De Paul University Namesake: St. Vincent de Paul
400 Years of Social Service

Edward R. Udovic, C.M., DePaul University

Available at: http://works.bepress.com/edward_udovic/62/
DineWise: Best Neighborhood Hangs

Vincent de Paul: 400 years of service

Prince William writes: ‘Street Papers Inspire Me’
‘Tis the season to spread good cheer. The red and green lights are shining bright on the top of the John Hancock and “Happy Holidays” wishes abound. As a reader of StreetWise, I suspect you spread some of that feeling when you purchased your magazine. Your vendor appreciates your support, now and throughout the year. You may be wondering: what my holiday wish is for our vendors? I’m glad you asked…

I wish that more people would understand what StreetWise is, what it does, and how meaningful their support of a vendor truly is. To achieve this wish, I envision a cadre of dedicated people to make that happen. As the story goes, Santa has his elves and reindeer, StreetWise has you. Bring your StreetWise Magazine to your holiday parties and gatherings. Have them out on your coffee table. Talk to your friends about StreetWise, and why you bought this copy. Tell them something you have come to know about your vendor. Help them to understand that we are here to serve anyone who wants to work toward self-sufficiency. StreetWise offers many supportive services to help them make that happen.

Perhaps the least understood notion is that we are one of only a few programs that accept all people, the first day they come. Most housing programs, schools, jobs training programs, and even shelters have entrance requirements that, frankly, many people can’t meet. Many have waiting lists of many months, or more. Many won’t take felons, the emotionally or mentally ill, people struggling to overcome addiction, or the functionally illiterate. StreetWise is here for these men and women too. For many of our vendors, they simply have few other options besides StreetWise. But because of you, they do have StreetWise.

This year my wish is that each of us will focus some additional energy in being a StreetWise elf, working hard in the workshops of dining rooms, dens, and living rooms to build more people who understand StreetWise. With your help we can manufacture more StreetWise customers and thereby spread your good cheer to more deserving men and women as they work hard to overcome their circumstances. Happy holidays to you, your family, and your vendor.
Joseph Molnar

We are proud to feature the work of vendor Joseph Molnar, who illustrated this week's cover regarding the Salvation Army, where Joseph is currently a resident. This is his second StreetWise cover, (see also Oct 6-12: Breast Cancer).

Your StreetWise Vendor

“Thomas Wells always asks how things are going in my life. When my daughter was recovering from a bike accident he made sure to check in with me each time I visited Walgreens. Thomas noticed when I was having a bad day. He helped me think about how genuinely lucky and blessed I am. He makes me slow down as I rush through life and realize what is really important. Here he is giving my daughter, Maggie, a thumbs up! He deserves multiple thumbs up for all his good work!!”

StreetWise supporter Rosalia Scholle

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Entertainment Spotlight

Jimmy Beckless looks back at his first year as a StreetWise vendor in Hyde Park, and talks about his upcoming career goals.

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The exclusive article below is written by His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales for the Street News Service (SNS). SNS is the news agency of the International Network of Street Papers, which supports 115 street papers in 40 countries. The titles help homeless people around the world to earn a living.

By His Royal Highness Prince William of Wales for the Street News Service

The economic downturn has had a devastating effect on the numbers of homeless rough sleepers in our communities. In London alone, rough sleeping has risen by almost a quarter in just two years, and that figure does not even include those who have been forced out of their homes into temporary accommodation or overcrowded housing.

There are many reasons why someone can find themselves homeless: family breakdown, unemployment, drug or alcohol abuse, or falling on desperately hard times, often through no fault of their own. But the effect of homelessness is the same for everyone: a crushing sense of hopelessness and despair. The emotional consequences for the individual can be utterly devastating – sometimes more so than the stark fact of being homeless.

Charities, churches, governments and other bodies can all help with the basics – a roof under which to shelter from the elements, heating and security – but without hope, an individual cannot rebuild a life. And for there to be people with no hope living right alongside us is surely a blight on our societies.

That is why the work of the restorers of hope—street newspapers [like StreetWise], my own charity Centrepoint and other organisations and individuals who care—so inspire me. They give homeless people the tools with which to rebuild their confidence and, ultimately, their lives.

I have met many homeless young people who are now filled with a passion and desire to achieve in life, simply because they were given a little support at the right time to get back on their feet. These are people of extraordinary courage. There can be a perception that they have given up and lack courage. Let me tell you, they have not and they do not. I count myself enormously privileged to be associated with such individuals. I salute all the organisations that are there for them.

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Prince William: A modern prince

By Peter Griffiths and David Cutle

Prince William is the second-in-line to the British throne. His looks mirror those of his late mother Princess Diana, and he is soon to end his spell as one of the world’s most eligible bachelors.

