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# ✠ Society of St. Vincent de Paul ✠

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Volume 8 Issue 2

Vancouver Conference

November 2005

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## The President's Corner

In the concluding chapter of St. John's gospel, Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him. More insistently each time Peter assures the Lord that he does and Jesus responds first with "feed my lambs", then with "look after my sheep" and finally with "feed my sheep." Peter's tone suggests that he thought Jesus either wasn't listening or was doubting Peter's reply. But, perhaps, Jesus was just emphasizing his admonition to Peter, the other disciples, and followers to come (including us) of looking after His "sheep", knowing that He was about to join His Father.

This gospel passage kept recurring to me as I watched the tragedies of two hurricanes and a devastating earthquake during the past several weeks. Certainly, "feeding my sheep" entails spreading the good news of the gospel but it also requires doing what we can to help one another in an hour of need. Natural disasters such as these can test people's faith and challenge our resolve to place our trust in God. Although governments seemed slow to respond, the outpouring of ordinary people both here and abroad has been heartening. Our prayers and material support will be needed long into the future for the victims. St. Vincent de Paul is active in the gulf coast and we have sent a check for \$1,000 to the SVDP Natural Disaster Fund to support relief efforts. We would be pleased to forward any individual contributions.

Also, please remember that our local needs here in Vancouver continue. Frequently, when there are national disasters, support of local needs drops off.

This will be my last input to this column as my term as president will end in December. It has been an honor and privilege to serve for the past six years. I want to thank members of the Board, the staff, volunteers, and benefactors for their efforts, support and the kindness they have shown me. You have made my job easy. May God bless you all and may our conference thrive and continue to be a blessing to those we serve.

Best wishes for a blessed holiday season,

Ron Pastor

*Make it a practice to judge persons and things in the most favorable light at all times  
and under all circumstances. ~Saint Vincent de Paul*

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## St. Vincent de Paul Web Site - Update

We are pleased to be able to provide a copy of our newsletters, starting with the May, 2005 newsletter, on our new Web Site! So, type in [www.svdpvancouverusa.com](http://www.svdpvancouverusa.com) and take a look around.

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## Giving Trees Give To Needy Children

St. Vincent de Paul is blessed every Christmas season to be able to distribute around 1000 gifts to children during our Christmas Food Basket Distribution. Four conference associated parishes have Christmas Giving Trees. St. James Catholic Church helps us by giving gift cards and certificates for the older children. Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, and St. Joseph Catholic Church all donate presents for children of all ages. Over the last 25 years, Marge Martel has coordinated the children's gifts for St. Vincent de Paul after St. Joseph's completes its massive sorting of almost 2000 gifts. Our clients receive their Christmas Food Baskets at our office in an efficient drive-thru method. Then they can proceed up to St. Joseph Catholic Church to pick up their wrapped presents that have been sorted by age group. It is a rewarding time to be able to distribute presents and show how we care for our community in need.

## Back to School Clothing and Supplies Program

Thank you to everyone who donated the clothing, school supplies and cash donations for our important Back to School Program. St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist 641 children. What a great way for these children to start a school year! A special thank you to all the volunteers who spent many hours on this considerable undertaking.

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## Morning River Walk



Jean Rigney, Lee Schrom,  
and Sylvia Van Selow ready to walk!

About 10 of our St. Vincent de Paul members and friends were up bright and early on Saturday, June 25, 2005, to walk the 5 kilometer Morning River Walk. One hundred percent of the donations went directly to our organization! We made \$300 and had a fun time getting exercise. Thank you to everyone who donated money for St. Vincent de Paul!

## Life Changing Words

After receiving financial help, one of our clients wrote a moving thank you note:

“... at a horrible time in my life, and as helpful as it was to my “physical” comfort, that didn’t even come close to being the most important need I was blessed enough to have you fill that day. That happened when we were ending our call and I said “Thank you so much” and you told me something that I had forgotten and really needed to hear. You said “*That’s okay honey. You’re worth it.*”

That one little line has changed my life. . .” Becky,  
September 2005

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## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

We would love your help! Please call our office for more detailed information.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets:

- ◆ November 18, 2005  
filling food boxes
- ◆ November 19, 2005  
distributing food boxes

Christmas Food Baskets:

- ◆ November 21, 2005  
we will start taking names for needy families
- ◆ December 16, 2005  
filling food boxes
- ◆ December 17, 2005  
distributing food boxes

## Christmas Coats and Shoes Program

Keeping children warm during the winter months is a priority at St. Vincent de Paul. A generous family has designated a significant cash donation every year for over 25 years to be used for new coats and new shoes for children. We are honored to be able to take the families

shopping and make this wish of a compassionate family a reality.

## School Donations

Can you believe almost 500 pounds of canned food was brought to St. Vincent de Paul after donations were brought to St. Joseph Catholic School's annual Sock Hop? THANK YOU students!

## Wish List

- Book Shelves (free standing, short or tall)
- Can Openers (non- electric)
- Plastic and paper bags
- Toilet paper
- Nonperishable foods
- Hygiene items
- More volunteers to help with the home visits

## YEAR IN REVIEW RECAP OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

St. Vincent de Paul relies on donations of cash, food and clothing in order to distribute assistance to the poor and suffering in our community. In our last fiscal year, we were able to provide over 21,000 bags and boxes of food, over 27,000 people were given clothing, and 425 families were given other needed financial assistance used for rent, emergency shelter, medical, gas and transportation, and utilities.

### Value of Goods & Service Provided October 2004 – September 2005

<u>FOOD</u>		
Regular Food Bags	19,352 bags @ \$40.00	\$774,080
Thanksgiving Food Boxes	325 boxes @ \$35.00	11,375
Christmas Food Boxes	512 boxes @ \$35.00	17,920
<b>FOOD TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$803,375</b>
<u>CLOTHING</u>		
Regular Clothing	26,195 people @ \$30.00	\$785,850
School Clothing	641 children @ 50.00	32,050
Christmas Clothing	170 children	11,006
<b>CLOTHING TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$828,906</b>
<u>OTHER ASSISTANCE</u>		
Christmas Gifts	968 children @ \$15.00	\$14,520
Household Items	5,575 families @ \$10.00	55,750
Furniture	286 families	5,720
Rent	222 families	82,302
Emergency Shelter	29 families	1,761
Medical	40 families	1,147
Gas & Transportation	30 families	627
Utilities	104 families	10,497
Hygiene Products & Misc.		6,484
<b>OTHER ASSISTANCE TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$178,808</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$1,811,089</b>

# Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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ADDRESS

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NAME # PHONE

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BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY  
OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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DONATION OF HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

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DONATION OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD

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CASH DONATION

**YES, I WANT TO HELP!**