



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF SEATTLE/KING COUNTY

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90 Years of Caring
1920 - 2010

“Compassion in Action”

Help Neighbors in Need
Care for our Planet

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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Bellevue’s Bill and Cathy Griffin honored for Outstanding Service to the Needy

BELLEVUE--Bill and Cathy Griffin, Bellevue residents and members of St. Madeleine Sophie Catholic Parish, received the St. Vincent de Paul “Least of My Brethren” Award for outstanding service to the needy in Bellevue at the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Seattle/King Co. Council’s Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, March 21. The event, held at Kennedy High School in Burien, celebrated the Society’s 90th anniversary of serving the poor and needy in Seattle/King County—and the special people who make home visits and run programs to assist neighbors in need.

The Griffins were one of seven awardees in King County who received the St. Vincent de Paul’s Least of My Brethren Award. The Least of My Brethren Award is taken from the biblical passage of [Matthew 25:40](#) where Christ says “Whatever you did it to one of the least of my brethren (Feed the Hungry, Clothe the Naked, Visit those in prison) you did it to me.”

For the past 37 years the Griffins have served the poor as members of St. Madeleine Sophie St. Vincent de Paul. They have made home visits to help to neighbors in need preventing eviction, hunger, utility shut-off and more. In addition, they have also acted as conference treasurer for many of those years, helping to ensure that the bills are paid and resources are available to help the St. Vincent de Paul outreach based at the Parish. Additionally, during the Christmas season they coordinate the adoption of a number of needy families served by parishioners of St. Madeleine Sophie Parish. In doing this, they spend much of Christmas eve day helping to deliver gifts, food, and other items to these families. In 2009 they received the Volunteer of the Year Award at their Parish.

About the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle/King County

St. Vincent de Paul is known for its home visits to the poor, community thrift stores, and food and meal programs which provide more than 1 million meals annually. In addition St. Vincent de Paul has case management outreach to homeless people and ex-offenders in the Central District of Seattle. More than 34,000 home visits and other contacts were made in King County to help 67,000 people this past year. St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores recycle more than 5 million pounds of materials annually. More than 87,000 hours of volunteer service annually are given by generous people like Bill and Cathy Griffin. Total calls answered for help were 53,000 in 2009—up 60% over 2008

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul internationally was a past Nobel Peace Prize nominee. The Catholic lay-run charity, which helps neighbors in need regardless of creed, assists the needy in 142 countries. In Seattle and King County, the Community Information Line (211) refers more people to St. Vincent de Paul than any other charity for basic needs assistance.