The elder son of Prince Charles and Diana, William, 28, will marry his long-time girlfriend Kate Middleton on Friday, April 29, 2011 at Westminster Abbey, London, after an on-off courtship that first blossomed at university.

Like his mother, William and his younger brother Harry have been the subject of intense global media scrutiny that has led to several complaints to the press watchdog and pleas for greater privacy.

Many cited intolerable media intrusion as a key factor behind William and Middleton’s brief split in 2007. They met as students at Scotland’s St. Andrews University, where they began studying in 2001.

Middleton, the daughter of middle-class entrepreneurs, had already been hailed as a 21st century princess for a monarchy beset by a series of scandals.

Working prince
William had always said he was in no hurry to walk down the aisle and would wait until he was 28 or 30. He turned 28 in June.

“It’s been pretty clear that he has been mad about her for a long time and she about him,” said royal commentator Penny Junor. “I think the body language has said it all: they are clearly very much in love and it’s very sweet.”

William, who trained as an army officer and now serves as a helicopter search-and-rescue pilot for Britain’s Royal Air Force, is seen by some as the perfect king for a modern age.

He has spoken of his wish to avoid being seen as a royal “ornament” whose primary role is to shake hands and instead wants to work for his country.

William recently visited British troops in Afghanistan and laid a wreath on Sunday, November 14 to honor Britain’s war dead as part of annual remembrance ceremonies across the world.

His emergence into public life at the age of 21 was delicate given his mother’s love-hate relationship with the media. She died in a 1997 car crash after a high-speed chase through the streets of Paris pursued by paparazzi.

Although his looks immediately recall Diana, some say William’s character has been “Windorized” to keep him in line with the royal family’s more traditional view of the behavior expected from members of the House of Windsor.

His love of hunting, which his mother abhorred, and easy relationship with his father seem to bear that out.

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Facts:

William is second in line to the British throne after his father Prince Charles.

EARLY LIFE:
• Born William Arthur Philip Louis on June 21, 1982 at St Mary’s Hospital, Paddington, west London, he is the elder son of heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana.
• After attending Mrs Mynors School, Prince William became a pupil at Wetherby School in London, until 1990 and then Ludgrove School in Berkshire, until 1995. He then attended Eton College. William studied at St Andrews University in Scotland and graduated in Geography in 2005.

HIS MOTHER DIANA:
• Prince William was 15 when Diana, Princess of Wales was killed in a car crash in Paris at the end of August 1997. William and his younger brother Prince Harry walked behind their mother’s cortege at her funeral procession in London.

MILITARY SERVICE:
• William joined the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst as an Officer Cadet and was commissioned as an army officer in front of the Queen at Sandhurst in December 2006 and joined the Household Cavalry (Blues and Royals) as a Second Lieutenant.
• William graduated as a search and rescue Pilot with the Royal Air Force in September 2010.

KATE MIDDLETON:
• William met Kate Middleton at St Andrews University in Scotland, where they both began studying in September 2001. They shared a four-bedroom house in the town and went on several holidays together.
• Many cited intolerable media intrusion as the reason they broke up in 2007, but they soon got back together and will marry in 2011.

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Britain’s Prince William and his fiancée Kate Middleton (L) pose for a photograph in St. James’s Palace, central London in a November 16 file photo. They will marry on Friday, April 29 next year at London’s Westminster Abbey, his office said on November 23.
From the Street

To Cargill: Time to stop polluting the Illinois River

With Illinois EPA under recent federal pressure to improve its faltering factory farm regulatory program, Environment Illinois has released a report examining the role of corporate agribusinesses across the country—including Cargill’s slaughterhouse in Beardsville, IL—in the pollution of America’s waterways like the Great Lakes and Illinois River.

In one of eight national case studies, the report, Corporate Agribusiness and America’s Waterways, examined Cargill’s Beardstown facility, which discharges directly into the Illinois River. It has the capacity to slaughter up to 18,000 head of pigs per day, and—despite decades of evidence that the Illinois River is suffering from nutrient pollution—is intensifying its factory pork farming operations in the area.

According to the U.S. Toxics Release Inventory, Cargill is Illinois’s second-largest industrial discharger of toxic chemicals into waterways and the 13th largest industrial discharger in the US. It dumped over three million pounds of toxic chemicals into the Illinois River during 2008.

“IT’S TIME FOR CARGILL—and other industrial producers—to take responsibility for the massive scale of waste that comes from their hog facilities,” said Max Muller, program director with Environment Illinois. “WE WON’T have clean water in Illinois until they do.”

