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# † SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL †

VANCOUVER CONFERENCE

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VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

ST. JAMES, ST. JOSEPH, OUR LADY OF LOURDES, HOLY REDEEMER

MAY 2006

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I sit down to write my first President's Corner article, I am filled with awe at the many changes that have taken place at the Vancouver Conference of St. Vincent de Paul since I first joined in 1990. It was a time in my life when I had little treasure to give, but wanted to help those in need. After learning about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at a Time & Talent Fair I knew that was what I had been looking for. When I first became a member we were still located downtown in the gym at St. James Church, which was not nearly big enough for our needs. Since I worked full time I was not able to help much during the week, but twice a year my husband and I would help with the handing out of Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. When our son got into high school, he and a couple of friends would come along with us. As other members of our extended family found out about the baskets they also wanted to help. It is now an annual family affair that we all look forward to. After being a member for a year or so I was asked to be the Secretary and became part of the Board. This was a wonderful opportunity to get to know more about the Vancouver Conference and meet all of the terrific volunteers that help out every day. During this time we started the Building Campaign to fund our new building on Stapleton Road where we are today. About the time we moved in to our new building I became Vice President and continued to get more involved at the Board level. This past January 2006 I had the honor of being elected President of the Vancouver Conference. I only hope that I can fill the shoes of the Presidents that have gone before me. To me there has been nothing more rewarding than the time I have spent at SVDP. It's true that we are there to help the less fortunate, but every volunteer there will tell you how much they receive through the giving to others.

If any one out there is looking for a way to get a little fulfillment in their life while helping those less fortunate, than contact the SVDP office and ask for a tour of our facility. No matter how much time you may have to get involved, even if it's just an hour a week, there's a place for you. I look forward to meeting you soon.

In His Service,  
Shirley Buckmier

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### OFFICERS AS OF JANUARY 2006:

President: Shirley Buckmier

Vice President: Linda Becker

Treasurer: Diane Hanke

Other Board Members: Jim Anderson, Dorothy Collins, Jim DeLong, Nick Di Julio, Bob Leverman, Tim Norton, Donna Opoka, Ron Pastor, Paul Theisen

A huge Thank You to our past president, Ron Pastor. Officers each serve a 3 year term. The Board meets every month, while the members' meeting is every three months. The Board is responsible for setting a yearly budget, setting goals, policies, and procedures for providing vision for the future, and overseeing the business operations.

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### *Inside This Issue:*

*The President's Corner*

*Officers as of January 2006*

*Christmas Gifts*

*Vehicle Donation*

*Easter Basket Project*

*Back to School Clothing and Supplies*

*Morning River Walk*

*Goods & Services Provided Chart*

*Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities*

*Wish List*

*Thank You Photo Gallery*

*"It's not how many hours you put in but how much you put into the hours." Gods Little Instruction Book*





## CHRISTMAS GIFTS

In addition to the generous Christmas gifts donated by our parish families, KGW News Channel 8 donated 300 new toys to St. Vincent de Paul. After Christmas food baskets were picked up, our clients were able to pick up gifts for their children. What a great way to make a child's Christmas memorable and relieve anxiety for parents. This year St. Vincent de Paul was able to hand out gifts for 1,083 children!

*Marge Martel is dwarfed by the numerous Christmas gifts about to be handed out.*

*"Get it out of my driveway" A quote by Mark L. on his vehicle donation decision.*

### VEHICLE DONATION

Donating a car can be "quick and easy" and more satisfying than trying to sell it on your own. Volunteers of America can even pick up your car for free. Few vehicles are turned down. Please call St. Vincent de Paul for more information.



### EASTER BASKET PROJECT

A huge THANK YOU to Deb Garrett of 1Studio for donating 100 Easter Baskets stuffed with toys, novelties, story books, religious books, and candy to St. Vincent de Paul. She donated an additional 100 Easter Baskets to Open House Ministries and Transition House. This was Ms. Garrett's 8th year in making and donating Easter Baskets, and St. Vincent de Paul was pleased to be able to assist her and also thankful in accepting baskets for our young clients. We look forward to lending a hand next year for this most worthy cause. By the way, Matthew Gardner from St. John's parish donated enough items to fill 20 baskets! **THANK YOU!**



### BACK TO SCHOOL CLOTHING AND SUPPLIES PROGRAM

#### **Clothing, Clothing and more Clothing!**

New and gently used clothing are needed for school aged children. The clothing will be given to over 650 children at the start of the next school year. Cash donations are also welcome so we can buy specific items that may be low on donations.

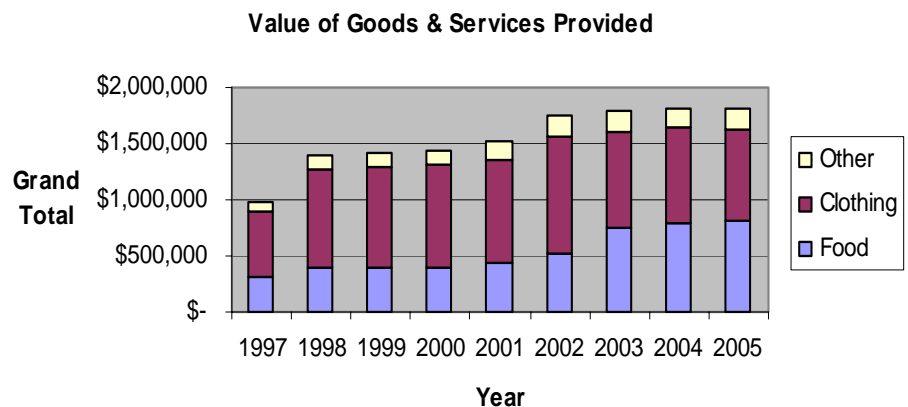
#### **The Columbian Morning River Walk** June 24, 2006 @ 9 am

5 K walk

*\$10 tickets are being sold now. You can do the walk or just sponsor a walker. 100% of the ticket proceeds goes to St. Vincent de Paul.*

*What a healthy way to donate money!*

Donations have risen from \$170,000 to \$282,000 over the last 6 years and with in-kind donations (clothing, food, etc.), we've been able to turn that into the ability to give to more and more families. Just last year alone SVDP-Vancouver Conference was able to give over \$1,800,000 in assistance to the needy in the form of food, clothing, household items, holiday food baskets and gifts, rent, utility and other financial assistance.



**UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Sort clothing for Back to School Program in August.
- Volunteer with small truck or van for food pickup. Volunteer needs to be able to lift up to 50-60 pounds. Flexible schedules.
- Volunteer to assist in food pickup. Morning hours, flexible schedules.
- The Columbian Morning River Walk—June 24, 2006 at 9am

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[www.svdpvancouverusa.com](http://www.svdpvancouverusa.com)

**WISH LIST**

- **BABY DIAPERS** (all sizes)
- Clothing for school aged children
- Hygiene products
- Non-perishable food
- **NEW** children storybooks (Golden Books or religious books to add to next years Easter Baskets.)



*THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS...  
 For distributing over 339 Thanksgiving food baskets, 504 Christmas food baskets, and 1,625 Christmas gifts for 1,083 children!  
 God Bless You!*



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Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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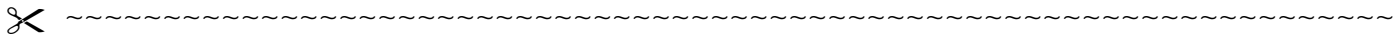
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DONATION HOURS  
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM - 3PM

**Vehicle Donation Program:**



You can donate your car, truck, motorcycle, recreational vehicle, and even your boat with trailer! We are partnered with Volunteers of America who will pick up your vehicle and sell it. St. Vincent de Paul receives some of the proceeds and you get the tax deduction. Call St. Vincent de Paul at 694-5388 for more information.

DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD AND CLOTHING MAY BE DROPPED OFF DURING OFFICE HOURS OR IN THE CHURCH BINS LOCATED AT ST. JAMES, ST. JOSEPH, OUR LADY OF LOURDES, AND HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCHES.



**Yes, I want to help!**

- Cash Donation
- Donation of Non-Perishable Food
- Donation of Clothing/Household Items
- Become a Member/Volunteer of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your donation! Phone # \_\_\_\_\_