



Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle/King Co.
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Celebrating 175 Years of Service to the Poor Worldwide

For Immediate Release

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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HELPS 51,779 NEEDY PEOPLE THIS PAST YEAR; MEALS PROVIDED TOTAL 580,740; VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS WERE 86,968

(SEATTLE/KING COUNTY) The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle/King County helped 51,779 people this past fiscal year through home, hospital, prison and other in-person visits in its outreach known as "Compassion in Action." Home visitation is the core outreach of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. In addition, 580,740 meals were provided to the homeless and needy.

Fifty-two neighborhood-based St. Vincent de Paul conferences in King County brought food, clothing, beds and furniture, rent and utility assistance or other aid—and most of all their compassion. Vincentian volunteers numbered 1114 and gave a total of 83,265 hours of volunteer service.

St. Vincent de Paul's four King County thrift stores (Seattle, Burien, Kenmore and Renton) generated \$3,616,232 in sales. St. Vincent de Paul stores provided employment and job training assistance for 81 people, as well as quality clothing and household items at affordable prices for the community--especially for people living close to the edge. The stores give material aid at no cost for needy families and individuals visited by Vincentians. St. Vincent de Paul trucks made at least 6,250 donation pick-ups. Volunteers contributed 3,703 hours of service to the stores. Finally, St. Vincent de Paul stores generated a surplus of \$727,256 to help with the Society's charitable work.

St. Vincent de Paul recycled nearly 687 tons of material including clothing, metal, books, card board and shoes.

Eighty youth and several other groups helped St. Vincent de Paul collect over 1000 blankets and coats as part of a Husky Stadium and community drive in November. As the 2007 calendar year closed, St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle/King County was working with St. Vincent de Paul Councils around Western Washington to help flood victims and was selected as the Western Washington charity recipient of the nationwide coat drive by the Good Morning America TV program, One Warm Coat, and Burlington Coat Factory.

"We are thankful for the tremendous support of individuals, businesses, and organizations--and the generous gift of service of our Vincentians, volunteers and staff. St. Vincent de Paul made a great impact this past year because many people became part of Compassion in Action," said Andre de Klaver, Executive Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle/King County.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Vincent de Paul is known for its person-to-person outreach through more than 1100 volunteers (Vincentians) who make home visits to neighbors in need facing crisis in Seattle/King County. Timely intervention by St. Vincent de Paul prevents evictions, power shut-offs and hunger in the community.

St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores provide employment and training, inexpensive clothing and household merchandise for anyone, and a ready supply of material aid for St. Vincent de Paul volunteers, who help the neediest in our communities at no charge. Recycling hundreds of tons of materials yearly, the Society helps decrease the amount of materials going into our waste stream. St. Vincent de Paul helps all people in need regardless of creed. In 2008, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization present in 142 countries, celebrates the 175th anniversary of its founding throughout the world.

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