Virtually all of the plant’s toxic releases were in the form of nitrates, which are produced when wastewater contaminated with blood, feces, or other slaughterhouse waste is discharged into waterways. Nitrate pollution fouls drinking water and contributes to the staggering problem of nutrient pollution in the Illinois River, Mississippi River, and the Gulf of Mexico. Illinois is the leading contributor of the two principle nutrient pollutants—nitrogen and phosphorus—to the Gulf.

One source of that pollution is Illinois’s over 500 large concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Illinois has one of the nation’s highest concentrations of CAFOs, including some that supply Cargill’s slaughterhouses.

Illinois also has the upper Midwest’s least protective factory farm regulatory regime.

“Illinois’s lax laws have made our state a safe-haven for polluters, which create more waste and more problems” said Karen Hudson, a Peoria citizen and Illinois Citizens for Clean Air and Water (ICCAW) member. “My grandkids deserve clean drinking water.”

In September, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a highly critical report that found that Illinois EPA’s factory farm regulation program “does not meet the minimum threshold for an adequate program.” The report highlighted a number of critical shortcomings of the program, including its failure to issue and enforce Clean Water Act permits for the vast majority of the 3,200 factory farms that IEPA estimates require one. The report also cited IEPA’s incomplete factory farm inventory, which includes only 30 percent of Illinois’s 500 large CAFOs, as well as IEPA inadequate response to citizen complaints about factory farm pollution.

On November 1, Illinois EPA responded to the report by committing to a number of significant policy changes which, if implemented, have the potential to significantly reduce factory farm water pollution.

“We are optimistic that these developments will ultimately lead to proper enforcement of the Clean Water Act against factory farms in Illinois,” said Danielle Diamond of ICCAW, who filed the original petition, 2.5 years ago, which prompted U.S. EPA’s report. “It’s a step in right direction, but we definitely still need to see improvement.”
DineWise Greatest Hits part 1:

Neighborhood Hangs We Like

By Lee Barrie and Cindy Kurman Barrie
StreetWise Contributors

What should a great neighborhood hang be like? It should be comfortable, homey, and friendly and serve some darn good food with a unique twist. Here are two spots (and two more next week) we’ve covered before and we thought we’d remind you of them, for they remain true to their vision and are fine places to enjoy good conversation in a friendly, unpretentious atmosphere.

Rockwell’s Neighborhood Grill
4632 N. Rockwell St. Chicago, IL 60625
(773) 509-1871 www.rockwellsgrill.com

The restaurant is woodsy and comfortable: very Chicago. The bar area is great for single diners and beer lovers can enjoy a changing selection of artisan bottled beers.

The restaurant serves up a good variety of casual fare, some with a Southwestern or Cajun flare. Our standbys are the Blackened Fish Tacos and the Carne Asada (skirt steak). We haven’t had better fish tacos anywhere in Chicago—these are not breaded and fried and they’re served with really good taco chips (or you can substitute the hand-cut fries) and a tasty aioli. The very tender, char-broiled Carne Asada is served with Mexican vegetables and guacamole salad. It’s reminiscent of the wonderful creation that was served at the old Hubbard Street Grill—if you ate at HSG, you’ll know what a compliment this is.

Starters include a tasty homemade Chicken Flautas and Texas Toothpicks—strips of lightly battered jalapenos and onions fried and served with homemade ranch dressing. If you’re in a comfort food mood, try the hand-cut Cheddar Fries with Wisconsin cheddar, bacon, chives and jalapenos.

Sandwiches are standouts. Red meat lovers will enjoy the big and juicy half-pound Angus beef burgers and the French Dip sandwich. On the lighter side, the Hot Smoked Turkey Hoagie, Grilled or Blackened Chicken Sandwich, BBQ Chicken Sandwich and a nicely prepared Veggie Burger will definitely hit the spot.

Entrées include the fish tacos and the Carne Asada mentioned above, plus a Sage-rubbed Grilled or Blackened Pork Chop, Chicken Monterrey (chicken breast topped with grilled green peppers, onions and melted jack cheese), Fajitas (beef, chicken or veggie) and a nice lemon-peppered, Teriyaki Glazed or Blackened Salmon Filet.

Frasca Pizzeria and Wine Bar
3358 N. Paulina St. Chicago, IL 60657
(773) 248-5222 www.frascapizzeria.com

Frasca continues Chicago’s welcome trend of offering authentic wood-fired pizza in a variety of creative flavor combinations. But more than that, Frasca’s menu offers quite a variety of other Italian dishes. Sharing is a good thing here.

The front of the restaurant is designed as a wine bar, with high-top tables and booths, serving the complete menu. The back sections offer booths and table seating in a more traditional restaurant style. The menu is the same either way.

