



**Compassion in Action**

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle/King County**  
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**For Immediate Release**  
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**150 cities nationwide, including four locations in Western WA, to host Friends of the Poor Walk this weekend- Sept. 26/27 as calls for help reach all-time records**

SEATTLE/KING CO....At a time when leading economic indicators suggest the recession is over, St. Vincent de Paul's Human Impact Indicators show record demands for help from our neighbors in need throughout Seattle & King County:

- Calls for assistance to St. Vincent de Paul in August 2008 were up 60% over August 2007
- Last Monday St. Vincent de Paul received an all-time record number of 411 calls for help
- Our Georgetown food bank recipients nearly doubled to 8,000 from over 4,000 a year ago
- The Community Information Line (211) has referred almost 18,000 calls for basic needs assistance to St. Vincent de Paul so far this year (most referred agency in Seattle-King Co.)

To help respond to these needs locally and nationwide, St. Vincent de Paul is hosting the second annual "Friends of the Poor Walk" in 151 cities nationwide to help poor and needy families on Saturday, September 26. The King County Walk will take place at J.F. Kennedy High School 140 S. 140<sup>th</sup> in Burien, 9-noon. *Other Western WA Walk locations at the end of press release.*

People can find out more information at [www.svdpsattle.org](http://www.svdpsattle.org) Last year's Friends of the Poor Walks raised more than \$800,000 nationwide in 112 cities. In Seattle, \$33,000 was collected.

The second annual Friends of the Poor Walk invites people of all faiths and community members to Walk a least one mile and raise funds to help prevent evictions, hunger, power shut-offs and other emergency needs facing struggling families and individuals. Each walker will be able to designate funds raised to their local St. Vincent de Paul conference or Council.

People of all ages: families, grade school and high school youth, young adults, and seniors came last year. Inspirational walkers and event organizers included:

- Bride Melissa Sanders and Groom Andrew Morrison of Seattle walked on their Wedding Day, inspiring attendees
- 92 year old Tom Kobayashi, who has helped the poor for 72 years in Seattle, walked a mile and received loud cheers from walk participants
- Kennedy High School's St. Vincent de Paul Club helped with event organization

**M O R E**

*“Put yourself in the shoes of poor families in the community. Our neighbors in need are really suffering in this economic downturn. We have more people needing help than ever. Join the inspiring examples of Melissa and Andrew Morrison and Tom Kobayashi. Come and walk to make a difference,”* says Andre de Klaver, Executive Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle/King County.

St. Vincent de Paul helped more than 100,000 people in need throughout Western Washington this past year. St. Vincent de Paul is known for its thrift stores, food pantries and home visits to poor families. Its home visits prevent evictions, hunger, power shut-offs and more.

The Society today has 700,000 members operating in 144 countries. The Society’s U.S. members donated nearly 6 million hours of their personal time this past year, aiding 20 million of their neighbors in distress and offering services valued at nearly \$500 million.

During this time of economic difficulty with growing unemployment, the poor are hurting. St. Vincent de Paul invites people to be Friends of the Poor and join us on Saturday, September 26 or Sept 27 (in Sequim). Have fun walking with family, friends, co-workers or church members; get a little bit of exercise; and Raise funds to help a family or individual devastated by, unemployment, injury or poverty.

**St. Vincent de Paul Councils hosting Friends of Friends of the Poor Walk Contacts:**

**SEATTLE/KING COUNTY:** Contact 206-957-7241 or richardb@svdpseattle.org  
- J.F. Kennedy High School, 140 S. 140<sup>th</sup> St., Burien 9/26 9am-noon.

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY & NORTH SOUND:** Contact 425-513-6052 or jfcbloss@earthlink.net  
- St. Mary Magdalen School 8717 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Everett 9/26 9am-noon

**TACOMA & SOUTH SOUND:** Contact 253-581-1765 or dennisklewis@comcast.net  
- Gray Middle School 6229 S. Tyler St., Tacoma 9/26 10am-2pm

**OLYMPIC PENINSULA:** Contact 360-683-2718 or rbconger@yahoo.com  
- Sequim Senior High School Track 3rd & 1st St., Sequim 9/27 1-4pm

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