

First Friday Club of Greater Akron Media Advisory

Contact: Mike Herhold 330-204-4746

Reservations: FFC Office 330-535-7668 or www.firstfridayclubofgreaterakron.org



John Litten, MPA

Executive Director Society of St. Vincent de Paul

April 7, 2017

150 Years of Service, Spirituality and Friendship

John Litten, Executive Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, leads the local human service and welfare organization's efforts to provide emergency assistance to Northeast Ohio's poor. This assistance includes offering food at its multiple food pantries, winter blankets to the homeless, back-to-school supplies to needy children, and financial help with rent and utility bills.

Since joining SVDP in 2012, Litten has significantly expanded its efforts to help the region's needy. Last year, the organization assisted more than 260,000 low-income individuals with nearly \$7 million worth of service provided by over 1,200 volunteer members, called Vincentians.

Mr. Litten spearheaded the Society's acquisition of the region's second-largest food pantry in 2013 after it was threatened with closure. Located in Cleveland's impoverished Central neighborhood, the Woodland Food Pantry now continues to serve approximately 1,000 households monthly. More recently in April 2016, SVDP acquired three more food centers from the Centers for Families and Children. It is estimated that SVDP now feeds at least 15,000 people monthly throughout the Diocese.

Previously, Mr. Litten was director of Camp Christopher in Bath Township, where he departed after facilitating the four most well attended summers in the 90 plus year camp's history. He grew and managed the camp's \$1.2 million budget for summer and off-season programs serving over 6,000 individuals annually. He also met his wife Carrie there when they were both camp counselors, and wrote a book about the leadership lessons learned, entitled "Becoming A Camp Leader."

Mr. Litten holds a Master of Public Administration from Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, and a bachelor's degree from Ohio University. Mr. Litten resides in Lakewood with his wife, Carrie, and three children, and is a member of St. Luke the Evangelist parish.

The First Friday Club will meet April 7, 2017 at Tangier Restaurant, 532 W. Market Street, Akron OH 44303. The cost of the luncheon is \$20.00 Doors open at 11:00 AM; the program begins at noon, and ends promptly at 1:00 PM. Reservations can be made by calling 330-535-7668; by sending a check to the First Friday Club of Greater Akron, 795 Russell Ave., Akron, Ohio 44307; or online at www.firstfridayclubofgreaterakron.org.