

Questions and Answers about the new SVdP Thrift Store Project

1. What will the proceeds from the Thrift Store be used for?

Before we directly answer that question, let's provide some background on how we this project got started. The original need to open this Thrift Store started with the Bishop Griffin Resource Center Expansion and Capital Campaign. As the BGRC planned to expand their facilities and developed a capital campaign to fund that expansion, they also determined that they needed funds to keep the new center operating once it opened. Their committee saw the need thrift store to provide that ongoing revenue stream.

At the same time, the Diocesan Council of St. Vincent de Paul was looking into starting Thrift Stores in the Columbus Diocese, primarily in the Franklin County/Central Ohio area, to help secure a funding stream to support the growth of our Council, the expanding needs of the people we serve and to fund our systemic change programs. After attending a meeting with the Bishop Griffin's Resources Center, the Diocesan Council offered to start a Thrift Store. St. Vincent de Paul USA has a strong history and track record of operating Thrift Stores. There is support at the national level and model to follow for the layout and operation of Thrift Stores. So, St. Vincent de Paul offered to help open and run this first Thrift Store and use the experience as a model for opening additional stores in the Central Ohio area.

It takes money to start a Thrift Store, including purchasing fixtures to go in the store, pay the salaries of employees before the store opens, purchasing some of the stock and supplies for the store, etc. The Bishop Griffin Center and the Lancaster Community gave us a generous loan to help us fund the opening of this first store.

The budget projection for this first store includes splitting the profits among a fund that will open new stores, begin paying back the start up loan to Lancaster, and have remaining profits be split among the Bishop Griffin Center and the Council with Council funds being used to enhance the programs and work of conferences already in place and to grow our systemic change programming.

2. What will you sell at the Thrift Store?

We will sell primarily donated items at the Thrift Store. This includes clothing, shoes, accessories like purses, wallets, belts and scarves, jewelry, small kitchen appliances, kitchen utensils, glassware, dishes, pots and pans, silverware, decorative items, pictures, usable furniture (no mattresses, please), luggage, clean and usable sheets and blankets, baby items, books, records, CDs, DVDs sporting goods, bikes, toys, and more. We hope to be ready to accept donations by June 1. In the meantime please save your items. Watch for news about where and when to donate.

We will also purchase some items from St. Vincent de Paul approved vendors for sale, particularly those items that we cannot resell. For example, we will purchase new socks, underwear, new and reconditioned mattresses.

3. How will the new Thrift Store affect our free clothing stores?

SVdP Thrift Stores that are currently operating across the United States often support free clothing stores. In most cases, Thrift Stores have more clothing than they can actually sell and will make sure that our free clothing stores can choose from those extra articles of clothing anything they need to serve our neighbors in need.

4. Besides this first store, who will decide how the profit will be allocated?

The Diocesan Council will be responsible for determining how their funds will be allocated. They will set up a system for reviewing requests and awarding funds for a conference's charitable work, systemic change programs and growth for the Council.

5. What if I want to volunteer at the store?

Prior to the store opening: contact Anita Foley at ColsSVdPThriftStores@gmail.com if you want to volunteer. We will need a lot of help to get our store opened! We're eager and thankful for everyone's help!

After the store opens: Anita will be responsible for setting up volunteers. Watch for information about volunteering after the store opens once an opening date has been finalized.

6. Will the Thrift Store be run by volunteers or by paid staff?

Paid staff will run the store. Volunteers will supplement the staff during peak times, such as 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon on Monday, Wednesday's and Friday's to help the store recover from busy weekends and to be ready and fully stocked for business for the next weekend. We will also welcome any volunteer who wants to come at other times to work on those projects that best suit their interests and/or expertise.

7. When will the store be open?

The current plan is to open by August 1, 2019. Store hours will be 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Monday – Saturday and 11:00 – 5:00 on Sundays.

8. When can I drop off donations?

We anticipate accepting donations starting June 1, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00p.m. Monday – Friday.

After the store opens, approximately August 1, donations will be accepted from 9:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. Monday – Saturday and 11:00 – 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

In the meantime, start saving your clothing and household items to donate. We'll send out news to your conference president to verify when we are ready to accept donations.

Did you know that one of the worst culprits in filling our landfills is discarded textiles (like clothing, sheets, towels, etc)? If you have items that can't be sold (like torn jeans or ripped t-shirts), we can accept those as donations, too. We will bail

them and keep them out of the landfill and make some money for our conferences and systemic change program in the process too. We can all be better stewards of the earth that God has given us, and this is one way we can make a big impact.

Other questions? Contact Bob Zabloudil:

Text or call: 614-507-4948

Email: bobzabloudil@aol.com