



# St. Vincent Mission

People Helping People

Spring 2021

## Our Mission

*St. Vincent Mission is a community of people in Appalachia dedicated to sharing the expression of Christian values. We believe that all persons have a God-ordained right to the basic needs of life in order to meet their full potential. Our vision is one of hope that leads us toward continued growth.*

## Our Services

- Home Repairs
- Food Pantry
- Emergency Assistance
- Grow Appalachia program
- Work Life/Intern program
- Faith and Finances program
- Christmas Store program
- Easter and Back-to-School Giveaway
- Ida Scholarship Fund
- Summer youth programs
- Skills building activities for families and children
- Clothing & household items through the David Boutique

## Contact Us

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## Mailing Address

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## General Inquires

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## Director Erin Bottomlee

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## Website

www.stvincentmission.org



www.facebook.com/  
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## Small, but Mighty

St. Vincent Mission has been fortunate to operate on a mostly normal basis during the crazy year of 2020. With our small full and part-time staff, interns, and



volunteers, we have been able to make quite an impact. In 2020, we

- helped 3,686 total people in our food pantry
- helped 132 families with bill assistance and in-kind assistance
- gave out in-kind donations in the amount of \$56,584.
- gave 251 students backpacks, school supplies, and new clothes
- provided 11 college scholarships
- hosted 14 interns to work at the mission
- provided 203 home visits through the home repair program, garden program, food pantry, and Thanksgiving and Christmas deliveries
- hosted 7 community gardens and helped 55 active members in our Grow Appalachia program

Last year, during a time when we have had to cancel many large events and use social distancing and wear masks for smaller events and classes, we feel we were able to still make quite an impact on our community. In addition to one-time payments for utilities or gifts of clothing or holiday items, the mission impacted several community members in a more long-term, lasting way. For instance, Jeannette Mullins and Owen Lewis, who were previous interns in 2019, returned to do over 16 hours of community service a week in the pantry—handing out food, baking, and canning—and the garden program. Because we were not able to take on daily volunteers, since it raised the risk for employees and interns to contract Covid-19, our daily work load increased. Jeannette's and Owen's labor helped balance the workload for the rest of us. Owen left us last fall to go to college; however, he comes back to volunteer on his breaks and holidays. And later this spring, Jeannette will be joining the mission staff as the new Pantry Manager.





## In Memory

On July 11, 2020, we lost our dear Home Repair Manager, Mike Harbin, to his fight with cancer. He left

behind three grown children, his wife



Penny, and his brother-in-law, Mike, and his grandchildren.

It was so unexpected and quick that not many people even knew he was sick. We held a memorial

service for him July 25 at the volunteer house he helped build. He will be greatly missed and impossible to truly replace.



## Small, but Mighty (cont.)

In addition to previous interns, community volunteers such as Gracie Burchett and James Akers have benefited from our services and have formed long-term relationships with the mission. Gracie and her husband Bradis have been great friends to the mission. For example, they have come in to help with cutting down and getting rid of a tree that had fallen and hit our carport.

When the refrigerators or freezers have stopped working, Gracie



comes and takes all the food up and down a couple hollows in David, handing out the extra food that will ruin to community members in need. Gracie mutually benefits from her friendship with the mission as well. She usually brings her grandkids to our game nights that were started by Kim Waddell, a former teacher, in order to have some social interaction for them while school is digital, and Gracie comes to the pantry and our Christmas Store when she is in need.

James Akers came to us after he had been laid off. We helped him with an emergency assistance bill and for some day-work to tie him over until his unemployment could come through. We liked his work so much that we interviewed him for the Home Repair position, and he has begun to work at the mission as of the beginning of March.

## Happy Grandma



For those of you who know Susan Greene, our warehouse and boutique manager, you know she has three adult children she would do anything for. Now, Susan has had her first grandchild this month! The mission and some of her friends and family got together to



throw a shower for her daughter Gabby and her fiancé, Brandon at the mission on Feb. 6, 2021. Everyone is excited to have a "mission baby" to spoil. Her name is Rozalinn Nicole Slone.



## New Interns

One of our most important programs at the mission is actually a fairly new one. Started in the middle of 2018, this program has grown from just one or two people having part-time work, to employing 12-14 people a year in a four-month rotation and incorporating the Work Life and Faith and Finance curriculum. The work experience paired with a Christian-based curriculum seems to meet the needs of our interns and our employees. As time goes on, we have found the need for more structure and requirements to go along with a good reference. Generally, we focus on people who need positive references to get a job. Also, we often give a new-start to previously incarcerated people who have non-violent felonies on



their records. Finally, we look for young adults who may not have experienced the world of work and are wanting to get some experience after high school or during college. We are looking to hire about two more interns at this time.



At the end of last year, Jeriaka Stapp started working as an intern for the food pantry. Jeriaka was living in Ohio while waiting for Job Corps, a local job training organization, to open back up. Job Corps temporarily did not allow students to stay in the dorms or have in-person classes because of COVID-19. We talked to her and gave her an internship until Job Corps starts back, sometime in March of this year.

Christopher Johnson is one of our participants of the Christmas Store and food pantry. He has been striking out in the job market recently. He believes one reason might be the age of his references and the deaths of a couple of his employers. By working as the garden intern for Tracey, he hopes to refresh himself with the atmosphere of work and build a good reference for a more permanent job.

