

St. Vincent's Vision

A Newsletter for Supporters of North Idaho's St. Vincent de Paul

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St. Vincent de Paul

For more information about our services, programs, or this newsletter, please contact us at: 208-664-3095

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St. Vincent Experiences Growth Spurt

Since 1990 St. Vincent de Paul has been providing housing to those in need in Kootenai County. We started off with emergency shelter and in just a few short years made a natural progression to both transitional housing and affordable permanent housing, offering a full Continuum of Care to people experiencing economic and housing deficiencies.

Even as the Coeur d'Alene area started to grow in population and development, we continued to see more people going through a housing crisis. The only way we could continue our mission of helping those in need was for our organization to grow as well.



As a matter of fact, 2007 has been a key year in that growth!

We began the year with the purchase of a 24-unit apartment complex in Post Falls, Ross Point I. This was accomplished through Rural Development and Idaho Housing and Finance Association. In September we finalized the purchase of the adjacent 24-unit apartment complex, Ross Point II, also with funds through these two agencies. This increased our affordable housing units by almost 70% and preserved these units that were at risk of going market rate for low-income residents.

As many community members may already know from the local media, St. Vincent applied for the acquisition of the Coeur d'Alene Federal Building downtown on 4th and Lakeside through a grant process. With homeless providers getting top priority in this process, our organization received the award! Although it will be two years before we will get to use the building (while the new federal building is being built), we view this as an amazing opportunity! As our programs have grown over the years, our offices have not, making them too small for our needs and scattered across various locations. The



(continued on page 2)

From the Desk of the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

We weren't able to send out a spring newsletter earlier this year with all the new things going on here at St. Vincent de Paul. However, I think you'll agree by reading the front page article, these new projects are well worth our time and effort! We have been very busy working towards providing more housing opportunities to those in need, knowing this is so important to our community.

Thank you to all of you who support our newest ventures. While there has been some opposition to some of these developments, we are looking forward to enhancing Coeur d'Alene and the surrounding areas with expanded services that promote self-sufficiency while blending in with our newest neighbors!

The holidays are now fast approaching and everyone is getting into the spirit of giving. Donations are welcome all year round; yet this is the season when the homeless and hungry are in greatest need. Watch for our donation boxes at various locations across the Coeur d'Alene/Hayden/Post Falls area during the month of November. Food as well as personal care and winter items are always things people need most. Simple things really can make a big difference!

Lynn Peterson

Thank you to Robert Peterson, volunteer photographer, for the envelope photo.

WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS?

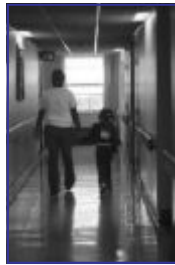
Can you see it here in Kootenai County? When you hear the word "homeless," what images come to your mind?

Most people think of individuals who live outside, those who are in the evident and extreme side of homelessness. We often think of those living in cars, on the sidewalks, or in tents and cardboard boxes. This is only one segment.



St. Vincent de Paul also believes that any person who lives from friend to friend or relative to relative, is being evicted, or is living in an emergency accommodation or inadequate housing is experiencing homelessness. Being homeless is more about a lack of security, a lack of belonging, a lack of privacy, and a lack of safety than it is about being without a roof over your head.

As we gear up for the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, it comes to our attention that nationally, there are thousands of individuals and families who are homeless and living in emergency accommodation. For every family or individual that leaves St. Vincent de Paul's Transitional Housing programs, several more are waiting to enter. You can't always see them because they're not always living on the streets necessarily; but they are without a home to call their own. They are homeless and here in Kootenai County.



GROWTH SPURT (continued from page 1)

federal building will give us the ability to expand yet still be in one centralized location. In addition, it will provide us the ability to offer a day center for our homeless clients to come in off the streets and get referrals, job counseling, and other needed services. We have invited other local non-profit agencies to join us at this new location making service delivery more convenient and localized. With the inclusion of new retail shops (an art gallery, antique shop, and

coffee bar) that will provide job training to our homeless clients, we feel this will be a nice addition to the downtown district.

Our final project, the purchase of the 11-unit Sandman Motel on Sherman Avenue, became a reality with a \$989,125 grant from the Idaho Department of

Health and Welfare. With only \$2 million available, St. Vincent was awarded the highest amount in the state, allowing us to purchase this property. With some minor renovation, we will be able to turn it into more transitional housing. These 11 units will be used for homeless clients who struggle with mental health issues and will also be used in conjunction with an increased grant per diem award through the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs.



Helping Others: Recognizing the Volunteers

Volunteer at SVDP: It's Good for You!

The dictionary defines a volunteer as "a person who performs a service willingly and without pay." That's a good definition but it doesn't quite tell the whole story. Coeur d'Alene's St. Vincent de Paul is an organization that functions because of its dedicated and skilled volunteers.

data entry, handling phones, making referrals, and directing clients to the right staff for assistance.

