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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HELPS 73,000 PEOPLE IN 2007 *Community Response To Increasing Need Is Key To Success*

CINCINNATI, OH –February 1, 2008 – The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) reports that more people in Greater Cincinnati were helped through its efforts in 2007, than in any other year in the organization's history. SVDP provided assistance to more than 73,000 individuals in the Cincinnati area. As reported by *The New York Times* in November 2007, Cincinnati's SVDP is experiencing a national trend with overall need for life's basic necessities, especially among the working poor, increasing significantly.

Success benchmarks for 2007 include:

- The Charitable Pharmacy marked its first full year of operation, caring for 585 people, and dispensing more than 7,000 prescriptions with a retail value of over a half a million dollars since opening in late 2006.
- 505 fans and 124 air conditioners were collected & distributed locally through the annual fan drive.
- 5,890 coats were collected & distributed locally through the 5 Cares Coat Drive, far exceeding the goal of 4,000 coats.
- 75,775 pounds of food was collected in the Food From the Heart campaign, 10,000 pounds over the 2006 effort.
- Through a variety of holiday programs, St. Vincent de Paul served more than 6,100 families in Hamilton County during the 2007 holiday season: Businesses, individuals and families sponsored 240 families in the Adopt-A-Family program. Toys were provided to an additional 698 children through the Christmas Angels program. St.

Vincent de Paul's Edyth & Carl Lindner Choice Pantry in the West End provided Thanksgiving food baskets for 535 families and Christmas food baskets for 480 families. Many others were helped through our other programs, including many parish-based efforts.

"2007 presented major challenges for our community in terms of increased need, especially in the last half of the year, and we anticipate 2008 to present even greater challenges. We deeply appreciate the generosity of our community and our volunteers, who make it possible for us to reach so many people," noted executive director Liz Carter.

St. Vincent de Paul relies on the support of the community to provide services and programs to our neighbors in need. Anyone interested in donating or volunteering is encouraged to contact St. Vincent de Paul at 513-562-8841 ext. 225, or go to

http://www.svdpcincinnati.org/how_to_help/how.html.

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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.

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