



“In the fall of 2011, Polly, one of the female inmates from my Wednesday evening group, approached me and asked what kind of animals I like. She wanted to do a sketch for me as a thank you/memento of our time spent together on Wednesdays. I suggested an eagle, and reached my arms out wide to symbolize the beauty and majesty of an eagle soaring through the air. The following Wednesday, Polly humbly presented me with an 8 1/2 x 11" sketch of the eagle (shown left.) The other inmates shared with me that she had spent two days crushing and blending the lead from her meager supply of colored pencils and had sketched the eagle from her mind's eye. There were no prints to inspire or copy from. Polly is now back at home and vigorously at work running her own business and family. She is one who is exudes talent and vitality and is so willing to share with others.”

From Vicki, St. Dismas Volunteer

~Isaiah 40:31

...but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary;
they will walk and not be faint.

For a look into the lives of several female inmates, read *The Women of Block 12* by Linda Pischke, a Vincentian in the St. Dismas Jail Ministry. This compelling book talks about the Jail Ministry of St. Vincent de Paul Waukesha County, and provides personal narratives of eleven inmates. The book offers insights into their troubled lives and will leave you with a feeling of unrest. Website: <http://thewomenofblock12.com/>

PLEASE HELP US HELP OTHERS

Your cash donation helps us to continue this valuable ministry in Waukesha County. Please send your check in the envelope provided or to the St. Vincent de Paul Central Office address below. You can also make a credit card donation by visiting our website.

Because all administrative costs are covered by sales from our Thrift Stores, 100% of all money donated goes directly to help the ministry.

St. Vincent de Paul Society is an international Catholic lay organization serving the needy in 142 countries without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex or national origin. To learn more about St. Vincent de Paul Society of Waukesha County, go to: <http://stvincentwaukesha.org/>

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stvincentwaukesha.org



St. Dismas Jail Ministry

St. Vincent de Paul Society Waukesha County Jail Ministry and After-Care Program

Who Are the People We Help? They are:

- Our sons and daughters
- Our mothers and fathers
- Our aunts or uncles
- Our sisters and brothers
- Our cousins or other relatives
- Our neighbors
- Our co-workers
- Our Friends
- Educated or not
- Alone or with family
- Employed or unemployed
- Of various ages
- Rich or poor
- From all walks of life
- From all ethnic groups

Many have suffered physical or sexual abuse, and many are struggling with drug or alcohol addiction. But for all their differences, they have this in common; they erred and have or are paying their debt and they need our help.

“Believe me, it’s not only the inmates that are incarcerated, but also the family members.”

Robert—St. Dismas Vincentian and father of an incarcerated son.



Waukesha County Jail



“I was in prison and you visited me.”
Matthew 25:36



Think about the men and women who have been or are being released from prison...now what? Many have lost their jobs, their family, their friends, their homes, and their self-esteem. It's easy to turn away thinking 'Oh well, they should have known better'. But the reality is now these men and women need our help more than ever. There are several good reasons to assist these individuals. Economically, it would be best if these individuals become productive members of society as soon as possible. Socially, these men and women need guidance. Spiritually, we provide a time and a place to pray, to enable them to explore their faith and find a place with God.

What the Jail Ministry is All About



Members of St. Vincent de Paul, who are known as Vincentians, come from every ethnic and cultural background, age group, and economic level. Some Vincentians choose to work with the St. Dismas Jail Ministry. This ministry provides support in many ways.

Prison Visitation

The heart of our ministry is 1:1 visits. These visits occur weekly, bi-weekly or as needed, and take place over a two-way video monitor. Families of the incarcerated often contact SVdP because they are unable to visit regularly. St. Dismas Vincentians help these families by making visits. The Vincentians provide a valuable service to those incarcerated, who are often lonely, sad, or despaired and provide a ray of hope through conversation and encouragement. Many times the Vincentians help just by listening.

"With you I'm reminded that I am someone special. I'm worth your time and there is hope. Thank you all!"



Sunday Services

Three Sunday services are provided in the jail for English and Spanish speaking men and a separate women English service. A combined service for men and women is provided on Sundays at the Huber facility. These services allow the inmates a time to read and reflect on the weekly readings and gospels. The application of the readings to their lives is an important time for deep reflection and discussion in the groups.

"Thank you for coming. I am opening my heart to God. You give me hope. I'm learning so much about God."



Project Angel Tree

Christmas gifts are provided to the children of incarcerated individuals. *"They bring happiness and hope in a very needed time to many people. God Bless them."*

Hair Cuts

Volunteer barbers make weekly visits to the jail to provide hair cuts for male inmates. *"Someone does care."*

Reflection-Sharing-Learning

The St. Dismas group conducts four separate group programs in the jail during the month to include traditional Bible study groups for men and women, a group targeted to women with substance abuse issues, and a women's creativity group which involves writing, drawing, drumming and various activities.

"They help me to see the good things about myself that I didn't see. They show me I matter."



Holiday and Special Events

The ministry provides special treats to inmates and officers several times during the year.

"Thanks for the cookies, the candy, and movies! Thanks for the Word of God (we need it)."



St. Dismas Help Desk

The help desk is located in the Council offices at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. Those recently released can obtain bus tickets, track phones, and vouchers for clothing or other necessities.

"The jail ministries have enlightened my life in many ways. It's been my 'light' in a very dark place. Thank you!"



Eye Care Services

A volunteer optometrist visits monthly to provide exams.

Prescription or reading glasses are provided to inmates who cannot afford to purchase them.

"I recently had an eye exam and received some prescription glasses from your organization. I very much appreciate the glasses and excellent service. I will remember you when I am in a position to donate. Thank you."

Written Letters

Volunteers write letters to inmates during their stay at the Waukesha County Jail or if they move on to prison.

"You will never know what it meant to me when I turned around in court and saw you sitting there. You were the only person in court that I knew. I will never forget that. Thank you."



After Care

Inmates have many needs after incarceration. Immediate clothing needs are met as often these men and women are released in winter wearing the summer clothing they were first detained in. They have no phone, money, transportation nor a place to stay. Our volunteers help them to secure housing, seek employment, and begin the process of rebuilding their lives. They are provided with bus tickets, help with resumes, telephone numbers they can use to be contacted by prospective employers along with support and encouragement.

"The ministry coming has given me strength and hope for the future. To live a good life and be the best person I can be."

Women's Aftercare Group

A group of St. Dismas women meet weekly where women ex-offenders are mentored in a Christ centered environment to develop healthy relationships and feel accepted in the community. Activities may include drawing, painting, glamour night, women's health, banking tips, volunteering, dinner, etc. They share fun, snacks and love while learning about God.

"St. Vincent De Paul's jail ministry is great because it makes us feel human and loved! It gives us something positive to look forward to and helps us be productive on the outside. Very grateful!"

The St. Dismas Jail Ministry provides training and 1:1 mentoring to all volunteers. Call NOW to learn more 262-547-2726.