

# The Claver Chronicle



Vincentian Students Visit Claver House Over Spring Break

## Claver House Launches Newsletter “The Claver Chronicle”

We are proud to launch the first edition of *The Claver Chronicle*, updating you and yours four (!) times a year with news and announcements from Claver House. For our new friends, a little bit about us: For more than 25 years, Claver House has been a resource hub in the heart of the Ville, creating a space where neighbors, residents, and volunteers come together in solidarity and hope. Our mission is rooted in building and empowering the community at large, plus creating opportunities for young people to learn and thrive through programs like Operation Read and Feed, Science Saturdays, and Summer Camp. Through connection, service, and shared purpose, Claver House continues working toward a stronger, more supported, and more vibrant North St. Louis. -Bridgette Duffield

## Sharing our Mealtime

CH has three approaches through which our generous donors and volunteers can enrich the food supply for our neighbors: twice monthly Saturday food tables, homemade casserole deliveries each Thursday, and snacks made available for students at Hickey Elementary and Sumner High. We also provide hygiene and cleaning products, most appreciated because of their cost.

Our annual report provides metrics, but perhaps the most important is that we (as in you and us) provide loving encounters to over 100

individuals/households each month. Your generous gifts and personal presence are greatly appreciated, and because of you Claver House is a trusted friend. Our long term relationship engenders trust and we have been able to link nine of our neighbors to more intensive services provided by Catholic Charities and the United Way.

A recent special grant from Catholic Charities enables us to reach out to Sumner High School families impacted by the 2025 tornado. The staff there have been very supportive of our outreach efforts.

During the cold spell our Saturday tables were set up inside and

attendance was lower, but with Spring at hand we are back in the community garden and expect to see some old friends reappear. We are also seeking suggestions on how to improve all food programs so please let us know if you can help or have suggestions! (moorej59@gmail.com). -Jim Moore



Volunteers at a Saturday distribution

## Family Night at Sumner High School

On March 12th Sumner High School held a Family Night. Claver House was invited, and we arrived with pizza and soft drinks. While the crowd was small, we met a number of families, and talked about the Claver House programs, focusing on the Summer Camp and our Saturday programs. It was a very nice afternoon, and we were able to connect with interested parents.

Although Sumner is a high school, our focus is on both its students and their younger siblings. Several families expressed

interest in the Summer Camp and our Saturday programs. We were pleased to be there. We have been working with Sumner for several years, providing snack foods and personal care items throughout the school year. We are also working with the students at Hickey Elementary School. A key part of our mission has long been to help students in the neighborhood as well as students who attend these schools and live elsewhere.

Last year Sumner held a field day at their athletic field, and once again we were there with food and drink. I am not sure what will happen this year because the Sumner campus was damaged by the tornadoes last May, but if there is a field day - Claver House will again be there.

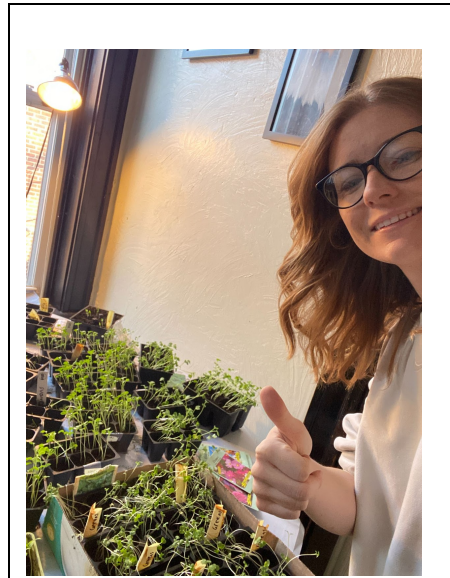
We have developed a collaborative partnership, and we are providing needed items and opportunities for the students. -Bob Marshak



