



St. Vincent de Paul
NORTH IDAHO

The Heart of the Community

PROGRAM & SERVICE OVERVIEW

St. Vincent de Paul Salvage Bureau
St. Thomas Conference

Main Office & Thrift Store:
108 E. Walnut
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
Phone: 208-664-3095
Fax: 208-664-1772
www.stvincentdepaulcda.org

Whether it's shelter, clothing, food, outreach, or
simply a convenient place to recycle —
St. Vincent de Paul is here to
help and serve our community.

If you or your group would like a tour of our
facilities, please call 208-664-3095
to arrange a date and time.

St. Vincent de Paul is a drug-free workplace and an equal opportunity employer. All of our programs are operated without judgment and in compliance with federal laws. We do not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin.



A Brief History of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a worldwide charity organization consisting of independent, self-governing, non-profit agencies. St. Vincent de Paul (1580-1660) believed that only love for our fellow man could open the way to a new and better world. It is in this spirit that we pursue our mission to be a good neighbor, not only lending a friendly hand when help is needed, but teaching those in need how to help themselves.

Coeur d'Alene's St. Vincent de Paul has been helping low and very-low income families in Northern Idaho since 1946. At that time, the Society — members of the St. Thomas Conference — began recycling merchandise by giving donated items to the community's poor. Eventually a store was acquired, and donated items were sold and the proceeds were used to help those in need with free and low-cost clothing and household goods, food, gas, prescriptions, emergency medical help, motel vouchers, and bus tickets.



Now, over 60 years later, St. Vincent de Paul has grown to not only include two thrift stores, but provides numerous programs that offer assistance to low-income and homeless people. Our mission is to provide supportive services, safe and sanitary emergency shelter, and to facilitate a continuum of care to homeless and at-risk people throughout the Panhandle area.



All St. Vincent programs are geared toward empowering our clients to become independent, productive members of our community. This brochure will provide more information on these programs, so please, take a moment and learn more about us and what we offer in the North Idaho area.

Our Thrift Stores

Since members of St. Thomas Church founded our original store in Coeur d'Alene decades ago, St. Vincent de Paul has not only been an inexpensive shopping alternative for those in need, but we've also been a great place to get a great deal while making our community a better place to live.

Items donated to both of St. Vincent de Paul's stores not only allow us to give away more than \$50,000 each year in quality goods to low-income community members, but proceeds from sales of these items has given us the opportunity to start and help support two emergency shelters, four transitional housing facilities, and other housing and outreach programs for the homeless — all while providing jobs to more than 70 part-time and full-time employees.

You may call our main office to schedule a pick up for your donated items or simply drop off your quality donations at one of our two locations:

COEUR D'ALENE THRIFT STORE

Located on the corner of Government Way and Walnut Avenue in Coeur d'Alene; this location is open seven days a week, Mon-Sat from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm, and Sun from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. For more information about this location, please call our main line at 208-664-3095.

ST. VINCENT BOOKS AND MORE STORE

Located at 201 West Seltice in Post Falls; this store opened in 1993 and recently doubled in size to meet needs of the growing Post Falls area. This location is open Mon-Fri from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm and on Sat from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. For more information, please call 208-773-6836.

Social Service Office

St. Vincent de Paul's growing commitment to "help others help themselves" is the idea behind our Social Service Office, which started in 1988.

Located in the front of the Men's Emergency Shelter directly behind the Coeur d'Alene thrift store on First Street, our Social Service Office offers all types of assistance, information, and referrals that are geared toward helping lower-income individuals and families in crisis.

Along with being the first point of contact for our homeless shelter programs, our Social Service Office helps with basic needs such as:

- Donated clothing
- Donated blankets, household goods, furniture, and other necessities
- Emergency food
- Personal hygiene supplies
- Transportation assistance
- Short-term assistance with rent and utilities
- Connection to mainstream financial and training resources



For more information about St. Vincent de Paul's Social Services, call 765-2064 or 664-3095.

Emergency Shelter Program

Women & Children's Emergency Shelter

The mission of this 12-bed facility is to offer safe and comfortable shelter for women and children in crisis. In an average month, up to twenty-two women and children find safe haven at the St. Vincent's Emergency Women's Shelter. The children at the shelter remind us that the average age of a homeless person in the United States is nine years old.

