
† SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL †

VANCOUVER CONFERENCE

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 2

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

NOVEMBER 2006

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

YtM?

what a beautiful season. This is truly my favorite time of year. There is still plenty of sunshine, but you can feel the crispness in the air at night. It's the time that we can experience God's gift of beauty on a daily basis. His pallet is overflowing with hues of yellow, orange and red, and the scene changes daily. Take a little time to enjoy this awesome show and thank God for all He has given you. I am most thankful for the many volunteers that we are blessed with at our conference. We would not be able to accomplish the many programs and activities that we do without them. Thank you one and all, you are all true stewards of charity.

As the seasons are changing, everyone is anticipating the many upcoming holidays and preparing their homes for the friends and families that will be joining them. However, in our hurry to prepare our homes, let's not forget those less fortunate among us. St. Vincent said that "Love is endlessly inventive" and that is so true of our conference. This is the busiest time of year for our members and volunteers. We start off in September with the Back to School Clothing program, followed by the Thanksgiving Food Baskets handed out in November. Then in December we have the Coats & Shoes program where we take local children shopping to make sure that they have the necessities for winter. And last but not least we have the Christmas Food Baskets and toys for the children.

There are so many ways to get involved and help others and we always are in need of more volunteers. So if you are feeling like you need something to fill a void in your life, or just have some time on your hands, stop by and we will put you to work. In the words of St. Vincent, "It is our duty to prefer the service of the poor to everything else and to offer such service as quickly as possible. Charity is certainly greater than any rule. Moreover, all rules must lead to charity."

Best wishes for a blessed holiday season,

Shirley Buckmier

OUR MISSION

Inspired by the Gospel values of charity and compassion for all, and in an effort to promote human dignity, the *Vancouver Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul* provides food, clothing, shelter and other forms of assistance to people in need without regard to race, color, gender or religion.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international Catholic lay organization. Key to the Society's active ministry is the person-to-person involvement of our member volunteers. Because they see the face of Jesus Christ in the needy persons whom they serve, their primary purpose is to bring the love and peace of Christ to those who are suffering.

"You will find that charity is a heavy burden to carry, heavier than the bowl of soup and the full basket. But you will keep your gentleness and your smile. It is not enough to give bread and soup. This the rich can do. You are the servant of the poor... They are your masters, and the more difficult they will be, the unjust and insulting, the more love you must give them. It is for your love alone that the poor will forgive you the bread you give them." **St. Vincent de Paul**

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FRESH ALLIANCE

St. Vincent de Paul is able to give out perishable foods, such as frozen meat, milk, eggs, and cheese thanks to the Fresh Alliance Program. This program has greatly enhanced the nutritional foods that we are able to give out. This worthy program consists of the Clark County Food Bank's Stop Hunger Warehouse, the Oregon Food Bank, and volunteers from a variety of organizations including ours. Foods that are donated are still good but have pull dates at the grocery stores. The food can't be picked up unless volunteers can transport it to the warehouse. St. Vincent de Paul then gets a portion of the food for our own distribution. Volunteers are always needed, especially since another refrigerated truck will be available for pickup soon. If you feel you can volunteer for this program, please call James Fitzgerald at 699-1961.

DONATION DILEMMA

THERE ARE TIMES DURING THE YEAR (GARAGE SALE SEASON IS ONE) THAT WE RECEIVE MORE DONATIONS THAN OUR WAREHOUSE AND VOLUNTEERS CAN HANDLE, AND WE MUST START TURNING AWAY SOME DONATIONS. BECAUSE WE RELY ON DONATIONS, AND THE FACT THAT THERE IS NO PICKUP SERVICE, WE REALLY APPRECIATE PEOPLE DELIVERING THEIR ITEMS TO OUR WAREHOUSE. MOST PEOPLE WHO DONATE TO ST. VINCENT DE PAUL DONATE BECAUSE WE DON'T SELL ITEMS - WE GIVE THEM AWAY AS FAST AS IS POSSIBLE. IF YOU HAVE A LARGE DONATION, WE ADVISE CALLING THE OFFICE FIRST TO SEE WHAT THE NEED IS. WE ASK FOR PATIENCE DURING THESE TIMES OF THE YEAR WHEN DONATIONS ARE HIGH.

CHRISTMAS COATS AND SHOES PROGRAM

Warm coats and new shoes are in store for over 170 children this winter. Thanks to a generous donation from a local family, St. Vincent de Paul has been able to provide this special program since 1979. As members who go shopping at local stores with the families, we get "warmth" from seeing how grateful the parents are and how happy the children are when they get to pick out coats and shoes just for themselves.

GIFT OF FOOD

The holidays are right around the corner, and we are starting to gather food for our Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets. The food baskets consist of traditional foods, including: a whole, frozen turkey; canned goods such as corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, and fruit cocktail; fresh produce such as celery, onion, potatoes, and apples; a dozen eggs; milk; bread; and pies or the ingredients to make pies. A prayer card is inserted into each basket that has the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, and information about who we are. What is not donated is bought, so food or cash donations are both appreciated!

The Columbian Morning River Walk
June 24, 2006



What a beautiful day we had for a walk along the Columbia River! St. Vincent de Paul raised \$390 from this fun event and all of the money stays with us!

Karlyn Stankye with her dad, Collins Lefebvre on River Walk

Annual Banquet

Every year our volunteers and members are invited to a fun evening of good food and socializing. We hear a review of the previous fiscal year and a guest speaker is always inspirational. This enjoyable evening gets everyone motivated for another fantastic year of helping those in need in our community.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!

Unexpected Income

We have been able to expand our Rent & Utilities Program because of generous contributions made from wonderful individuals who place St. Vincent de Paul in their will or through memorials. This unexpected income has allowed us to increase the number of families served. If you are interested in more information about putting St. Vincent de Paul in your will, please call Dick Lauer at 694-5388.

APPLES TOMATOES
PUMPKINS Garden Fresh
Produce Donations

Thank you to all of our local gardeners who helped to supplement our food pantry with fresh produce! We can always use fresh produce from gardens that have produced more than expected.

PEARS CORN SQUASH
GRAPES FIGS ZUCCHINI

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Vancouver, WA
PERMIT NO. 12

360-694-5388
Vancouver, WA 98661
2456 NE Stapleton Road
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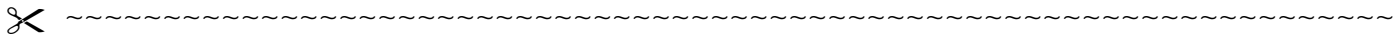
DONATION HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM - 3PM

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 # _____