



**Annual Assessment Report Template**  
Academic Year: 2014-2015

**Date of Report Submission: 6/1/15**

**Name of Department: Catholic Campus Ministry**

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**Abstract**

The purpose of this project was to better understand the impact attending dinner at the Vincent and Louise (V&L) House had on students who attended dinner at least once in the 2014-2015 academic year; we hoped to have a better understanding of the ways the house impacts those who do not live in the house but participate in house dinners. Using a survey, all dinner participants were asked to answer questions about why they attended dinner, whether their attendance at dinners led to learning about other programs and events on campus, if they attended other DePaul events as a result of coming to dinner at the house, and whether they developed any personal relationships at DePaul as a result of attending a dinner at the house. Students were also asked to describe dinner at the V&L house with three words.

Our results indicate that over half of the respondents attended dinner at the Vincent and Louise House because there was free food provided and because they were invited by a friend. Exactly half of the survey respondents responded affirmatively to having developed personal relationships as a result of attending dinner at the house. The results also indicated that students found the house to be a welcoming and inclusive community environment. Our results imply that the house does have a positive impact on the engagement of students who do not live in the house but attend dinner there. The dinners serve to create community and a sense of belonging for most of those who participate. This then leads them to seek involvement in other programs on campus.

**Learning Outcome Assessed**

The learning outcome for this project focused on community and sense of belonging:

*“Participants in Vincent and Louise House dinners will articulate a sense of belonging to the University community and be able to relate their sense of belonging to involvement in extra-curricular activities and personal relationships.”*

## **Introduction & Context**

The Vincent and Louise House is an intentional campus living opportunity where ten students spend the entire academic year living in community together and actively engaging in the values of faith, service, social justice, community, and simplicity through a Vincentian lens. One of the main activities that the residents of the V&L House engage in together is to cook and serve weekly dinners to members of the DePaul community. Every Sunday through Wednesday each quarter of the year, the residents of the house serve dinner to anyone in the DePaul community who chooses to attend. During these weekly dinners, conversations are had, relationships are built, and students who attend the dinners are invited to engage with the Catholic and Vincentian values of the institution in both direct and indirect ways.

Community dinners at the Vincent and Louise House are about more than the students who live in community together within the house itself; they are about the people these dinners engage and the ways in which those same people become more involved with different ministry programs (via Catholic Campus Ministry, the Office of Religious Diversity, or the Vincentian Community Service Office) or more engaged generally in the campus community as a result of their experiences at weekly dinners. In his book *Theology of Ministry*, Thomas O'Meara, O.P. explains that "(m)inistry begins with the Christian community, flows out of the community, and nourishes and expands the community" (O'Meara, 146). In our case, we would like students who come to dinner at V&L, Christian or not, to feel that sense of community from the ministry of the house itself.

These dinners relate directly to the mission of Student Affairs at DePaul University. They serve as quality programs that seek to build community in accordance with DePaul's Catholic, Vincentian, and urban identity. This direct relationship between the dinners at the V&L house to the mission of Student Affairs proves that it is imperative to fully understand the impact this program has on the DePaul community. This assessment project seeks to further this exact understanding and to connect the impact of the dinners to the strategic plan of DePaul as stated in Vision 2018, specifically related to goals three and four.

Goal three of Vision 2018 focuses on strengthening our Catholic and Vincentian Identity, and goal four is about fostering diversity and inclusion. Goal four(b) focusses on building a vibrant university community and uses the language "strengthen the sense of community." With this assessment project, we are hoping to learn if dinners at the V&L House, while building on our Catholic and Vincentian identity, strengthen community.

## **Data Collection & Methodology**

In order to determine if the learning outcome was achieved, we sent a Qualtrics survey (appendix one) to all participants who had attended dinner at the V&L House during the fall and winter quarters.

At all dinners at the V&L House, attendees are asked to swipe in to the OrgSync event for each dinner using their student ID card. Using information from OrgSync participation reports, an

email with a link to the survey (appendix two) was then sent to current students (known alumni and staff were removed from the email list prior to sending) asking for their participation in the survey.

The survey remained open for students to complete for three weeks and they received one reminder email that it was still open to complete. After these three weeks, the survey was closed and a report of the survey was obtained from Qualtrics (appendix three). Only Katie Sullivan, Catholic Campus Ministry staff member, and Hallie Brauer, intern for assessment, had access to the survey results on Qualtrics, and each analyzed the data from the Qualtrics-generated report. After each had analyzed the data, they also spoke with each other and discussed the data in relation to the learning outcome. Based on the words students chose to describe dinner at V&L House, most respondents seemed to connect dinner at V&L with a sense of community and belonging at the University.