During their shelter stay, we offer our guests job-readiness training and placement opportunities while also teaching the necessary life skills which will enable them to move beyond homelessness and become self-sufficient.

Emergency Shelter for Men

Located behind the Coeur d'Alene thrift store, our 10-bed Men's Emergency Shelter is unique because it is the only shelter in North Idaho which serves single men.

While at the shelter guests volunteer time at the thrift store and do needed chores at the shelter. They also have up to 7 days to find employment and are required to save half of their income so they will have money available for their own residence. The Men's Emergency Shelter is funded in part by United Way of Kootenai County.

Both St. Vincent de Paul shelters offer guests two free meals a day and have a maximum stay of 30 days. Both are also drug and alcohol free (as are all St. Vincent facilities) and guests are expected to be substance free on or off the premises.

For more information about either of St. Vincent de Paul's Emergency Shelters, call 765-2064.

Transitional Housing Program

Transitional Housing is temporary housing which is available for up to two years for those who are homeless. What makes these facilities unique is their focus on long-term, internal change for the residents so they may break the cycle of dependence they face.

To help our clients achieve this goal and gain self-sufficiency, St. Vincent de Paul's Transitional Housing Program provides housing *and* supportive services. Residents work with a case manager who help them address issues that contribute to their homelessness; they work with clients so they may build a strong rental history and learn the necessary life skills that will help them move forward in their lives. However, clients must be willing to actively participate in the development of a comprehensive and supportive action plan that will guide them toward this self-sufficiency goal.

Homeless individuals and families come to St. Vincent de Paul with a variety of complex problems and unmet needs. We seek to invest in these people through this program, ensuring that they become capable of providing for their own needs, and the needs of their family. Continual support and staff teamwork are an integral part of this process.



Basic Life Skills Classes that are required as a part of each resident's self-sufficiency plan include:

- Parenting classes
- Money management classes
- Career counseling
- Support groups for children & adults
- Mentoring & tutoring
- GED Classes (off site), if needed
- Substance abuse and mental health counseling (off site), if needed

We also have a computer lab available with 10 computers for residents to use for job searches, class research, doing resumes, etc. These computers are provided through a grant from the Beaumont Foundation.



Currently, St. Vincent de Paul owns and operates a total of 42 units of transitional housing within three facilities in Coeur d'Alene and one in Post Falls. All facilities have common areas, including laundry and kitchen areas. Facilities for families also have play areas.

To be eligible for St. Vincent de Paul's Transitional Housing Program, an individual or family must be homeless, have a verifiable income, be willing to submit to a criminal background check, and demonstrate they are drugfree. They must also show they are motivated to become self-sufficient by participating in all required program components. Units are subject to availability, with a possible waiting list. Rent is based on income.

Call 208-664-3095 or 208-765-4741 for more information on this program.

Affordable Rental Housing

During the 1990s, St. Vincent's housing goals expanded to include preservation of affordable housing in the North Idaho area for low-income people. At that time that we acquired six different affordable housing facilities to serve seniors and families in three northern counties. Since that time we have purchased two more multi-family complexes. We also manage another facility for seniors, Meadowood Glen II, through a written management agreement with HUD.

Affordable Senior Housing

Of the eight facilities owned by St. Vincent, four of them are for seniors. All of our senior housing facilities have units with subsidized rents and medical expense factors so these tenants pay rent based on their income. To be eligible for senior housing, the head of household must meet certain age requirements or be disabled and fall within the income limits. Our complexes for seniors are located in Post Falls in Kootenai County, Plummer and Tensed in Benewah County, and Clark Fork in Bonner County.



Lightning Creek
senior housing in
Clark Fork (below)

Meadowood Glen I
senior housing in
Post Falls (above)



Affordable Multi-Family Housing

Our other four complexes are available for families and individuals of any age and are located in Post Falls. Again, there are some subsidized units at each location and applicants must meet income limits (at or below 80% area median income) which are established by federal regulations.

