



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

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www.svdpseattle.org



90 Years of
“Compassion in Action”

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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HELP NEIGHBORS IN NEED DURING LENT SAYS ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

(SEATTLE/KING COUNTY) St. Vincent de Paul is encouraging people of all faiths or no faith to join in the Lenten practice of Almsgiving (Giving to the Poor) to help our local neighbors in need. St. Vincent de Paul saw a 60% increase in requests for assistance in 2009 over 2008, when more than 55,000 calls for help were answered.

The Lenten season, celebrated by many Christians, consists of 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The period is a time to focus on spirituality, reflection and giving to help the poor. It begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17 and runs to Easter. Giving is central to most religions, including Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

“We invite all members of our community to reflect on their values and consider what they can do to help our neighbors in need during the Lenten season,” says Andre de Klaver, Executive Director, St. Vincent de Paul Society of Seattle/King County.

People can help St. Vincent de Paul help neighbors in need during Lent in the following ways:

- Make a financial donation by mail, phone or online at www.svdpseattle.org
- Clean out their closets and bring to St. Vincent de Paul thrift store or call 206-767-9975 for pick-up
- Volunteer to serve in one of our programs
- Pray for our work and those suffering in this economy

The 211-Community Information Line (our community’s health and human services help-line—like 911 is for fire and police) referred more of the poor to St. Vincent de Paul than to any other agency in 2009.

St. Vincent de Paul’s four-fold outreach Helps Neighbors in Need & Cares for the Planet:

- **Home Visits**—our 53 neighborhood-based parish volunteer groups make home visits to help prevent eviction, hunger, utility shut-off and more.
- **Food Banks/Meal Programs**—we give ongoing help to neighbors who are unemployed or in poverty and going through tough times
- **Case Management Program**—we mentor and help homeless individuals and others to break the cycle of poverty and become more self-sufficient
- **Thrift Stores**—we recycle 5 million pounds of materials yearly, providing employment and volunteer opportunities and charitable funding for neighbors in need.

2010 marks the 90th anniversary of St. Vincent de Paul’s outreach of “Compassion in Action” to neighbors in need.

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