



## SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ALTOONA/JOHNSTOWN

### JANUARY 2019

#### STATE COLLEGE THRIFT STORE MOVES TO THEIR NEW LOCATION: RE-OPENING A GRAND SUCCESS

“The Grand Re-Opening and all the weeks of work involved in the store move were accomplished by scores of dedicated volunteers and a large number of generous sponsors, especially our wonderful landlords, Rob and Jerilinn Stewart. The Holy Spirit was certainly with us throughout this project, and we are truly grateful for the increased funding for our mission, to help those in need in our community,” says Store Manager Janet Haner.

On the day of the ribbon cutting freezing temperatures and the threat of snow could not dampen the enthusiasm of dozens of shoppers who queued up early for the January 12<sup>th</sup> re-opening of the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift store in State College. Cheers rose from the crowd as the ceremonial ribbon was cut, marking the start of a new era for the store, founded just over 20 years ago by members of the Our Lady of Victory Conference.

Inside, an estimated 500 shoppers found respite from the cold, but also a retail space 55% larger than that at the previous location, along with bargains galore. In addition to thrift-store staples, shoppers enthusiastically perused luxury items, such as Burberry coats, handbags by Kate Spade and Coach, and vintage fashions, including furs -- some of them new with tags. Shoppers maneuvered their carts (a welcome new addition) around hand-painted display pieces in cheerful pastels, laden with all manner of housewares, from everyday dishes to bone china and crystal. Others browsed books, or hunted for treasure in the fine jewelry case. Brides-to-be (and hopeful others) admired the large display of wedding gowns.

Two large fitting rooms, as well as handicap accessible bathrooms, enhanced the shopping experience. Beyond the “staff only” signs, SVDP volunteers worked in an expanded sorting area to keep the racks stocked. Oldies from [WOWY 97.1](#), broadcasting onsite, had shoppers and volunteers alike dancing in the aisles.

Even after the last customer left the parking lot, there was reason to celebrate: Grand opening receipts totaled nearly five times that of the store’s previous best day ever. Much of that money will find its way right back into the community that made the grand re-opening such as a success, since the thrift store—with not a single paid employee--supports the charitable work of the conference.



From left: Felicia Mulley, Our Lady of Victory Conference President; Sonny Consiglio, SVDP Diocesan Executive Director; and Janet Haner, Thrift Store Manager cut the ribbon for the new [State College Thrift Store](#) on Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>.



Eager shoppers enter the new St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store located at 1300 Benner Pike, Suite B, State College, PA 16801.

#### CONTACT US

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## BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

One Saturday at the Altoona Thrift Store a woman came in and said she owed the store \$16.32. The two woman at the counter looked at each other wondering to what the woman was referring because the store does not offer “credit”. She explained that the money was owed because of a check she had written that was returned for insufficient funds. Now there is nothing strange about that except the store stopped taking checks over a year ago.

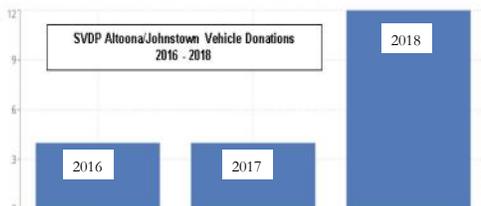
The woman went on to explain that she had been sick [cancer] and is doing much better now. She said St. Vincent de Paul does a lot of good for the community and wanted to make sure she paid what she owed.

Definitely a pleasant surprise.



## SVDP ALTOONA/JOHNSTOWN SEES INCREASE IN THE CAR DONATION PROGRAM

We are seeing an increase in donated vehicles. Since September over ten vehicles have been donated and are awaiting pickup or have already been sold. A sincere thank you to everyone that has taken advantage of this program.



Your generous donation supports the [St. Vincent de Paul Altoona Johnstown](#) so we can continue to help those in need not only at this time of year but all year long.

[Click here](#) or call (800) 322-8284 to find out how you can donate.

## LOCAL CONFERENCE RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF AGGREGATION

The St. Rose of Lima Conference in Altoona was presented with a Certificate of Aggregation from the Society's International Council. The certificate, solidifying the conference's place in the Society was presented by Sonny Consiglio, SVDP Altoona Johnstown Council Executive Director to Dan Weaver, St. Rose of Lima Conference President.



From left Monica Smith, Phyllis Mallory, Dan Weaver, Fr. Brian Saylor, Sonny Consiglio, Ed Garlena, Larry Harker.



The [Peter Lemke District Council](#) hosted a holiday dinner on Wednesday, January 9 for their members and volunteers at the [Hoss's Family Steak & Sea](#) in Ebensburg.



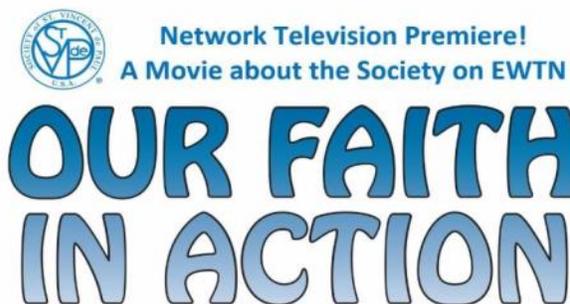
Installed into the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Youth Conference were the 6th graders at the **Johnstown Divine Mercy Catholic Academy**. The installation was held on Thursday, January 10 at the Our Mother of Sorrows Church, Johnstown.

### HOSS'S COMMUNITY NIGHT



The [Hoss's Family Steak & Sea](#) in Altoona held Community Night for St. Vincent de Paul on December 22nd. The event netted \$116.25. Not bad for a last minute fundraiser. Thanks to everyone that came out to support SVDP and a special thank you to Joey Roesch who coordinated the event.

[ALTOONA THRIFT STORE](#) donated clothing to Bishop Gilfoyle High School to use as costumes for their production of *Hello Dolly* on March 1st and 2nd.



### OFIA ON DEMAND!

To learn more about the series and for information on where to view and download full episodes and individual segments [click here](#).



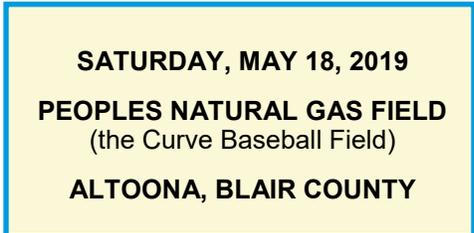
2018

- **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13**  
[Friendsday Wednesday Soup Sale](#)  
231 Bedford St, Johnstown  
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- **SATURDAY, MAY 18**  
**2019 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community**  
Peoples Natural Gas Field, Altoona  
7:45 am Registration 9:00 am Walk



### JOHNSTOWN/ALTOONA

The 2019 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community Johnstown/Altoona will be held



Registration for the 2019 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community will open on Friday, February 1, 2019, at noon.

The Walk will benefit 14 health and human service organizations including the Johnstown SVDP Food for Families.

The 2018 Johnstown/Altoona Walk for a Healthy Community raised a total of \$55,982 for all the organizations that participated.