Vali Vu
Apartments



Ross Point
Apartments

All of St. Vincent's affordable rental facilities are made possible with funding through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S.D.A Rural Development, and Idaho Housing and Finance Association.

For more information about St. Vincent de Paul's Rental Housing Program, call our Affordable Housing Office at 208-457-8380 or our main line at 208-664-3095.

Youth Programs

Art on the Edge

Art on the Edge (AOE) is a non-profit art program provided by St. Vincent de Paul for community youth. In 1994, AOE was born in the shelters of St. Vincent de Paul to provide homeless children an opportunity to express themselves through art. Since then, our program has expanded to include all community youth ages 6-18 and has worked with over 1,500 children.

Art on the Edge engages youth and the community through free after-school classes, public art, and festivals, with the mission to “*provide a creative environment for all youth using art as a tool for learning problem-solving, goal-setting, community values, and increased self esteem.*” We base this on these key ideas:

- Art is an essential and valuable experience for children and our community.
- Art projects focus on the creative process.
- Art on the Edge provides a safe and nurturing environment for children to grow and thrive.
- Public art and festivals, which integrate art and youth, have the potential to change lives and enhance our community.
- Healthy communities are supported by investing in art and children.

Art on the Edge provides free after school classes three days a week as well as a free full summer program.

For more information on (or to volunteer for) Art on the Edge, please call 208-676-0917. You can also visit the Art on the Edge website at www.artontheedge.org.



Child Care Food Program

St. Vincent de Paul administers a U.S. Department of Agriculture Child Care Food Program designed to provide children in day care with nutritious food on a regular basis. For many children, these meals are a primary source of the nutrition they need to grow strong and healthy.

We work with both in-home daycare providers, as well as daycare centers, to ensure they offer meals and snacks that provide the vitamins and minerals children need. To help these providers afford to provide healthy meals, while still charging reasonable rates for child care, the Child Care Food Program reimburses providers for the cost of the food.

To participate in the Child Care Food Program, a daycare provider must be licensed, serve meals and snacks that meet USDA guidelines, and maintain good records. For more information about the Child Care Food Program (CCFP), please call 208-664-2562. The CCFP office is located in Suite #14 at the Harding Family Center, 411 N. 15th St., Coeur d'Alene.

Youth Mentoring Program

The homeless families who come to St. Vincent's Transitional Housing Program are out of choices — either because of financial hardships, wrong decisions, or other unfortunate circumstances. And, along with their parents, the children of these families have desires for a better life!

The objective of our Youth Mentoring Program is to foster opportunities that develop in these children positive behaviors and skills that help broaden their horizons. While parents are taking life skills and parenting classes that teach them how to make better choices, strengthen their families, and become self-sufficient, we supervise and engage the children in activities that build their competence, confidence, connection, and character; activities that promote specific academic or hands-on skills, improve their self-esteem and sense of identity, and teach them how to relate better with peers, parents, teachers, and other people in their lives.

Along with the hard work and dedication of volunteers and others in the community, we have created an optimistic template for the future of these children.

For more information regarding our Youth Mentoring Program, please call our Transitional Housing Center at 208-765-4741.

X-Cel Homework Club

X-CEL is a free, after-school homework and tutoring club for homeless and at-risk youth to receive educational guidance and mentoring. The goal is to offer homeless children staying within our emergency shelters and Transitional Housing Program a positive, safe learning environment that engages them in academic achievement and increases their self-esteem. A strong emphasis is placed on the development of reading and writing skills by using literacy games and activities, which enhance and build literate students. Periodic fieldtrips are also arranged, both as learning tools and rewards for excellence.

X-CEL started in 1998 and continues to operate three days a week in the hours directly after school at no cost to the participants. Snacks are also included. All school-aged children staying at Transitional Housing are able to participate regardless of grade level.

For more information regarding our X-Cel Homework Club, please call our Transitional Housing Center at 208-765-4741.



Other Social Service Programs

Emergency Assistance: St. Vincent de Paul has been offering emergency assistance to those in need for over 60 years. This has always been one of the cornerstones to our agency and still remains one of our main social service programs today. Whether it is for clothing, blankets, household goods, a motel or gas voucher, hygiene products, a bus ticket, or a hot meal, homeless and low-income people throughout North Idaho can come to us for help.

