



**Compassion in Action**

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Western Washington**  
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**St. Vincent de Paul 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk invites People to “Walk a Mile” for the Poor**

**Melissa Sanders will Walk on her Wedding Day**

(Western Washington) The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is initiating a nationwide 81 city “Friends of the Poor Walk” to help poor and needy families on Saturday, September 27, the Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul. Western Washington Walk locations include John F. Kennedy High School (Seattle-King Co.) Archbishop Murphy High School (Snohomish County and north) and Bellarmine Prep (Tacoma & South—Bellarmine Walk is Sept. 28).

The first-ever Society 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 crisis needs facing struggling families and individuals. Each walker will be able to designate funds raised to their local St. Vincent de Paul parish conference or Council.

The Walk takes as the Society is celebrating its 175 anniversary internationally. The Catholic lay organization is a nominee for the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize.

People of all ages are invited to come: families, youth, grade schools & high schools, youth & young adults, adults and seniors. One very inspirational Walker is Melissa Sanders. Even though the Walk is scheduled on her Wedding Day, she and her fiancé Andrew are going to participate. Melissa is the president of the Blessed Rosalie Rendu conference of St. Vincent de Paul at James Cathedral.

*“We invite every person and group to Walk a Mile and put yourself in the shoes of poor family in the community. If Melissa and Andrew can do it on her Wedding Day, their example should inspire each of us to make a difference, too,” says Andre de Klaver, Executive Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle/King County.*

Known and loved for its thrift stores and food pantries and the personal visits of its members to the homes of the poor, the Society today has more than 690,000 members operating in 142 countries. The Society’s U.S. members donated nearly 6 million hours of their personal time in 2006, aiding more than 20 million of their neighbors in distress and offering services valued at nearly \$500 million.

During this time of economic difficulty with high gas prices and growing unemployment, the poor are really hurting. The Society invites Western WA residents to be a Friend of the Poor and join us on Saturday, September 27. Have fun walking with family, friends, co-workers or church members; Get a little bit of exercise; and Raise funds to provide help to help a family or individual devastated by injury, unemployment or poverty.

MORE



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk Contact Info:**

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