Participation in the survey was completely optional. The survey was set up so that each survey response was recorded anonymously. Students could choose to enter their email address at the end of the survey for an incentive (the first seven to complete the survey and include their email address had the opportunity to get a t-shirt from Catholic Campus Ministry). However, their email addresses were never connected to their responses and were not required.

## Data & Results

In total, 241 students were sent the survey, blind copied via email, so that no one in the survey group knew who else had been given the survey. In total, 53 students completed the survey, giving us a response rate of just over 20% (21.99%).

Because students were asked to swipe in for dinner using OrgSync, we used tableau reports to determine demographics of those who attended dinners in the winter and fall quarters. Our 53 survey respondents fall within the demographics as outlined below but we did not do a specific demographic study or breakdown of those who completed the survey.

Demographics of those who attended dinner at V&L in the fall and winter quarters:

- Almost 98% were undergraduate students
  - First Years: 24.7%
  - Sophomores: 23.4%
  - Juniors: 21.7%
  - Seniors: 28.1%
  - Graduate Students: 2.1%
- Gender:
  - Female: 65%
  - Male: 35%
- Ethnicity:
  - White: 64.3%
  - Hispanic/Latino: 11.5%

- Black/African American: 6.8%
- Asian: 8.5%
- 48% were commuters

For more detailed demographic information about those who were sent the survey, including colleges they came from, please see appendix four.

One key result of the survey was that when students were asked if they had developed personal relationships at DePaul as a result of attending dinner at the V&L House (survey question 6), 50% responded affirmatively. When asked to describe one of those personal relationships, one respondent said: “I have stronger ties to the community as a whole. Its (sic) good to feel like a part of something bigger than oneself.” Another said: “I feel like I have people that I can talk to openly about my faith with at school, which isn’t something that I am necessarily used to. It makes me feel more comfortable being myself.”

Learning Outcome	Number of Students Assessed	Number of Students with Acceptable or Better Performance
Participants in Vincent and Louise House dinners will articulate a sense of belonging to the University community and be able to relate their sense of belonging to involvement in extra-curricular activities and personal relationships	53	30

While we received 53 responses to the survey, only 49 answered the question: “If you had to choose three words to describe dinner at the V&L House, what would those three words be?” We used that question of the survey to determine the success of the learning outcome. Therefore, it is important to note that of those 49 students, 30 (or 61%) used words like “welcoming and community.” An additional 7 (for 37 of the 49 or 76%) used the word friendly to describe dinner at V&L

**Discussion & Interpretation of Results**

Key findings of the survey:

- Students attend dinners at V&L in large part because they are invited by a friend or because they are looking for free food
- More than half of those who attended dinner at V&L learned about other programs and events because they came to dinner
  - While more than half have learned about other programs and events, less than half say they have then attended other events
  - Those events that have been attended as a result of coming to dinner at V&L have mostly been sponsored by CCM, VCISO, or ORD
- Half of all survey respondents said they developed personal relationships at DePaul as a result of attending dinner at V&L
- An overwhelming number of students used positive words to describe dinner at the V&L House, with words such as community, welcome, and friendly showing up more frequently than any others. The word Vincentian also showed up but with less frequency
- Not all students had positive experiences, however, as a few of the 49 (less than 5) who responded to the question asking for words to describe dinner at V&L used words like awkward and cliquey

### **Recommendations and Plans for Action**

Based on the results of this survey and this assessment project, it seems apparent that most of those who attend dinner at the Vincent and Louise House feel a greater connection to the DePaul University community from attending said dinners; they *articulate a sense of belonging*. Our results indicate that the house has a positive impact on the engagement of students who do not live in the house but attend dinner there because the dinners serve to create community and a sense of belonging. Dinners at V&L are strengthening community, as hoped for in goal four of Vision 2018.

Because so many students seem to find community and a sense of belonging at dinners at V&L House, it is important to build on these two things and help them to seek involvement in other programs on campus. We want students to be *able to relate their sense of belonging to involvement in extracurricular activities and personal relationships*. While some students seem to already seek out this involvement as a result of eating dinner at V&L and some also seem to feel connected because of the personal relationships they formed at V&L dinners, it would be beneficial to do more to help students engage and get involved in other programs on campus and to help them understand how their involvement and their sense of belonging go together.