Homeless Prevention: It is unfortunate, but many of the clients we serve come to us for help after they have already lost their housing. With our Homeless Prevention program (which is funded in part by Idaho Housing and Finance Association), we work to offer a solution to a housing crisis *before* a client loses their home and becomes homeless. While temporary in nature, clients who need rental or utility assistance can apply by providing a copy of an eviction or utility shut off notice. St. Vincent's will then provide for a portion of the utility amount or a portion of one month's rent.

Warming Center: During the winter months, St. Vincent de Paul's emergency shelters fill to capacity, leaving many homeless unsheltered out in the dangerous cold. So, in partnership with the City of Coeur d'Alene, St. Vincent's will open the meeting room behind the Coeur d'Alene Thrift Store to unsheltered homeless individuals when the temperature reaches 15 degrees. There they will be able to come in, get warm, rest, and get something hot to eat and drink – and remain safe.

Community Dining Room: As the only soup kitchen for the hungry and homeless in Kootenai County that provides nutritious meals five days a week, St. Vincent de Paul's "Community Dining Room" provides free dinner Monday through Friday from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at St. Vincent's meeting

room behind the Coeur d'Alene thrift store. While each meal is free and available to anyone, donations can also be given at the door and are always welcome!

Case Management: Case Management services are a way to help clients be accountable for their own lives, as well as the assistance they receive. Working with a skilled Case Manager, clients build an individualized case plan that maps out their goals and their path to success and self-reliance. Case Managers offer support, direction, referrals, and accountability, while meeting with clients as often as necessary.

Housing for Veterans: According to the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), it is estimated that nearly 200,000 veterans are homeless on any given night and nearly 400,000 experience homelessness over the course of a year. Conservatively, one out of every three homeless men who is sleeping in a doorway, alley or box in our cities and rural communities has put on a uniform and served this country. Veterans account for 23% of all homeless people in America, with 45% suffering from mental illness, and half having substance abuse problems. More than 67% served our country for at least three years and 33% were stationed in a war zone.

While the veteran's in our transitional housing program receive the same services as other clients, we work to provide more specialized services that meet their unique needs. We collaborate with the VA in Spokane to provide case management that incorporates mental, physical, and substance abuse health services to better help these veterans succeed in obtaining and keeping permanent housing.

Veterans Counseling & Service Center: St. Vincent de Paul's Veterans Service Center aids veterans and their families in their times of need, as well as helps with any concerns regarding educational benefits and entitlements. Veterans can receive the same services that our non-veteran homeless and low-income clients receive, such as emergency assistance,

food, shelter, and housing; however, we will also provide assistance with other V.A. related items. A Case Manager copies veterans related documents, provides secretarial help with V.A. communication, assists an unemployed veteran with a job search, and maintains a file of their important documents. Transportation to the V.A. medical center in Spokane for medical treatment is also available.

Payee Services: For clients who need help budgeting their monthly bills, St. Vincent de Paul offers Payee Services. By signing St. Vincent up as an approved payee, clients can feel secure knowing that their income will be managed responsibly and their monthly bills will be paid each month on time, every time. While most clients who utilize Payee Services receive Social Security payments, any client who has a steady income is eligible for this financial management program.

Career Counseling: St. Vincent de Paul's Caring Career Counseling Program teaches clients the skills they need to succeed in the world of work and become self-reliant. Through both one-on-one career counseling and work-readiness workshops, the Caring Career Counseling Program gives clients insight into their skills and how they fit in the job market. Clients also learn the skills needed to land a job including filling out job applications, preparing resumes, and performing well in job interviews. After clients find jobs, the program follows up to ensure they successfully meet their employers' expectations.

Housing First: Housing First is an approach to ending homelessness that centers on providing homeless people with housing quickly and then providing services as needed. A different approach from traditional emergency shelter or transitional housing, the Housing First model is "housing-based," with an immediate and primary focus on helping individuals and families quickly access and sustain permanent housing followed by case management and social services. By using this approach, we have the benefit of being consistent with what

most people experiencing homelessness want and seek help to achieve.

