



Thanksgiving - A Tradition of Sharing

In our nation, Thanksgiving originated as a harvest festival, a time of gratitude, and an opportunity to share nature's bounty with family and friends. On this day, no one went hungry. So much has changed since that first Thanksgiving that our country would now be unrecognizable to those early settlers.

One thing that hasn't changed is the need to share God's blessings with the less fortunate. On this special holiday, as we gather around tables filled with turkey and dressing, our favorite casseroles, and mouth-watering desserts, most of us will begin the meal with a blessing. In that prayer, we hope you will remember the poor and homeless men, women, and children who will be coming to St. Vincent de Paul for their Thanksgiving meal.



Holiday Helpers Passes the Torch to St. Vincent de Paul



On November 23rd, our volunteers will serve turkey with all the trimmings to hundreds of people who, unfortunately, have little to celebrate. Many of them are living in homes where people have to skip meals or eat less to make ends meet. Some of them have no homes. But on this day, they will all have a warm place to go and plenty to eat. This year, our volunteers will be serving up a Thanksgiving meal at our Dining Room and will continue the Holiday Helpers' tradition at the River Center. Sometimes, we are overwhelmed by the number of people who turn to St. Vincent de Paul for the

nourishment they need. But these people are not numbers - they are real people in desperate need. We see their faces; we hear their stories. They are struggling to survive and must rely on the kindness of others to help them through this difficult time in their lives.

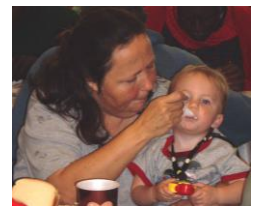


Share Your Blessings this Thanksgiving!

We are the only community kitchen that is open every day of the year. Last year, we served over 245,000 meals, and we expect to exceed that number this year. The meals prepared at St. Vincent de Paul are served by our volunteers with love and compassion. Your support is needed to make these meals possible. We need your help to flood our community with compassion and love! How many people can you help this Thanksgiving?

- \$1.00 provides a hot meal for one hungry person.
- \$100 provides hot meals for 100 people.
- \$600 feeds all our Dining Room guests for one day.

The meals prepared in our kitchen are served by our volunteers with kindness and care.



To make your gift:

Use the form below to make a difference by printing it, cutting it out and mailing with your contribution to St. Vincent de Paul, P.O. Box 127, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0127 or give online by clicking on Donate Now on our Home Page.

My gift of \$ _____ to St. Vincent de Paul is enclosed to help the poor and homeless.
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Serving our Community Since 1865