We can continue to build on current partnerships with the Vincentian Community Service Office (VCISO) and the Office of Religious Diversity (ORD) and the Office of Mission and Values and create new partnerships, particularly within the Division of Student Affairs with departments such as Residence Life and the Center for Intercultural Programs.

It is important to note that an overwhelming majority of students at V&L House dinners are white. We need to do a better job reaching out to those who are not in the majority and help them to feel welcome at V&L dinners as well.

Students living in the house have the opportunity to cultivate relationships with their peers based on their involvement in other on-campus programs and this involvement can be a key tool in inviting others into the V&L House dinner community. Likewise, it is important that CCM staff, specifically the coordinator of the V&L House, make connections with other departments on campus, both within Student Affairs and across the University. By sharing that information with other staff members, more students can be reached and more special event type dinners can be held at the V&L House, increasing our capacity to meet goal three of Vision 2018 and can make sure that other departments are aware of dinner at V&L and invite their student groups to attend or co-host special event type dinners with the V&L House residents. Dinners at the V&L House can be a key part of building a vibrant university community (Vision 2018 goal four b) at DePaul.

It is our hope that dinners at V&L will continue to cultivate community and a sense of belonging and will do so for even more students at DePaul in the future.

## Appendix One: Survey

### V&L House Dinner Survey

Q1 Why do you attend dinner at the V&L House? (check all that apply)

- Special event (1)
- Invited by a friend (2)
- Looking for community (3)
- Free food (4)
- Other: (5) \_\_\_\_\_

Q2 As a result of attending dinner at the V&L House, have you learned about other programs and events sponsored on campus?

- Strongly agree (1)
- Agree (2)
- Disagree (3)
- Strongly Disagree (4)

Q3 Have you attended other DePaul events as a result of coming to a V&L House dinner?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Answer If Have you attended other DePaul events as a result of coming to a V&L House dinner? Yes Is Selected

Q8 If you answered yes to the previous question, please give an example:

Q4 Of the other programs and events you attended, how many were sponsored by Catholic Campus Ministry, the Office of Religious Diversity, or the Vincentian Community Service Office?

- 0-5 (1)
- 6-10 (2)
- 11-15 (3)
- More than 15 (4)

Q5 Have you developed personal relationships at DePaul as a result of attending dinner at the V&L House?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Answer If Have you developed personal relationships at DePaul as a result of attending dinner at the V&L H... Yes Is Selected

Q9 If you answered yes to the previous question, please describe one of those relationships:

Q6 If you had to choose three words to describe dinner at the V&L House, what would those three words be?

1. (1)
2. (2)
3. (3)

Q7 The first 7 survey respondents will receive a free t-shirt. Please leave your email address below if you are interested in being considered for this prize.

Q12 Thank you for taking the survey. Please be sure to click the arrows below to have your results included.

## Appendix Two: Survey Email

Hello!

You are receiving this email because you attended dinner at the Vincent and Louise House at some point during the fall or winter quarter of the 2014-2015 school year. We are asking for participation in a survey about the dinners and hope you will take the time to respond. The survey can be found [here](#) or by clicking on the link at the end of this email.

The survey is anonymous and should only take about 5 minutes to complete. The first 7 people who complete the survey and choose to leave their contact information will receive a CCM tie-dye t-shirt.

Thank you in advance for completing this survey. It will greatly help us to understand the impact of the V&L House dinners and plan for future programs at the Vincent and Louise House.

(Survey link: [http://depaul.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_dhWbu1IPTJjkynb](http://depaul.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_dhWbu1IPTJjkynb))

With gratitude,

Katie Sullivan  
University Minister, Catholic Social Concerns  
Catholic Campus Ministry  
DePaul University  
773-325-4490

**Appendix Three: Initial Qualtrics Report on the Survey**

**Initial Report**

Last Modified: 06/08/2015

**1. Why do you attend dinner at the V&L House? (check all that apply)**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Special event	18	36%
2	Invited by a friend	35	70%
3	Looking for community	17	34%
4	Free food	40	80%
5	Other:	6	12%

**Other:**  
 I work here  
 Denver Bronco's Love  
 incoming V&L house resident on 2015-16  
 CCM  
 Conversations and Learning  
 good conversations

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	5
Total Responses	50

**2. As a result of attending dinner at the V&L House, have you learned about other programs and events sponsored on campus?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly agree	14	28%
2	Agree	29	58%
3	Disagree	6	12%
4	Strongly Disagree	1	2%
	Total	50	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.88
Variance	0.48
Standard Deviation	0.69
Total Responses	50

