



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ann Keeling
513-381-3248
ann@crisfolikeeling.com

Tamara Sullivan
513-583-1433
tsullivan1@cinci.rr.com

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ESTABLISHES PRESENCE TO SERVE WINTON HILLS RESIDENTS

Social Service Programs Aimed At Self-Sufficiency In Underserved Area

CINCINNATI, OH –January 18, 2008 – The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, with headquarters in the West End, has established a satellite office at 4848 Winneste Ave. to provide assistance to a population of 5,375 people residing in Winton Hills. Many of the residents reside in the Winton Terrace, Findlater Gardens and Silver Oaks subsidized housing communities. For the last 60 years, the residents of the Winton Hills community were served by The Terrace Guild, which ceased operations in July 2007 due to lack of funding.

Initially, St. Vincent de Paul is focused on providing a high level of person-to-person care, including emergency assistance (rent, food, utilities and clothing) to residents. In 2008, St. Vincent de Paul will convene a committee of residents and experts to plan and implement programs and assistance to encourage self-sufficiency, potentially including workforce/job training, education, addiction counseling, and programs specifically focused on helping women become more independent. “Our mission is to help those most in need of support, whether emotional, financial, spiritual or functional – the residents of Winton Hills are at a severe disadvantage because they are geographically isolated from so many social services. We felt a strong sense of responsibility to step in and continue the work of The Terrace Guild”, noted Liz Carter, St. Vincent de Paul Executive Director.

-more-

St. Vincent de Paul is already providing emergency assistance three days per week and has organized monthly transportation for residents to visit the Carl & Edyth Lindner Choice Food Panty at St. Vincent de Paul's headquarters on Bank St. in the West End. St. Vincent de Paul has also worked closely with Cincinnati Public Schools to ensure no interruption to an existing GED program operated from the Winneste St. facility.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 45% of the Winton Hills population is female head of household with children. "So many of the residents of Winton Hills are young mothers and children. We saw this as a vital opportunity to step in and help at a systemic level, making an important difference in the cycle of poverty for the long-term", Carter continued. Other important data points from the 2000 U.S. Census on the 5,375 residents:

- 3,400 people are living below the poverty line
- 54% are under the age of 20
- 1,122 are employed

Later this year, St. Vincent de Paul will embark on a campaign to raise operational funds and funds to launch additional programs in Winton Hills. Immediate needs include new computer equipment and aesthetic improvements to the Winton Hills office. For more information, or to provide financial support, contact Julie Rack, Development Director 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 CincinnatiUSA Regional Chamber of Commerce as Non-Profit of the Year. For more information, go to www.svdpcincinnati.org.

#