

PROVIDED BY ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Prevent homelessness by keeping our neighbors in their homes

St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) officials say, "One verifiable method of reducing homelessness in Seattle is to have a system in place that anticipates a potential eviction, coordinates decision making and resources, and stops this action from occurring."

Executive Director Ned Delmore says this is precisely SVdP's mission work seven days a week.

"We have close to 600 trained teams of lay volunteers on the ground with seasoned case managers working in 53 communities in both Seattle and King County. We visit people where they are and our neighbors know us well and trust us," said Delmore.

SVdP has been in Seattle for nearly 100 years, and in that time the organization has learned that by going to the source of a neighbor's life and visiting them in their homes, they are able to see, hear, and understand the severity of the need and pay that extra rent, preventing eviction.

The non-profit started as an independent and self-governing entity and has remained that way since its founding in Paris, France in 1833.

SVdP stresses that it strives to serve everyone without regard to religion, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identification.

Last year, St. Vincent de Paul received over 42,000 calls at its



South Seattle Helpline from neighbors asking for assistance. It is the largest referral agency for the King County Crisis 2-1-1 Line. St. Vincent de Paul volunteers went on over 15,000 home visits, assisting over 40,000 men, women, and children living in poverty.

Delmore reported, "It is the home visit encounter, where our eyes meet and we listen to their story, that allows us to join with our neighbor and hear the cry of the poor. There is no insulation from vulnerability. We all live with it in one way or another and we have found that those in greatest need are mothers with children whose lives often teeter on a razor's edge and are desperate for a lifeline of protection."

SVdP has joined with the City of Seattle and King County by forming a coalition and network of resources that reinforces their model of eviction prevention.

Delmore further noted, "By preventing an eviction and keeping our neighbors housed, we save our taxpaying citizens of our city and county over \$40,000 a year. It is not only a wise investment but a humane response to our vulnerable brothers and sisters."

You can help keep our neighbors in their homes by becoming a supporter of St. Vincent de Paul. About 90 cents of every dollar donated to SVdP goes to programs. For information, visit www.svdpsseattle.org.

HOME VISITS REDUCE HOMELESSNESS!

Donate NOW to St. Vincent de Paul

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