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## Amazon Smile!

Did you know you can benefit the mission simply by pressing a few buttons on Amazon? If you shop regularly on Amazon.com, you probably have heard about the Amazon Smiles Program. If you go to the [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) site instead of regular Amazon, you have the option to look at a charity's wish list. You can also sign up for a charity to receive a percentage of what you purchase. Search for us under Saint Vincent Mission, Inc. with the Saint spelled out. These options are under your account button once you sign into the page. You can also use the Amazon app. Even if it's just a few cents on the dollar, every little bit counts!

### Small, but Mighty (cont.)

As 2020 ended, we celebrated Jesus' birth by having people come to the Christmas Store. Those who had applied but could not attend due to health reasons had their gifts delivered. This year we hosted people over three weeks instead of one to spread the families out. We encouraged social distancing, only allowed three families to shop at a time, and required masks. We were so happy to help about 190 families get Christmas gifts for their families and a gift card for Christmas dinner. And, whereas other organizations usually mandate the family must have children, we also include those low-income and/or disabled adults who live alone or with adult members of their families. This year we also helped another six non-profits and numerous other individuals and families referred to us by case workers, the juvenile courts, and other places in and around Floyd County. We felt very fortunate to be able to help so many families and other non-profits through the money and items donated by our patrons.



## Thank You, Donors

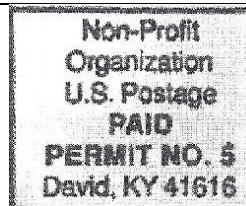
Our donors have been so generous throughout this pandemic in 2020, and we have received so many useful items for our second-hand store, community events, and emergency assistance needs. Without all of the donations from you, we would not be able to hold any of our events or provide for the community.

Here is a list of a few items we currently need for specific events, daily use around the mission, or for frequent need.

- new socks and underwear
- new totes with lids
- new car seats
- school supplies and backpacks
- new shoes for Back-to-School or Christmas
- sheets and sheet sets
- new or used cookware
- new or used men's boots and work pants for our career/emergency assistance program
- used children's clothes and shoes
- large, XL, 2X and 3X men's and women's clothes



St. Vincent Mission  
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Mail to:





## Fire at the Mission

Friday, March 5, 2021 at about 5:45-6:00 am, a flower box on the outside of the main administration building caught fire. For those of you who don't know some of our history, this building is the one that used to be the pool house in the coal mining days and later was used as a day care center downstairs and the craft center upstairs.

A concerned citizen living in David was going to work Friday morning around 7 am and stopped to see if she could put the fire out. She called the David Volunteer Fire Department and then flagged down another driver. Together they used water bottles to start putting out the flames. A short time later the DVFD arrived and put out the rest of the fire. If not for the quick action of one of our



neighbors and the fire volunteers, we could have lost our main offices, the food pantry, the kitchen, the second-hand store, and all our records and memories of our programs throughout the years.

## And it Just Got Worse



Three major ice/snowstorms that came through Kentucky and many other regions of the United States February 10-February 18 caused power outages and road hazards such as black ice and downed trees. American Electric Power estimated over 59,000 customers lost power at some point during those weeks, and about 1000

customers were still without power as of February 26. Governor Beshear declared a state of emergency in most of the counties, and extra electrical personnel were called in as reinforcements. Luckily, we in Floyd County recovered fairly quickly. But just when people were

getting back to some semblance of normalcy, the rain started.

During February 27-March 2, nearly constant rains caused water rescues, mudslides, road closures, and additional power outages. Governor Beshear once again had to declare a state of emergency because of record-high flooding. Areas that have never flooded during some



middle-aged people's lifetimes now were experiencing the flooding firsthand. Quickly rising waters in the early morning hours caused many families to lose everything.

These three pictures represent some of the devastation in Garrett, Maytown, and Martin—all throughout Floyd County. Have you ever been flooded? Then you know the smell, the mud, the damage to buildings and all that you own. You know the panic that you might not make it out of your house in the dark of night as the water spills in. Then, when you are finally physically safe, your spirit is broken.



## Got Worse (cont.)

You ask yourself how you're going to clean up the mess. In some cases, you ask yourself where you and your family are going to stay the night and what you are going to wear—because there is nothing left. But with the help of family, friends, neighbors, and people from all-across our country, slowly your spirit of hope is restored.

It takes lots of people coming together to make recovery happen. St. Vincent Mission is partnering with other non-profits like the Christian Appalachian Project to help restore our neighbors' spirit of hope. Can we ask you to help us in our efforts? Any donation for recovery efforts is appreciated. Donations of cleaning supplies, gift cards for Walmart or ACE Hardware, or gifts of money all contribute to St. Vincent Mission and our partners being able to more quickly and efficiently help people with home cleanup, rental assistance, or the replacement of lost items.



The staff and I would like to thank all of those who have supported St. Vincent Mission during this year.

It has not been an easy year for the mission and many of you also. We truly appreciate the prayers, calls, emails, and letters of support that we have received from so many of you. Your generosity has gone above and beyond what we could have expected. We could not serve in the way that we do without your generosity. May we learn from this year and truly come to realize that it is God who provides for our needs and sustains our lives. More than ever we need to rely on Him and understand the blessing that our global Christian community is.

-Erin Bottomlee, Executive Director

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