### 3. Have you attended other DePaul events as a result of coming to a V&L House dinner?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	16	32%
2	No	34	68%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Total Responses	50

### 4. If you answered yes to the previous question, please give an example:

Text Response
adsdf
CCN
Last year, I learned about events in CCM at a V&L House dinner (Food for Thought & Catholic Community Night specifically)
I went to get deep and more CCM events like food for thought
I went to a halloween party at the VnL house.
breakfast woth Sister Helen Prejean and Food for Thought on Fridays!
VIA Big 8
Night Out
Freshman Retreat
I dont know if this was because of the V&L dinners, but I go to events like mass because of the community, which is strengthened because of the dinners.
retreat (there were other factors involved though)
Vincentian Service Day
More CCM events
Hunger banquet
Sister Helen Prejean

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	15

**5. Of the other programs and events you attended, how many were sponsored by Catholic Campus Ministry, the Office of Religious Diversity, or the Vincentian Community Service Office?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	0-5	29	58%
2	6-10	8	16%
3	11-15	2	4%
4	More than 15	11	22%
	Total	50	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	4
Mean	1.90
Variance	1.52
Standard Deviation	1.23
Total Responses	50

**6. Have you developed personal relationships at DePaul as a result of attending dinner at the V&L House?**

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Yes	25	50%
2	No	25	50%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	2
Total Responses	50

**7. If you answered yes to the previous question, please describe one of those relationships:**

Text Response	
ADFaf	
Friends good	
Test	
I have gotten to know residents of the V&L house better!	
It got me closer to staff because they would speak at the dinner and I would introduce myself.	
There are a few people I see on campus that I stop and talk to if I see.	
Katie Mumma	
I keep in touch with a couple of people from V & L.	
olivia Johnson and Ally Carvhollo are two great friends i met at VandL	
Getting to know the friends who brought me with better	
Good friends currently	
Networking for my student org	
Beth	
I feel like I have people that I can talk to openly about my faith with at school, which isn't something that I am necessarily used to. It makes me feel more comfortable with being myself.	
I met my friend Liz at a V&L how dinner	
I have stronger ties to the community as a whole. Its good to feel like a part of something bigger than oneself.	
I knew a lot of the housemates before they lived in the house. I wasn't able to attend a lot of dinners because I work until 6 in the south loop but I was able to visit the house and further develop my relationships with all of the housemates.	
I met some people who I became closer to after the dinner at other CCM events	
My relationship with Nikki has grown I'd say since I found out I will be living in the house next year. We were also on the same DemonTHON team so we bonded.	
Friendship	
new friends	
Closer with a friend who lives in the house, and an opportunity to bring other friends to enjoy a free meal with friendly people they don't know	

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	22

## 8. If you had to choose three words to describe dinner at the V&L House, what would those three words be?

1.	2.	3.
communal	fun	silly
Community	Fun	Free yet often bland food :)
Rico	Barato	Comunal
Community	Welcoming	Fun!
fun	informative	friendly
Community	Accepted	Family
Delcious	Relaxing	Talkative
Caring	Community	Recreational
compassionate	understanding	supportive
friendly	tasty	interesting
community	friendly	open
welcoming	informative	comfortable
laid back	good food	welcoming
Community building	Good food	Inclusive
Homey	friendly	a little cliquey
fun	conversation	chill
awkward		
Comfort	Love	community
yummy	friendly	justice-filled
Crowded	Interesting	Friendly
Friendly	Community	Welcoming
Community	Love	Dialogue
Nice	Homely	friendly
Social	Good	Interesting
nice	inviting	quiet
Welcoming	Comforting	Kind
Inviting	Warm	Fun
relaxed	free food with friends	worthwhile
awkward	isolating	obnoxious
Open	Friendly	Interesting
Fun	Community	Enjoyable
Community	informal	chill
Welcoming	Open	Meaningful
Fun	Enlightening	Welcoming
delicious	convenient	comforting
Exceptional	Community	Loving
informational	community	vincentian
Soul Nurturing	Comforting	Cozy
Conversationist	Close	Interpersonal
Community	family	comfort
okay		
family	welcoming	outreach
welcoming	inclusive	yummy
Fun	Intriguing	Simplicity
welcoming	inspiring	vincentian
Community	Intentional	Delicious

laidback	welcoming	conversational
Kind	Inclusive	Growth
relaxed	friendly	delicious

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	49

## Appendix Four: Demographics of those asked to take the survey