Appetizers include the Frasca Fondue, made with Italian Fontina and Reggiano cheeses and served with apples, toasted bread and sopressata. We also like the Wild Mushroom Risotto Fritters, served with a Reggiano Crema. If you want just a taste of the crispy pizza crust, try the Pizza Bianca, fresh baked pizza crust with sea salt and olive oil. On a slightly lighter note are the Chorizo Stuffed Dates wrapped in bacon and the Prosciutto Wrapped Fontina with arugula salad and balsamic.

Salad selections are nicely conceived and very fresh. The Frasca Caprese salad is different, using oven dried tomatoes rather than fresh ones, and it’s very good, served with fresh mozzarella, basil and aged balsamic. Other nice choices include the Wild Arugula and Fresh Spinach Salad, served with bacon, shaved apples and bleu cheese, and the Infamous Wrightwood Salad: field greens, chicken, tomatoes, raisins, avocado, corn, almonds and fresh goat cheese.

The pizzas have a thin, crispy crust and very interesting toppings. We have a few favorites, but all are good. We almost always order the Shrimp and Bacon, a “white” pizza made with Bechamel sauce, mozzarella, wood fired onions, and a drizzling of extra virgin olive oil. Another nice choice is the Rustica, with diced prosciutto, oven dried tomatoes, mozzarella, and basil pesto. You can also build your own pizza from a long list of topping choices.

For pasta dishes, we like Pappardelle Roasted Chicken, fresh herbs in a light chicken broth, topped with garlic-herb goat cheese, the House-made Gnocchi, potato dumplings with pancetta, wild mushrooms and asparagus in an herbed chicken broth and the Rigatoni, sautéed with fennel sausage, spring peas in a light tomato cream sauce.

For the non-pasta entrees, we enjoy the Wood Roasted Chicken, a half-chicken served with fingerling potatoes and asparagus, and the Reggiano Crusted Mahi with an herb parmesan crust over roasted asparagus with oven dried tomatoes and a light lemon butter sauce, garnished with fresh basil.

The wine list is exceptional, featuring many wines by the tasting or glass. The Dunlays know their wine very well and they offer a variety of wine flights and pairings. They are more than happy to help you pick out a perfect complement to your meal and, if you just want to savor some appetizers while enjoying a bottle or flight of wine, that’s okay, too.
WEDNESDAY (Dec 22)
Santa Claus is coming to town... and he’s taking the CTA Yellow line to get here. All this week, as you ride public transportation between 3 and 7 p.m., keep your eyes peeled for a jolly old man in a red suit and small people who look like elves, Kris Kringle himself will be train-hopping, passing out candy canes to all the good little boys and girls of Chicago.

THURSDAY (December 23)
Don’t miss The Joffrey Ballet of Chicago and the Chicago Sinfonietta Orchestra perform Tchaikovsky’s classic Christmas ballet, The Nutcracker. 2 p.m. $25-$145. Not for kids under age 5.
For more info: 312-922-2110. Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Pkwy. Shows also Fri. Dec 23 at 7 p.m. and Sat. & Mon. Dec. 24/26 at 2 p.m.

FRIDAY (December 24)
Do you want to do something different for Christmas Eve? Join in the Chicago Critical Mass Monthly Bike Ride, which kicks off at Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington, starting at 5:30 p.m. every last Friday of the month. Free. For more info visit www.chicagocriticalmass.org or call 773-710-4143.

SUNDAY (December 26)
Enjoy Victory Garden’s rendition of the holiday classic It’s a Wonderful Life. A live radio-style performance of Frank Capra’s holiday masterpiece on stage at the Biograph Theater. Complete with live sound effects and an original score, it’s a Wonderful Life recreates a 1940s-era radio broadcast of this heartwarming tale of troubled George Bailey’s Christmas Eve journey through his life history. 3 & 6 p.m. $32 - $40. Victory Gardens is located at 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. Through December 31.
For more info call 773-871-3000 or visit www.victorygardens.org.

Get out of the house and catch Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Ensemble members Tracy Letts and Amy Morton star as one of theater’s most dysfunctional couples in Edward Albee’s classic drama, directed by Pam MacKinnon. 3 p.m. $20-$73; For more info call 312-335-1650 or visit www.steppenwolf.org. Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? runs through February 13 at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, 1650 N. Halsted St.

JIM HENSON’S FANTASTIC WORLD
Jim Henson’s Fantastic World, an exhibition from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, is hosted by the Museum of Science and Industry, 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, through Jan. 23.

Documenting Henson’s process of “visual thinking,” guests will experience more than 130 original artworks created by Henson himself, including drawings, cartoons, storyboards, television and movie props, photographs of Henson and his collaborators at work, original video productions and experimental films from his early career. Also showcased are some of his beloved puppets including Kermit the Frog, Rowlf, Bert and Ernie, puppets from the 1982 film The Dark Crystal, and Cantus and Gobo from the award-winning television series Fraggle Rock.

