



## St. Vincent de Paul

NORTH IDAHO

St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho is a nonprofit 501(c)3 agency that has provided services to the homeless and economically disadvantaged in Coeur d'Alene, Kootenai County, since 1946. During these decades, the organization has grown from being just a thrift store to becoming the largest and most comprehensive service provider to the homeless and at risk populations throughout North Idaho.

On July 10, St. Vincent de Paul opened the H.E.L.P. Center, a pioneering project that is the first of its kind in the state. Helping Empower Local People (H.E.L.P.) is a collaboration of state agencies, the City of Coeur d'Alene, and local nonprofits to provide a "one-stop shop" with direct services to homeless people in need of stabilizing empowerment services. Now

those in need can receive a free health screening, apply for benefits, receive needed hygiene supplies and clothing vouchers, and get help to get a job—all in one location.

### PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS

An agreement between the city and St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho resulted in leasing the old Coeur d'Alene Library (with the intention of buying it within three years) at a discounted rate of \$1,500 a month in rent. It is understood that the H.E.L.P. Center supports and is in alignment with the city's 10-year Plan to End Homelessness.

This 9,000-square-foot building at 201 E. Harrison Ave. is central to overall operations. The H.E.L.P. Center allows easy access to the thrift store, men's and women's emergency shelters, future mental health center, transitional housing, and warehouse.

### CONSOLIDATING SERVICES AND ADMINISTRATION UNDER ONE ROOF

St. Vincent de Paul has consolidated its offices into the H.E.L.P. Center to include administrative offices, social services including payee services and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), affordable housing offices, (emergency shelter, transitional housing, Housing First, and affordable rental housing offices), ICARE program, which offers parenting classes and child abuse prevention services; and USDA Child Care Food Program, which provides reimbursement for food to day care centers in the 10 northern counties.

### PARTNERS

Other collaborating partners in the Center who are there one or more days a week:

- Project Safe Place: a drop-in center for youth, services for at risk teens and independent living assistance;
- Dirne Health Centers, an FQHC, staffs their clinic two days a week with a nurse practitioner giving medical care to those in need, especially the homeless;
- Idaho Dept. of Health & Welfare staffs a mental health clinician to do screenings and assessments and Navigation services to help people with referrals to resources;

- Ability Works: employment services for people with disabilities;
- Idaho Dept. of Labor and Commerce: employment services and computers for job searches;
- Idaho Dept. of Veteran's Services and the Veterans Administration;
- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness): support and education to those who have a mental illness and their families.

The H.E.L.P. Center is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is looking for more partners who serve people at risk for homelessness. Contact Karen Cotton, 208-664-3095 or stop in for a tour.