Steve and Niki at Sumner High

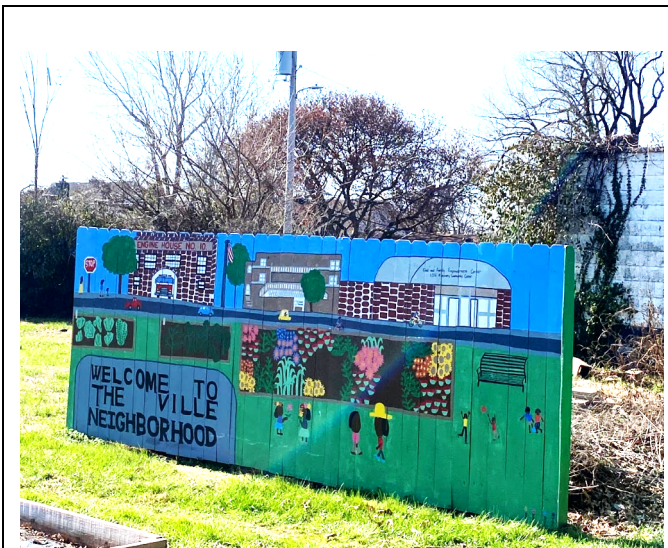
## Community Garden Report

Claver House Garden is a community garden and outdoor learning center that teaches health, nutrition, food justice, gardening, and sustainability. It is a source of free, healthy food in a near food desert area; and its perennial flowers and green space beautify the neighborhood. It also offers a comfy space for neighborhood residents and volunteers from across the area to get to know each other. This February volunteers began growing tomato, lettuce, collard, and other seedling varieties at their homes. April 11 is planting day, then throughout the summer volunteers will weed, water, harvest, and replant. We invite residents and nonresidents alike to join in the fun - and share the fruits of their labor! Visit our website to learn more or to volunteer. -Steve Hutchison



**Bridgette with the garden seedlings**

**Spring Break at Claver House** It was a pleasure to host two groups of Vincentian students this year, from DePaul University and St. John's, both in Queens, New York. Each group stayed a week and gained multiple experiences such as working with DePaul USA, meeting the late Trayvon Brown's family in Ferguson, meeting with local Vincentian priests, a personal tour of Sophie's Artist Lounge, and much more. It renewed a vigor in me to see their service trip slowly transform how they see the world and our neighbors in St. Louis. Some students came from other countries, others as close as Chicago, but I could witness their transformations throughout the week and I believe each left with a greater love for humankind. I have often thought that when you feel as though a group(s) of people as "other" than you all it really takes is to have interpersonal interactions to break that perception. Claver House bridges this gap for local residents and college groups that come throughout the year. Through prayer, service, and interpersonal relationships, the spirit of God is shared. (See cover photo) -Niki Klco



**Claver House Garden Mural**

## The President's Corner w/ Stephen Hutchison

Welcome to our (hopefully quarterly!) newsletter. I hope you find it informative.

Changes are in the air at Claver House. One is that our website has moved to <https://www.claverhousestl.org>.

Our previous (<https://www.revitalization2000.com>) website will be around for a bit but will not be updated. If you try to visit that site, it will either automatically redirect you or instruct you to go to the new website.

Another change is that we have published our first annual report! You can access it and/or download it on the new website. I think you will find it informative.

Also in January we hired Bridgette Duffield as our Administrative Assistant. This is a part-time position, a first step toward increasing our capacity while we secure funding to grow it into a permanent full-time position.

These updates reflect a few of our strategic planning efforts to position our organization for another generation of serving the Ville neighborhood.

What will not change are our primary reliance on volunteers and our being a channel into the Ville for people who wish to make an impact there. It is the generosity of our donors and the labor of love of our volunteers that make Claver House a very special, boots-on-the ground place.

Thank you for all your support!



***“We must speak to them with our hands by giving, before we try to speak to them with our lips.” ~St. Peter Claver***

### Claver House Events

→ **April 11th: Community Garden Planting Day**  
9:30am

→ **Food Distributions are 9:30-11am, 1st and 3rd Saturdays -**

**April 4th  
May 2nd  
June 6th**

**April 16th  
May 16th  
June 20th**

→ **To learn more, go to our website (access using the QR code or URL below)**



***claverhousestl.org***