Not a newcomer to volunteering, Dick got his start at the Uptown Faith Community Center in San Diego, California. UFCC is a day center where he helped the homeless with

food, getting their mail, obtaining ID's, job searches, and referrals. When asked for his bio, he was a bit nonchalant about it; but it is exemplary! He received a BA from the University of Maryland in 1974 and was a U.S. Marine Officer from 1975 to 1980. He was then employed with the San Diego Fire Department from 1980 until 2005. The US Forest Service sent him to fight fire in Montana and he fell in love with the Northwest. A father of two grown sons, Dick has been residing in Coeur d'Alene with his wife, Debbie, since September 2005.

Volunteering is beneficial to you personally! How?

- ♥ It reduces stress.
- ♥ It helps you think positively.
- ♥ It makes you feel good.
- ♥ It expands your network.

There are always volunteer opportunities at St. Vincent de Paul! You can help by:

- ♥ Mentoring youth through our homework club, Art on the Edge, or other children's activities
- ♥ Place our newsletter at your place of business
- ♥ Sorting merchandise
- ♥ Organizing a fundraiser
- ♥ Many other possibilities!

During a meeting of the Vincentians at the St. Thomas Center, Dick Mott heard there was a need for volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul and he jumped on it in September 2006. He has a genuine heart for the homeless and gives his time at the Social Services Office assisting with client



UPCOMING EVENTS!

ST. VINCENT'S 5TH ANNUAL HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK COMING IN NOVEMBER!

In recognition of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, St. Vincent de Paul will be holding its 5th annual local awareness event, November 11-17, 2007. Various activities will take place throughout the week which the whole community can enjoy! There will be extra great deals at our Coeur d'Alene Thrift Store, a candlelight vigil, St. Vincent facility tours, an open house at our Cd'A Transitional Housing Center, as well as a food drive; even a delicious spaghetti dinner will kick-off the week on November 10 at the St. Thomas Center.

All proceeds from this event and its related activities go directly to St. Vincent's homeless shelters.

Please look on the insert page of this newsletter for more information about the scheduled dinner and events. You can also pick up an events flyer at either the Coeur d'Alene or Post Falls thrift stores, or watch the local newspapers for more information!

Mark your calendars and come out and join us!

Help us!

help the homeless!

help your community!

Together, we can do it!

COUPON

**Receive 10% off your total purchase with this coupon
at either one of our St. Vincent de Paul stores.**

Post Falls St. Vincent Books and More
202 W. Seltice
Post Falls, ID 83854
(208) 773-6836



WE DO PICK-UPS!
Help us help others
(208) 664-3095

Coeur d'Alene St. Vincent de Paul
108 E. Walnut
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 664-3095

Coupon expires 1/15/08

*St. Vincent de Paul
Salvage Bureau
St. Thomas Conference*

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St. Thomas Conference
Volunteer Board of Directors:

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Dick Nimtz
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Dick Mott
Father George Rassley

We're almost on the web!

Our website at

www.stvincentdepaulca.org
is under construction, but
please check back often!

St. Vincent de Paul is an equal-opportunity employer, as well as service and housing provider. We strongly believe in committed personal involvement without judgment or regard to race, nationality, or religious preference.

Questions? Comments? A story you would like to see? Please feel free to let us know! You may mail it to the Editor at the above address, or you may email it to:

shelly_hines_svdpa@yahoo.com

Please note, we cannot guarantee the use of submitted items and all items sent may be edited for content and space.

Become a Part of Our Team!

1. Shop at our stores in Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls.
2. Donate quality items to our stores.
3. Call 664-3095 and volunteer your valuable time and experience.
4. Use the enclosed envelope to make a donation, no matter how small.

All donations stay here to help those in need in Kootenai County — and they are tax deductible!

Don't forget to show your support!

*Purchase your
St. Vincent de Paul
car magnet and display it
proudly on your car!*

*Available now at
both St. Vincent
Thrift Stores for
\$2.00 each!*



All proceeds help support St. Vincent de Paul's homeless and social service programs and stay here in Kootenai County!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S WISH LIST

Like most non-profit agencies, our resources are limited. That's why we have created this wish list as an additional way supporters of St. Vincent de Paul can help. If you can help by donating any of the following items, please contact us at 208-664-3095.

- ♥ Personal products such as toothbrushes and paste, dental floss, soap, shampoo and conditioner, shaving cream, disposable razors, combs and brushes, laundry and cleaning supplies, and lotion
- ♥ Baby supplies, including disposable diapers, baby wipes, and formula
- ♥ Non-perishable food items such as canned goods (vegetables, soup, fruit, beans, etc.)
- ♥ Smaller increment gift cards to places like Fred Meyer, Kmart, Target, Wal-Mart
- ♥ Gas gift cards (Exxon, Shell, Chevron, etc)
- ♥ Digital reader boards for our thrift stores

"The fragrance always stays in the hand that gives the rose."

— Hada Bejar

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