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***KeySource plays a key role with Cincinnati-based charitable pharmacy***  
*It's a story of partnership, collaboration and community-driven by a commitment to give back*

Since 2006, St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy has been meeting the needs of the uninsured and underinsured in the Cincinnati area with the help of valued partner and generic pharmaceutical supplier, KeySource. The St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy (SVDP) fills prescriptions at no charge for individuals in need throughout Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont counties in Ohio. To date, the charitable pharmacy has filled more than 500,000 prescriptions, representing more than \$65 million in value.

"The reason we are able to do what we do is because 86% of our prescriptions are filled using donated medicine—and KeySource plays the key role in that," explains SVDP Pharmacy's director and founder, Mike Espel, RPh. "KeySource is, by far, the leader in supplying the donated medication we need to fill the prescriptions."

Todd Szewc, COO at KeySource says, "At KeySource, giving back to the community is an integral part of our values. It embodies who we are as an organization, and the St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy gives us an opportunity to truly assist those in need."

The SVDP Charitable Pharmacy is headquartered at the new Don and Phyllis Neyer Outreach Center in Cincinnati but also operates a satellite charitable pharmacy location in the SVDP Thrift Store in the Western Hills community of Cincinnati.

"We are a last-resort pharmacy, specifically serving the working poor and underserved," explains Espel. "The assumption is that SVDP also helps people who are homeless. However, the city's health department is designed to serve people who are homeless." Espel understands those needs, having previously worked 32 years with the Cincinnati Health Department as a pharmacist and director of the city's six outpatient pharmacies.

"The SVDP Pharmacy takes care of the poor, but they are not homeless. Half are from the inner city, but the other half are from the suburbs," Espel clarifies. "We help grandma and grandpa—people you would never think need prescription assistance, but do. Prescriptions are expensive for everybody. It's the working poor. It's the unemployed or uninsured. It's the residents of drug rehab programs. It's actually those whose living expenses equal or exceed their income who get help from us." To qualify for the charitable pharmacy's services, individuals bring in documentation to verify their income and monthly living expenses.

**KeySource: A history of helping**

When the SVDP Charitable Pharmacy began in 2006, KeySource was one of its first partners. "I can't tell you how grateful I am for everything that KeySource has provided, from the very first moment of opening up here," Espel says. "They gave me the confidence to move forward. They were truly instrumental in the early success of this charitable pharmacy program."

KeySource actually initiated the collaboration, Espel explains. Shortly after the charitable pharmacy opened, Espel received a call from KeySource. Knowing it was a generic pharmaceutical distributor, he braced for a sales call. Instead, he discovered that KeySource wanted to begin a monthly \$500 donation of medication from their catalog. "I was astounded!" Espel says, adding it was particularly helpful during the start-up stage when he was working with nothing. With KeySource's help, the charitable pharmacy filled more than 7,000 prescriptions in 2007. But the generosity didn't stop there.

**As need has increased so has KeySource's commitment**

As the charitable pharmacy's needs increased, KeySource boosted its monthly donation, according to Espel. "Anytime I didn't know where else to turn, KeySource would answer the call," he says. "I really don't know where the program would be without the consistent, faithful help of KeySource all along the way."

***"KeySource has always been a consistent partner to St. Vincent de Paul and, by extension, a partner to the community that our charitable pharmacy serves."***

Over time, KeySource's giving increased to donating \$4,000 worth of supplies a month. With help from KeySource and others, in 2019 alone, the charitable pharmacy filled more than 66,000 prescriptions valued at \$10 million in medications, according to Espel. "That was a new record—11% more than the year before." When Espel recently shared concerns about upcoming increased expenses, including the need for more inhalers, KeySource responded by increasing its support from \$4,000 to \$7,500 a month.

Once again, Espel and the charitable pharmacy leaders were overwhelmed by the generosity and support. "KeySource feels the need to give back," Espel says. "It has been a fantastic blessing for us throughout the years. We have taken their gifts and used them wisely and judiciously to create positive health outcomes in the underserved of Southwest Ohio.

In addition to KeySource, several area physicians' offices, the Ohio Drug Repository program and some international organizations donate medication as well. The charitable pharmacy also receives donations through manufacturer assistance.

"We need a lot of financial support as well in order to make this work," Espel explains. "It is about a \$900,000 program annually." Most of this money is raised through grants and private donations, according to Espel. Hamilton County donates a significant portion through the Indigent Care Levy and Hamilton County Block Link (HCBG). Espel and his team leverage the funding to create \$12 of medication assistance for every dollar donated.

KeySource is honored to be a part of SVDP Pharmacy's success. In 2020, SVDP Charitable Pharmacy reached a major milestone by filling its 500,000<sup>th</sup> prescription, which was made possible by KeySource's consistent and generous contributions.

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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).