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***KeySource's partner, the St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy,
continues to serve through the pandemic***

Amidst today's times, with COVID-19 and its impact on the health care community, the St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy (SVDP) continues to serve the underserved with the help of donations from valued partners like generic pharmaceutical supplier KeySource. The charitable pharmacy has developed a curbside model for employees at its headquarters, in the Neyer Outreach Center, to limit direct contact while still meeting medication needs. Prescription pickup is usually coordinated by phone. Once prescriptions are filled and ready, they are carried from the dispensary and delivered from a side door, offering consults to the patients when necessary.

Pharmacy director and founder, Mike Espel, RPh, says that pharmacy students have helped to keep the SVDP Charitable Pharmacy operational during this time when the organization has had to limit volunteers. Espel is the individual who initiated the partnership between the charitable pharmacy and KeySource in 2006. He has worked in underserved care for 46 years, first at the Cincinnati Health Department and later with the charitable pharmacy "What drives this place is not only the employees but also students and volunteers. All of our pharmacy students are still here," he says, adding that they've actually received much-needed help from additional pharmacy students who were displaced from other positions during this time. The charitable pharmacy usually has 18 regular volunteers, but students are filling many of the staff and volunteer roles that are vacant due to current restrictions, while practicing guidelines for social distancing and safety.

"It's imperative that we have the students. It's also imperative that the students receive the training because when they graduate, they have to complete a certain number of hours of practical experience," Espel says. He also adds that it's been an important lesson for the pharmacy students. "It shows students that pharmacists are part of the front line. These students are getting the experience of a lifetime right now."

Espel adds that the charitable pharmacy's services have become even more important with the financial impact and loss of health insurance due to COVID-19, and KeySource's monthly donation of \$7,500 in medicines continues to help meet that increased demand. "We have gone from an average of 30 new patients a month to 86 new patients in March and 82 in April," Espel says. The SVDP Charitable Pharmacy has also added a short-term nurse practitioner to offer telehealth services in response to needs from many of their patients who have been displaced from their primary care due to the pandemic. This addition has been so successful that the charitable pharmacy hopes to acquire a grant to continue this telemedicine service.

Grateful that their expanded facilities and committed staff have allowed them to stay open during these times, Espel says that the charitable pharmacy will slowly transition back to normal operations as they are able. But he knows the important role the SVDP Charitable Pharmacy is playing. "Right now, it's more important than ever for the underserved to receive the medication they need."

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About KeySource

KeySource offers a complete line of generic pharmaceutical products purchased directly from the leading manufacturers in the United States. The Company is headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio and also maintains a sales office in Niagara Falls, New York. KeySource is a member of the Healthcare Distribution Alliance (HDA) and the National Association of Specialty Pharmacy (NASP) as well as the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) and the National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS).