

# St. Vincent's Vision

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

Volume 3, Issue 1

Spring 2007

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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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## The Very Heart of St. Vincent de Paul

*Listening is being there, empathizing with the individual.*

Having begun in 1988 in a little corner of the Coeur d'Alene thrift store, St. Vincent de Paul's Social Service Office has grown to be the heart of our agency and the entry point for most of our self-sufficiency programs. Located now in the front of our Men's Emergency Shelter, this office sees into the neediest corners of Kootenai county, offering assistance regard-

less of ones faith, cul-  
ture, or back-  
ground. Staff mem-  
bers extend aid to  
the very low-income  
individuals and families  
assistance, information,  
offering individualized  
with understanding,  
the knowledge that all  
and deserving of kind-



While we spe-  
cialize in serving the  
homeless and those  
at-risk of homelessness  
and self-sufficiency  
programs, we also serve the disabled, victims of domestic abuse, veter-  
ans in need, at-risk youth, and the elderly.

In 2006 alone, almost 6,500 people received help through this office with various types of social service assistance, plus close to 25,000 meals were served to people in need. On an average day, our social service staff see 18 people, aiding them with services such as:

- ♥ Emergency items of food, shelter, personal hygiene items.
- ♥ Emergency vouchers for clothing, gas, and needed household items.
- ♥ Community networking and referrals to other needed assistance.

(story continued on page 2)

*From the  
Desk of the  
Executive  
Director*



Dear  
Friends,

It is hard to believe we have entered a new year!

2007 will be another busy year here at St. Vincent de Paul. As Kootenai County continues to grow, we continue to see a great need in our community. Concerns of affordable "work-force" housing is a hot topic among our local policy makers, as it should be. Since our organization is one of the leaders in our area for lower-income housing issues, we are pleased that these concerns are finally being talked about and dealt with beyond non-profit agencies!

St. Vincent de Paul is dedicated to serving the lower-income workers who can't afford housing yet who are so vital to our community's growth, success, and sustainability. To further this commitment, we will be closing soon on a 24-unit apartment complex in Post Falls which was at-risk of going market rate. We also hope to close later this year on another 24-unit complex in the same location. With these purchases, 48 low-income individuals and/or families will continue to have a place to call home!

Lynn Peterson

A special thank you to Jean Reed's family for providing the photo on page 3.

## ST. VINCENT'S SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAM

(continued from page 1)

- ♥ Payee Services for those on limited fixed income (SSI, Social Security, etc.) who need assistance in handling their finances and budget.
- ♥ Legal consulting workshops through our Legal Link program.
- ♥ Professional clothing and makeup workshops for women through our Fashions for Your Future Program.

Kathy Reed is the Director of our Social Service Office and one of the main reasons we offer so many different programs through this office. Kathy is always looking for new ways to help those in need with services that convey a client's worth. She believes that when people regain their sense of self-worth and dignity, they can begin to make the necessary changes that lead to more positive choices and a better life.

If you would like to make a difference in your community and in the lives of others, become a Social Service Office volunteer by contacting Kathy Reed at 765-2064.



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY!

Each year, we see more and more people needing extra help around the holidays and the cold winter months. And, each year we see our wonderful community members step up and give more and more. The Christmas season of 2006 was certainly no exception! We received many donations of toys, gift cards, clothing, food, and other necessities for our Transitional Housing families, Emergency Shelter guests, and Social Service Office clients. Overall, we were able to help 69 people because of this generosity!

All of us at St. Vincent de Paul would like to extend a warm thank you to everyone who gave so graciously of both their time and money to make this past holiday better for those who are struggling to make ends meet. Your giving really made a difference in the lives of those we serve and we would not have been able to do it without such a kind and caring community!

## DID YOU KNOW? A NOTE ABOUT MEDICAL EQUIPMENT RENTALS

If you or your loved ones are ever in need of medical equipment — items such as walkers, canes, shower benches, wheelchairs, toilet risers, or even a hospital bed — why spend a fortune renting when, with only a minimal deposit, you can get it from St. Vincent de Paul?

FACT: From donated items we have received at our thrift stores, we allow you to borrow gently-used medical items using only a deposit. Then, when you return the equipment to us you receive your deposit back. You no longer need to have the larger expense of purchasing these items new, nor do you have the monthly rental charge you would have if you went to a regular pharmacy or medical equipment store. Just stop by the front counter of our Coeur d'Alene Thrift Store to find out more about this great service! (Available only at the Coeur d'Alene Store.)

## Helping Others: Volunteers in Action

Jean Reed has been volunteering part-time at St. Vincent de Paul for almost four years offering her time to assist our Payee Representative in the Social Service Office. Each month, for two days a month, she helps to balance all 33 payee's check-books to ensure their finances are in order and any mistakes are corrected. Her organization, accuracy, and attention to detail has really made a difference in our clients' lives because they can feel confident that their money is being handled in the right



manner. She has also helped to streamline the process, making it more accurate and efficient, which allows us to offer this service to even more people who need help keeping their financial lives in order.

In a time when many

people find it hard to volunteer time to even one agency, Jean has not only been giving her valuable time to us at St. Vincent de Paul, but she has also been volunteering at the Kootenai Humane Society for over fifteen years. Her dedication to us and KHS is a guiding example which proves that you don't have to donate your time on a grand scale, that even something as small as two days a month can really make a difference in the lives of those (and agencies) in need! Thank you, Jean!

## Come Join Us!

Volunteers are always welcome here at St. Vincent de Paul! Don't know what you could do to help? We can always use more help with:

- ♥ X-Cel, St. Vincent's homework club
- ♥ Other children's activities
- ♥ Agree to place our newsletter at your place of business
- ♥ Artists for Art on the Edge classes
- ♥ Warehouse and sorting
- ♥ Make a meal for emergency shelter guests
- ♥ Organizing a fundraiser
- ♥ Youth mentoring
- ♥ Many other possibilities!

## MARTi GRAS FESTIVITIES CELEBRATED ART AND CHILDREN WHILE RAISING MONEY FOR ART ON THE EDGE!

In collaboration with the Coeur d'Alene Arts & Culture Alliance, Bellerive Coeur d'Alene (a Black Rock Development), the Coeur d'Alene Resort Plaza, and many other participating organizations, St. Vincent de Paul's Art on the Edge Program recently hosted a MARTi Gras festival for kids to give them a chance to experience different art forms — and raise money for our free youth art program.

Close to 1,000 children attended this 5-hour event and got to experience performing arts, painting, sculpting, mask making, and music. Kendall Lewis, Art on the Edge's Program Director, was pleased with the turnout; "It was a very big success. We didn't realize how many kids would come."

Each year Art on the Edge holds an annual fundraising dinner during the traditional New Orleans Mardi Gras festival. This was the second year for the kids' festival. These events are not only a great way for kids to learn about art and the creative process, but for the community to learn about and support this very worthwhile after school program, which is free to all the children who participate. And, thanks to the support during this year's dinner and kids' festival, Art on the Edge raised close to \$22,000.

If you would like more information on Art on the Edge, please call Kendall Lewis at 208-676-0917.

## BOOKS & MORE STORE IN POST FALLS OFFERS GREAT ITEMS & GREAT DEALS!

Coeur d'Alene is not the only place to find great deals on great used items. Next time you're in Post Falls, stop by St. Vincent Books and More Store, located on Seltice Way, just west of Spokane Street. There you will find a huge selection of quality used goods within this recently expanded store. Whether it is used clothing, household items, furniture, jewelry, books, baby items — or whatever you might need — you're sure to find it here at a really great price!

Come by and use the coupon below. Consider it just our little way of saying thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and for your continued support of our organization. Without your support, we couldn't do what we do!

**COUPON — COUPON — COUPON**

Good towards **\$5.00 off**  
your next purchase at



*St. Vincent Books & More Store*  
*Seltice Way, Post Falls, Idaho*

Coupon expires April 30, 2007 and is only good at the Post Falls store.

*The Society of  
St. Vincent de Paul  
St. Thomas Conference*

108 East Walnut  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Phone: 208-664-3095  
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**We're on the web!**  
**Visit our website at**  
**[www.stvincentdepaulcda.org](http://www.stvincentdepaulcda.org)**

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\\_svdpc@yahoo.com](mailto:shelly_hines_svdpc@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
- ♥ Digital reader boards for thrift stores

*"Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others."*

— *Barbara Bush*

A special apology from the Editor to Terri Misso, who was featured as the success story on the page insert of our last newsletter, for the misspelling of her name.

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Newsletter Editor & Writer: Shelly Hines  
Design & Layout: Shelly Hines  
Printing: Commercial Printing