As a treat for guests, Miss Piggy from Muppets Take Manhattan will make a special debut, added to the exhibit for the Chicago stop only! Also, offered exclusively at MSI, younger guests will love to express their inventiveness through a series of fun and original hands-on activities developed just for MSI guests, including:

Puppet Theater—Create, direct and stage your own puppet show! Navy Stage—Learn the science behind sound effects and create your own soundtrack for The Muppet Movie.

Create-a-Character—On a large felt wall, choose from a fun selection of features—eyes, ears, mouths, noses, clothing, etc.—to see how much character you can infuse into your personalized character.

Storyboarding—Try your hand at creating your own story for your character, documenting the action through a series of storyboards.

For more info visit www.msmithicago.org.
St. Vincent de Paul

DePaul University Namesake

400 Years of Social Service

Vincent blesses his works in this Spanish painting.

Article photos courtesy of http://stvincentimages.cdm.depaul.edu
service and staying power are goals for nonprofits. In 17th century France, Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac created a response to the most destitute and disadvantaged of their society that 350 years after their deaths is still present in the form of major Chicago institutions, and that still inspires Chicagoans to give service.

Vincent and Louise lived in times as challenging as today. It was the Counter Reformation and France was at war Vincent’s entire life: foreign wars, religious wars, civil war, many fought on French soil. As a result, farmers who could have been self-sustaining were reduced to poverty because their farms had become battlefields, their crops were pillaged, or their fields were unplanted.

Inability to pay taxes caused many farmers to abandon their farms for the city. Early urbanization, however, put them at the bottom of a new class structure, along with prostitutes and pimps, demobilized soldiers, ex-prisoners and war refugees. At the top of this society were artisans in building and clothing trades that catered to the nobility. Next came painters, musicians, civil servants, law and business professionals, then lesser service industries such as cooks, stable keepers and messengers.

“The modern state created modern poverty,” said the Rev. Ed Udovic, C.M. PhD, senior executive for university mission at DePaul University and associate professor of history. “Society and the Church didn’t quite understand what was happening. But Vincent did and could come up with effective means for addressing it.”

Reaching out to those most in need
Vincent developed parish-based missions throughout France that ministered to the poor and the sick in small hospitals. Funding came from free will offerings but also small flocks of sheep or goats that provided wool, meat and milk, managed according to Vincent’s regular reporting guidelines. The inspiration came after he preached about a family whose members were all sick – and watched his congregation rush to help them.

When the priest Vincent started the religious order known as the Congregation of the Mission, he was equally adamant that its outposts be adequately capitalized to provide members’ food, clothing and travel expenses. “We, who do not take anything from the poor, need revenue.”

Simultaneously, he eschewed upholstered furniture and gilded books.

An effective community organizer
The Catholic Church conferred sainthood on Vincent dePaul and Louise de Marillac, but William Hay says Vincent deserves another title: management guru.

“Stephen Covey, who wrote the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and Principle-Centered Leadership, could have been writing about Vincent,” Hay said, calling him values-driven, community-centered, pragmatic.

Hay is the founder of William E. Hay & Co., which consults with leaders in manufacturing, service and not-for-profit sectors on senior executive selection, organization design, strategy and structure. He also is former board president of the Boys and Girls Club of Chicago Eisenberg unit, active with Mercy Home for Boys and Girls and a board member of the Hope Institute for Children & Families in Springfield.

Vincent’s life changed when he heard the confession of a dying man and realized the need for better outreach by clergy. Then, he traveled France and saw the struggles of marginalized people.

Either Louise or the wife of his nobleman benefactor accompanied him on many of these trips. Their question was always, “What must be done?”

As they took action, Vincent added the response, “It is not enough to do good in our society, it must be done well.”

“I use that quote all the time now, too,” said Hay, who obtained his master’s in business administration at DePaul, teaches in its business school and serves on its board of trustees.

Preserving Vincent’s ideas
It was over dinner one evening with his wife, Mary Pat Gannon Hay, as well as former DePaul University President John P. Minogue, C.M. and the Rev. J Patrick Murphy, C.M., dean of the DePaul school for public service administration, that the idea for Vincent on Leadership: The Hay Project was born. Sustainability – but also succession planning – were the concern.

“There just aren’t enough Vincentian priests anymore,” Hay said of the Congregation of the Mission. “As a result, our leadership succession pool at DePaul is shrinking.”

Hay reviewed a proposal from Minogue and the couple gave $1 million to fund the Hay Project, which seeks to codify and transmit Vincent’s values. The Project works toward this goal through research and publications, networks and collaboration, education and training, both in person and for online students as far away as Kenya and the Philippines.

