

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coeur d'Alene, ID

### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL RECEIVES GRANT AWARD FOR THE FEDERAL BUILDING IN COEUR D'ALENE.**

St. Vincent de Paul announced it has recently received a grant from the U.S. General Services Administration and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the Federal Building in downtown Coeur d'Alene, at Fourth and Lakeside.

The Federal Building was deemed surplus property earlier this year by the Federal Government and was made available through a grant process to organizations helping in the protection of public health, with first priority given to organizations serving the homeless. St. Vincent de Paul received the grant award based on their proposal to use the property for homeless services and administrative offices. The homeless services include a daytime service center where people who are homeless can come and receive various types of assistance including access to computers and job counseling. The daytime service center will be operated with the help of St. Luke's Episcopal Church as well as other local congregations. St. Vincent de Paul also joined in partnership with the Women's Center, Inc., Dirne Health Clinic, Mental Wellness Center, Volunteers of America's Project Safe Place, and Spokane's Health Care for Homeless Veterans to use the property as administrative and direct service offices. Other programs that will be at the Federal Building are St. Vincent de Paul's Art on the Edge program and an upscale antique boutique/art galleria/coffee bar which will be operated by St. Vincent's and open to the general public.

Lynn Peterson, St. Vincent de Paul's Executive Director, stated that she understood the concern some community members had about the possibility of St. Vincent's acquiring the

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property. “The one thing we do want to assure to the people of Coeur d’Alene is that our proposed use of this site will in no way diminish the look, feel, or historical value of the Federal Building. We intend on keeping it virtually unchanged in design and structure, with no or very few renovations. We believe this is important to the integrity of the building itself, as well as important to our community, and our agency. Nor will any of our proposed programs detract from the image and feel of downtown Coeur d’Alene.”

St. Vincent de Paul’s mission, since joining the Coeur d’Alene community in 1946, has been to “help others help themselves.” They are the largest and main provider of homeless services throughout all of North Idaho, offering social and homeless prevention services, emergency and transitional shelter, as well as rental housing for lower-income individuals and families.

St. Vincent de Paul and the other partnering agencies will not occupy the building for another two years, when the lease with the current tenant expires.

Questions regarding this grant award can be directed to <NAME> at St. Vincent de Paul by calling 208-664-3095.

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