

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL DESPARATELY SEEKING
FURNITURE DONATIONS TO HELP PEOPLE IN OUR
COMMUNITY AFFECTED
BY SEVERE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS**

Furniture Donations Critical In Person-to-Person Assistance

CINCINNATI, OH –February 23, 2009– The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is facing a critical shortage of furniture, household items and clothing to assist families and individuals in need during this economic downturn. St. Vincent de Paul staff and volunteers personally visit people in our community to assist during times of need and often find families who have little or no furnishings or do not have basic household items such as pans, dishes or towels. At this time, the Society’s ability to assist has been severely curtailed, and home visits from the Bank St. headquarters may need to be eliminated due to the severe shortage of donations, especially furniture and household items. St. Vincent de Paul has experienced a 17% increase in calls for furniture assistance in the last several months.

“It’s not unusual for us to visit families who eat dinner on the kitchen floor because they have no table or chairs, elderly people who sleep on the floor, and many other heartbreaking circumstances. Whether it’s a family who has recently experienced a home foreclosure and is left with nothing, or a woman coming out of a battered women’s shelter who is starting over, we need furniture and household goods to help. With the current economic conditions, we are seeing people who have never asked for help before – people being affected by job layoffs and pay-cuts”, noted Liz Carter, St. Vincent de Paul Executive Director. “The situation is very serious and we desperately need the community’s help immediately”, she continued.

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Following a home visit, families in need may be given vouchers for basic essentials, which can be redeemed at any St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. The Thrift Stores are also open to the general public, many of whom shop at the stores to stretch their dollars and make ends meet.

Furniture, household goods and clothing can be dropped off at any of the six St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores in Mason, Mt. Washington, Colerain, Evendale, Milford or Winton Place; or St. Vincent de Paul will arrange a home pick up of donated items. Tax receipts are provided upon request. To schedule a pick up, call 513-421-CARE. Financial contributions can be sent to: Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 1125 Bank Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214, or can be made online at www.SVDPcincinnati.org. For additional information, please contact St. Vincent de Paul at 513-562-8841, ext. 225.

About St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) has been helping Greater Cincinnati and Hamilton County residents in need with the basic necessities of life for nearly 140 years. The organization works personally with those in need, regardless of race or creed, to bridge the spiritual, emotional and financial gaps in their lives through home visits provided by neighborhood-based volunteer groups, and groundbreaking initiatives like the Charitable Pharmacy. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to be a leading community service organization, recently recognized by The Better Business Bureau (BBB) as a Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics winner and by The CincinnatiUSA Regional Chamber of Commerce as Non-Profit of the Year. For more information, go to www.SVDPcincinnati.org.

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