Mike Frigo has worked for two of the world’s largest accounting firms and teaches graduate level non-profit finance at DePaul’s School of Public Service. He refers to a non-profit as a ‘business’ that has a different goal than a for-profit business.

“The non-profit needs to adhere to their mission and have some money left over at the end of the year to use for the future. So I would say that St. Vincent was very talented in running his non-profit businesses,” added Frigo. He is also vice president of Cedarlake Village, a moderate-income senior housing development and v.p. of Mayslake Village, 600 units of Catholic-spon-
sored housing for low-income seniors.

Frigo’s students are amazed that Vincent managed without modern conveniences such as the telephone, internet, Fed Ex or airplanes, instead corresponding by letters that took weeks or months to get between parties.

“It makes me realize how much things haven’t changed in terms of borrowing money, balancing budgets, obtaining donations, keeping constituents happy and dealing with various stakeholders,” Frigo said.

“Many of the good things he did and things he struggled with, we struggle with too. There’s very little change in the fundamentals of the struggles and triumphs of nonprofit organizations or how difficult money was to come by—when there was a poor crop how hard to ask for donations because the donors had suffered difficult times.”

Vincent received income from government bonds and from coach lines that carried passengers and freight. However, King Louis XIV sometimes reduced the rate of return or simply defaulted to meet his own debts—a situation familiar to Illinois nonprofits today.

New documentary marks 350 year milestone

Udovic has also achieved a lifetime goal in time for the 350th anniversary milestone. He was scriptwriter and executive producer for Vincent de Paul: Charity’s Saint, which has been screened at three international film festivals.

One highlight in the documentary is the role of Ladies of Charity, (noblewomen who raised alms) and Louise, who founded the Daughters of Charity. This religious community differed from cloistered nuns of the period in that it brought average single women out to work among the poor.

Leading through a life of service

“Vincent was able to press the role of women and demonstrate that women’s service and leadership was needed and could be provided without disrupting the social and leadership fabric,” Udovic added. Although Vincent and Louise faced initial opposition, “nothing succeeds like success.”

Vincent was a realist, but also pragmatic, Udovic said.

As an example, Udovic cited Vincent’s work with slaves on French galley ships, a punishment for various crimes. “Vincent could have been a crusader, but he acted within the limits of what he could do and demanded [the slaves’] right to be fed, to medical treatment and to religious care. Whatever their offense, the state’s punishment can never violate their humanity.”

Vincent also knew that service was most effective when it was personal—people served not as strangers but as brothers and sisters. They were never labeled as poor, Udovic said.

Thomas Drexler relates to Vincent’s directive to “love our neighbor as being made in the image of God and as an object of His love.”

Drexler was at DePaul for 10 years, in community service and the Office of Mission and Values. He is now executive director of the Ignatian Spirituality Project, which provides overnight spiritual enrichment to men and women who are homeless and in recovery. Ignatian retreats allow homeless people to express painful aspects of their lives to another person, so the issues no longer have power over them, Drexler said.

“In the sharing of their story we find the commonalities, both the highs and the lows,” Drexler added. “Eventually we come to recognize God in both.” Just as in a human friendship, the homeless person learns to talk to God, to vent anger and to make up.

Vincent’s question, “what must be done?” amounted to triage, Udovic said. “Feed them if they are hungry, heal them if they are sick.” The bigger question then became, “why are there so many and what can you do to reduce it?”

After 30 years doing international development work, Michael Diamond says Vincent had the right answer—ahead of his time. “He believed from the very beginning that restoring people’s health led to increased economic activity. The usual paradigm [of the World Bank] is that by creating a better economic climate, people’s health will improve.”

> de Paul continued on pg 12
Vincent's impact on Chicago

By Suzanne Hanney
Editor-in-Chief

Having ministered to the poor of 17th century France, the immigrants of 19th century Illinois were a natural mission for Vincent de Paul’s successors, the Vincentian order of priests.

“The Vincentians came to the United States because it was new territory and one thing that was needed was education — higher education especially,” said Rev. Edward Udovic, C.M. PhD., DePaul University’s senior executive for University Mission and associate professor of history.

The area that is now DePaul University’s Lincoln Park campus was farmland in 1875 when the Vincentians were invited to start St. Vincent’s parish at Webster and Kenmore. By 1898 the order had also opened St. Vincent’s College — chartered as DePaul University in 1909.

“For me the important point of DePaul’s identity is that in the beginning American education defined itself by what it excluded: women, racial minorities, first generation college students,” Udovic said. “DePaul has always defined itself by how it can include rather than exclude.”

