



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

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank volunteer Suzanne Kellar to receive Volunteer of the Year Award at 2009 Mayor’s End Hunger Awards on October 19**

(SEATTLE) ..Seattle resident Suzanne Kellar will receive the Volunteer of the Year Award at the 2009 Mayor’s End Hunger Awards on Oct. 19 at the Palace Kitchen Restaurant Ballroom in Seattle (2100 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.) at 9:00am. Keller is being honored for her almost 35 years of service to helping to feed the hungry in Seattle. She has volunteered at the St. Vincent de Paul Georgetown Food Bank since 2001 and prior to that with the former Georgetown Service Center Food Bank.

Kellar collects bread donations from bakeries and brings them each week to the St. Vincent de Paul Food bank in Georgetown. She slices whole loaves to make it easier to use. “All is right when I see Suzanne walking toward the Food Bank with the bread donations of several downtown bakeries. With Metro buses as her only means of transportation, somehow she manages to arrive with bread sacks the size of which dwarf Santa’s bag,” says Pete O’Brien, St. Vincent de Paul Georgetown Food Bank Manager.

Suzanne credits her inspiration for caring from her mother who used to feed people who came to their doorsteps during the Great Depression. “Mother would didn’t always have a lot but she would a least try to give people a sandwich,” said Keller

For nearly thirty five years Suzanne Kellar has served Georgetown residents and folks throughout the region, yet everyday she arrives with a smile as if it was her first day. Adds O’Brien, “often Suzanne is in the kitchen preparing and slicing bread long after our doors close and well into the early evening. Hers is a thirty five year ministry with a single mission – feed the hungry!”

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#### **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 annually are given by generous people like Suzanne Kellar.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul internationally was a 2008 Nobel Peace Prize nominee. 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 assistance.

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