet?

#### The Saint Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

One of the best shopping destinations in Fort Wayne for unbeatable bargains and treasures. The best selection of new and gently used items

#### Our inventory changes daily.

- Monday – Friday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
  - Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Closed Sundays
- 1600 S. Calhoun Street, Fort Wayne**



(The income generated from the thrift store supports many SVDP ministries including local conferences.)

Being a good steward of the funds that our parishioners give us, we knew we needed to verify the story. Beth proceeded to show us pictures of the accident, the injuries she incurred, and the phone calls with the police after the incident. We even verified the driver was in fact in intensive care in the Ohio hospital. She had been taken back to Angola as it was the only area she was familiar with and found herself without options to get back to Florida. With the financial assistance of our generous donors, SVdP was able to again step in and buy two bus passes from Angola to Florida. Thirty -six hours after dropping them off at the bus depot, we got the news that they arrived safely in Florida and were back with their family. Jesus asks us all to see him in the face of those in need and even sends the Holy Spirit to help with the added nudge, we just need to be open to receiving it. God Bless, Tim



# REPORT ON THE BLESSING BOX GARDEN BY RUTH LIBEY



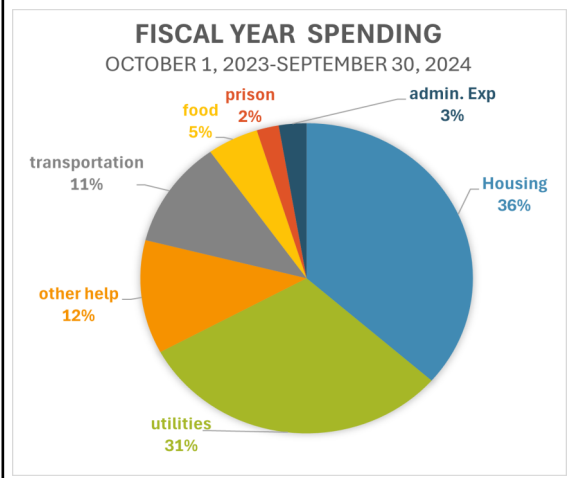
This was the second year for our BLESSING BOX garden, which is located in the Cameron Hospital Community plot. The success of last year's vegetable patch gave us the confidence to again provide fresh produce to our friends in need. In our garden, we planted tomatoes, broccoli, beans, zucchini, green peppers, and cucumbers. We tried planting potatoes, as well, thinking this would be a staple people could keep longer than the other veggies. At the time of this writing we haven't harvested them yet, waiting for the green tops to die first. Until that time the success of this new item will not be known. Our future idea for improvement would be to get a better soil mixture to yield more food for the space or look for a different space to plant. But all in all we provided healthy food for our friends in need.

## A WORD OF GRATITUDE



September marks the end of the fiscal year for St. Vincent de Paul, so it is time to reflect with gratitude the opportunity we have had to help some of our neighbors in Steuben County. This reflection includes all of you, because if you are reading this newsletter I assume you have been interested enough in the works of the St. Francis of Assisi conference to support us with your prayers or donations. The conference is lifted up by the support of our parish and local community. Thank you and please remember us the months ahead. Through this work we all are the hands of Christ to those in need in our area.

In the last fiscal year we served 156 households, these households were made up of 225 adults & 149 children.



## WHAT IS AN INTER AGENCY MEETING?

by Patti Webster

This meeting is facilitated by Purdue Extension of Steuben County to provide educational opportunities for 501-C3 non-profit organizations. Each month a program director is invited to speak about the non-profit they represent, and how it benefits our community. The speaker in August was the Clinical Director of Faith Community Health Clinic, Carolyn Davies. One of the interesting facts I learned was in 2024, Faith Community Health Clinic total visits up to August were 277. The clinic has logged over 6448 visits since it opened in 2008.

This collaboration is beneficial for non-profit leaders to become educated about specifics of each program to support those in need within our community and helps connect the people we serve to all resources available, so services are not duplicated. This also helps to fill in the missing links of what SVdP is not able to fulfill. As Vincentians, we strive to be good stewards of the generous donations we receive.

The meeting is held on the last Wednesday of every month in the Steuben County Community Center from Noon - 1:00 pm. Leaders or representatives of a non-profit in Steuben County are invited to attend. In August approximately 30 non—profits were represented.

The Purdue Extension Steuben County Educational Institution is located at 317 S Wayne St. #1A, Angola, Indiana. You can locate their website at: [Steuben County \(purdue.edu\)](http://www.stanthonyangola.com)