Udovic continued, “The problem with American higher education today is that in many aspects it still defines itself by how to exclude students while DePaul is always trying to define itself by how it can include students, especially students who come from underprepared, underrepresented educational populations such as first generation college students or immigrants. At the same time we offer an education which appeals to the best and the brightest and the wealthiest.”

The U.S. Dept. of Education ranked DePaul among the top 100 universities for granting degrees to minority students. It has formed a School of New Learning for adult education, and with Mundelein College and Loyola University, an “Hispanic Alliance” to improve their educational opportunities.

DePaul was once known as “the seminary under the El,” said Bill Hay, but it grew to become the largest Catholic university in the U.S. and the nation’s 9th largest private university by cultivating Vincent’s values of risk taking and innovation. Hay is a member of the DePaul board of trustees who also funded Vincent on Leadership: The Hay Project, centered on preserving those values.

“DePaul has always take the conservative route,” Hay said. “We knew if we were going to accomplish something, we would have to take risks. We took risks on real estate and bought property in the Lincoln Park area and suburban Naperville, O’Hare and elsewhere in the last 10 to 15 years.”

Dorms, a quadrangle, a $25 million library, $25 million student center and $40 million science building were all built on the Lincoln Park campus.

Downtown, the university acquired the Goldblatts’ department store building and constructed a dorm with Roosevelt University and Columbia College.

Hay termed the university innovative for its approach to distance learning and its top-ranked school of entrepreneurship, according to U.S. News & World Report.

“We’re the No. 3 school of music in the U.S. and one of the top theatre schools, second only to Yale,” Hay continued. “I think that’s pretty innovative. If a student applies to DePaul he is probably applying to Yale as well.” In 1978 DePaul acquired the Goodman School of Drama, which had been part of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Vincentian activities in Chicago also include two agencies started by the Daughters of Charity in the second decade of the 20th century: St. Vincent de Paul Center at 2145 N. Halsted and Marillac Social Center on the West Side.

St. Vincent Center originated to provide childcare for neighborhood working mothers and is now one of the state’s largest single site nonprofit day care centers. It provided resources during the Depression to keep families together and more recently, outreach to homeless people and low-income homebound seniors.

Marillac Social Center offers childcare and early childhood education, teen mentoring, help to pregnant and parenting teens, family support, and assistance to seniors. It belongs to the United Way West Side Collaborative, which is helping uninsured people determine health goals, medical homes and primary care physicians.
The year 2010 marks the 350th anniversary of the deaths of Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac, two extraordinary individuals who formed a remarkable partnership in 17th Century France to assist abandoned children, prisoners, victims of war and plague, the elderly, and housebound. The institutions they established spread throughout the world, becoming precursors of today’s social services.

History captures the significance of Vincent de Paul’s leadership and vision in this work. During the French Revolution, more than 120 years after Vincent’s death, rioting mobs broke into the Pantheon, an enormous church atop Sainte-Genevieve hill in Paris. They smashed all the religious statues but one. They could not bring themselves to deface the image of “Monsieur Vincent,” knowing well the stories of how much good he had done to uphold the dignity of the poor.

Born in 1581 into a farming family in Pouy, France, Vincent had relatives among the local nobility. His rural origins helped him transcend traditional class boundaries, for he moved among peasants and royalty alike with warmth and ease. Through family connections, Vincent was ordained a Catholic priest at 19, a path he originally chose for social advancement and monetary gain. His transformation to an advocate for the poor came gradually. Assigned as a tutor to a wealthy family, he began to visit the poor tenants on their estate. In 1617, after hearing the confession of a dying man, Vincent decided to address the lack of trained priests to serve the needs of the country people. It was nearly a decade before his desire to meet this need would result in establishment of the Congregation of the Mission, or Vincentian priests, founders of DePaul University in Chicago.

During the intervening years, Vincent organized women from affluent families into the Confraternities of Charity. Eventually, Vincent and Louise recruited young peasant women to provide direct services to the poor. Louise trained these women to care for abandoned children, the sick in local hospitals, and imprisoned galley slaves. Together, she and Vincent organized a home where unemployed elderly could help support themselves through craft work. Soon, Louise was sending women to establish schools in rural villages. Under Louise’s direction, and with Vincent’s help, these women formally organized as the Daughters of Charity, who, over the centuries, established hospitals, schools and other social service agencies on five continents.

In 1833, a young Parisian college student named Frederic Ozanam was inspired by the legacy of Vincent de Paul that he witnessed in Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity. Ozanam founded the St. Vincent de Paul Society, through which he and his friends offered aid to the poor. It became the largest Catholic charity in the world, with a million members serving worldwide.
Dear Eugene,

There seems to be a big dust-up this year over saying “Merry Christmas” versus “Happy Holidays.” Which one do you say?

