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## **St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy FACT SHEET      March 2007**

- The SVDP Charitable Pharmacy – an innovative, private sector initiative designed to provide free, professional pharmaceutical care to people in need – is the only pharmacy in southeast Ohio dedicated to providing completely free pharmaceuticals to people in need.
- Three years in the making, the SVDP Charitable Pharmacy opened in September 2006 and is currently open two days per week (Mondays and Thursdays).
- In the first six months of operation (Sept. '06 – Feb. '07), the Charitable Pharmacy has cared for 167 people and dispensed a total of 1,084 prescriptions with a retail value of approximately \$81,500.
- Prescription volume is increasing steadily with a 35 percent increase in the last two months.
- Those helped include homeless persons, those who have lost their jobs and the working poor who cannot afford prescription insurance or pharmacy co-pays. Others need temporary assistance as they try to secure coverage, qualify for other assistance programs or reach a gap in Medicare coverage.
- Reaching a wide cross-section of those who are uninsured or underinsured, most referrals come from local clinics, private physicians, transitional housing, homeless shelters and hospital emergency rooms.
- The SVDP Community Pharmacy in Northern Kentucky has been in operation for five years and served as a model for the SVDP Charitable Pharmacy in Cincinnati. Other SVDP pharmacies are operating in Louisiana, Florida and Mississippi.

### **Pharmaceutical Resources:**

- The pharmacy drug formulary has grown substantially since the opening thanks to the generosity of partners – the pharmacy is currently filling more than 90 percent of prescriptions presented.
- Skilled Care and Keysource Medical are making generic drug donations, which are filling approximately half of all prescriptions.
- Sixteen physician practices are currently donating brand name medication samples with a core group of seven practices donating regularly.
- Limited purchase of wholesale and generic medications complete the formulary.

### **Pharmacy Services:**

- The Charitable Pharmacy serves clients from Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont counties.

- A licensed pharmacist educates clients about taking medication properly, potential side effects and possible interactions with other medicine.
- Services offered go beyond the immediate medication need – each client meets with a social worker or advocate to assess their need for a “medical home” to receive follow-up and preventive care, mental health care, shelter, or other social services.
- Counseling and advocacy provide a more permanent solution to the problem, ultimately saving expense to the health care and social service systems.

**Partners/Supporters:**

- Leadership Cincinnati
- Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati
- Order of Malta
- Ohio State Board of Pharmacy
- UC College of Pharmacy
- Santa Maria's Jordan Health Project
- Greater Cincinnati Health Council
- Health Improvement Collaborative
- Mercy Health Partners
- Closing the Gap Initiative
- Helen Steiner Rice Foundation
- Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Skilled Care
- KeySource Medical

**Supporting Data:**

- 270,000 people are uninsured in Greater Cincinnati, an increase of more than 70,000 since 2002. (Source: “Community Health Status Survey 2005, Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati)
- “According to government estimates, many of these people are ‘working poor.’ Some are uninsurable due to ‘high risk’ medical histories; others may not receive health insurance due to part-time employment or because their employers do not offer health insurance. Some cannot afford the shared premiums or co-pays that may be required to participate in an employer-based plan. Others are ‘underinsured.’ (Source: *Greater Cincinnati Health Council, Oct. 28, 2004*)

**Society of 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 more than 135 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 neighborhood-based volunteer groups. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was named ‘2005 Non-Profit of the Year’ by The CincinnatiUSA Regional Chamber of Commerce. For more information, go to [www.svdpcincinnati.org](http://www.svdpcincinnati.org).

**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

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