Second Chance Renter's Rehabilitation: Many homeless people make great strides to overcome their homelessness and become self-sufficient. Unfortunately, even though they have made positive changes in their lives, it is still hard for them to obtain adequate, permanent housing for themselves and their families. Histories of poor credit, evictions, poor tenant history, and/or criminal backgrounds leave these people in desperate need of a second chance.

Second Chance Renter's Rehabilitation Program is a basic approach to overcoming homelessness. Through targeted classes that involve qualified community instructors and connection to participating landlords, this program offers a step-by-step systematic approach to overcoming the obstacles in each person's life that caused their homelessness, while also emphasizing their strengths. "Graduates" of the program receive referrals to housing resources that are willing to take a second chance on those who have successfully completed the class. A letter of reference from St. Vincent's and continued case management after the program are required. A guarantee certificate for up to \$600 is also given to the landlords to be used if the graduate fails to meet their rental obligation.

ICARE Children & Family Advocacy Center: ICARE is now a program of St. Vincent de Paul! This newest addition is an excellent fit to our wide array of social programs! The mission of ICARE (Idaho Child Abuse Response & Education) Children & Family Advocacy Center is to reduce child abuse and neglect in Kootenai County by providing education and supportive services for parents at-risk of abusing and/or neglecting their children.

ICARE is located at 1621 North 3rd Street in Coeur d'Alene. For more information on ICARE, you may call 676-1515.

Parenting & Life Skills Classes: When navigating the daily aspects of life and parenting, it may seem natural for many to know how to handle everyday tasks and challenges. Yet, for many, these are actually learned skills that many of our clients were never taught. Many people learn by example and unfortunately, in many cases homelessness and poverty is a generational cycle by that is brought about by repeated behavior and feelings of hopelessness.

Through our parenting and life skills classes, our homeless clients are taught basic skills that help them maneuver through day-to-day living in a way that helps them be successful and self-supporting – as well as teach them how to incorporate those new skills into their children’s lives. Just some of the Life Skills classes that St. Vincent de Paul makes available are: budgeting & financial management, personal hygiene, home upkeep, and Love & Logic Parenting.

Home Outreach: With a group of dedicated volunteers, St. Vincent de Paul provides outreach services through home visits, with the goal of attending to unmet needs of our clients. This service is available for people who are unable to come to our Social Service Office for assistance, as well as others in need of support and companionship.

Legal Link: Local attorneys volunteer their time to provide free legal consultations at our weekly Legal Link clinic. The basis of the program is to offer lower-income people information on what resources are available to assist them with their legal issues. Legal Link’s attorneys help inform clients about the law and their rights as it relates to their concerns, and helps them decide what direction they should take in their legal matters. By giving them good legal information, Legal Link empowers people to make better choices.

Fashions For Your Future: When you need a job, the first impression you make is everything, which is why St. Vincent de Paul created Fashions for Your Future. Fashions gives job

seekers the resources they need to get off on the right foot with a potential employer. A job interview starts the instant the job seeker walks through the door, and to be taken seriously they need the right look.

Fashions is a two-hour workshop where we furnish each participant with: a personal shopper, up to \$100 of free clothing, free cosmetics and instruction on how to use them the right way in the workplace, interview tips, and career counseling.

After attending our Fashions for Your Future program, job applicants can interview with confidence.

Agency Networking & Collaboration: Having been in the North Idaho region for over 60 years, St. Vincent de Paul has a vast knowledge of other agencies and programs that are available in our community. We attend meetings, hold memberships in various local groups, and work daily with other providers on our clients' behalf. As with all non-profits and government entities, we see ourselves as stewards of the community's generous donations and we feel it is our responsibility to network and collaborate with other service providers to help ensure our clients' success, as well as prevent the duplications of services in our area.

**St. Vincent de Paul cannot survive
without community support.**

We encourage you to:

- ⇒ Shop in our stores.
- ⇒ Donate household goods, money, food, and clothing.
- ⇒ Share your time and talents as a volunteer.
- ⇒ Remember our clients when you speak with local and state policy makers.



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*Thank you for your interest
in our organization!*