-Confused Caroler

Dear Confused,

You can’t win this one. No matter what you say, you’re going to irritate somebody when all you’re trying to do is say, ‘it’s really cold and dark but let’s be in a fantastic loving mood anyway despite all the logical reasons not to be!’ I actually say both alternatively because I don’t really care (and there are so many other real things to worry about).

People who are scared that “Merry Christmas” is going by the wayside need to hope there’s a shiny new sense of humor waiting for them under the tree this year. It’s tough to forget that Christmas is the loudest, flashiest, most-celebrated event in the country yet again (seriously, is anyone surprised by this)? People who actually worry that there’s a “war on Christmas” are just making their season more special by adding that spicy little xenophobic sense of danger.

I’m quite amused by it all: Christmas is the one time a year you get to hear “news show consultants” talk on a national level about fear of pagans with a straight face. When was the last time pagans did anything? Pretend pagans can’t even put on a decent Renaissance Fair let alone perform an organized takedown of the most culturally loved, best-financed holiday the world has ever known.

Send Eugene your questions at 1201 W. Lake, Chicago, IL 60607 or email him @ supreme_eugene@yahoo.com

check out vendor web pages!
pmaeveryday.com/gcole

The Playground

Sudoku

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Last Week’s Answers

Need to post a legal notice or a classified ad? Contact us at advertising@streetwise.org or 312.829.2526.
Deadline: must submit text 3 Mondays prior to desired publication date.
StreetWise publishes every Wednesday
See someone panhandling, out of work, or in need? Cut this flyer out and pass it along!

Meet Jimmy Beckless

Jimmy Beckless came to StreetWise one year ago, and his life has already seen a marked improvement. At the start of 2010 Jimmy had been panhandling in Hyde Park when his friend, StreetWise vendor Troy Dixon EL, told him how much better his life could be if he sold magazines instead. Now Jimmy can look at a successful year of hard work where he built up a loyal customer base, secured a better living environment for his family, and starting down the road toward owning his own business. Not bad for one year’s work.

“I get there early. I usually work from 7-11 Monday through Saturday (never on Sunday—a family day) at 1500 E. 53rd St. People come in and I greet them and tell them good morning. My customers are very nice to me and my family. They are very respectful, and they love my son, who’s four right now.” Jimmy pauses to laugh, “He’s a tor-na-do.”

“I’ve seen a great change in my life this year. I’ve been able to get a car this year—not a new car—a ‘97 station wagon. But it’s able to get me and my family around. We have a new apartment, moving from 68th and Paxton over to 7500 N. Hoyne, moving from a two bedroom to a three bedroom.”

It was a big move for Jimmy and his family. “I have enjoyed taking my family to the parks and the Bryn Mawr beach to play and have picnics. It’s great, the kids get to run around, and there are people of all different nationalities… Things are definitely looking up.”

Although this year has brought a lot of improvement, Jimmy has his sights on something bigger: his own business. “I want to open up a car detail shop. Right now I’m looking at a few different places to put it, and hopefully that will come through for me pretty soon. I have to save up a little bit more money to invest in my shop but I have all my supplies I need to detail with. Right now I just am waiting for the right property. I would like it to be close to the Hyde Park area.

“I’m just trying to move my life on, and get off the corner. Once I get my stop up and going I’ll still support StreetWise, because they’ve been a big help to me when I’ve needed it.

“I’ll be 55 on the 28th of this month (November), and I’ve been lucky. I’m having fun. I hope I’m at StreetWise a little while longer. My wife, my son, my step-daughter live with us, and her son, who’s 9-months-old. They’re living with us for a while until they’re able to get their own place again. They are very sweet, and help me out the best that they can.”

To customers he would like to say, “Thank you very much. This holiday, I’ll be traveling to St. Louis to spend a couple days with my mom before Christmas, but I’ll be back in town for Christmas.”
Have you ever wished for...

- A social network of support & guidance?
- A roof over your head?
- A better life?
- A second chance?
- A warm meal?

Help wishes come true for the many vendors at StreetWise!

At StreetWise, we are ‘More than a Magazine’ and you can help us make a difference in the lives of those looking for a second chance to self sufficiency with dignity.

Check a box for your chosen contribution

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  Donation Amount: $____________
  Help our vendors stay warm in the winter months selling the magazine while promoting the StreetWise name and identifying legitimate vendors.

☐ Social Services
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  Help to train & support our vendors with a variety of social services.

☐ Housing
  Donation Amount: $____________
  Help vendors establish permanent housing at a local YMCA or Apartment. Your contribution will help to pay for a security deposit, first month’s rent and furniture.

Visit us online at www.streetwise.org or call 312.928.2528.

☐ Yes, I would like a tax letter for my contribution sent back to me. Send to: Name, Address (required), Phone number & E-mail (optional)

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