



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

5950 4th Ave. S. Seattle, WA 98108 206.957.7241

www.svdpsseattle.org

“Compassion in Action”

Help Neighbors in Need
Care for our Planet

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

October 12, 2009

Contact: Richard Bray, Donor & Community Relations

206-335-3239 (cell anytime) or richardb@svdpseattle.org

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ENDORSES SEATTLE HOUSING LEVY

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle/King County board of directors has voted to endorse the Seattle Housing Levy. The ballot proposition is a renewal of an existing program.

St. Vincent de Paul supports the Seattle Levy for the following reasons:

- As the most referred to agency for basic needs in Seattle/King County by 211-Community Information, emergency housing costs are one of the highest categories of need met by St. Vincent de Paul for our low income neighbors.
- St. Vincent de Paul has first-hand experience with our low-income neighbors through more than 11,000 home visits annually by 53 all-volunteer St. Vincent de Paul conferences. We serve thousands more through our food banks, meal programs and case management program in Seattle.
- This was a dramatic 53% increase over the prior year. This past fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, St. Vincent de Paul received just over 48,000 calls for help referred from 211, individuals and other community sources.
- The housing needs in our community are too great to be handled by charities alone; consequently a wider community commitment is necessary and appropriate.

Through three prior levies and one bond issue since 1981, Seattle voters have helped to create or preserve 10,000 housing units for people under 80% of median income. The current Seattle Housing Levy on November's ballot would produce or preserve 1850 affordable homes and assist 3420 households. The \$145 million seven-year levy would cost the average homeowner \$65 a year.

“Because the Seattle Housing Levy has a track record of providing affordable housing and with the overwhelming need of housing facing our neediest residents in this current economic downturn, we urge people to renew this Levy and help some of the most vulnerable among us”, said Andre de Klaver, Executive Director, Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle/King County.

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 83,000 hours of volunteer service are given annually.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul internationally was nominated for the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize. The Catholic lay-run charity helps the needy in 144 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 help.