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Contact: Tamara Sullivan
513-583-1433
tsullivan1@cinci.rr.com
Ann Keeling
513-381-3248
ann@crisfolikeeling.com

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHARITABLE PHARMACY ANNOUNCES
MILESTONE: OVER \$1 MILLION IN PRESCRIPTION
MEDICATION DISPENSED**

*Donated Pharmaceuticals Coming Through Ohio Drug Repository Program
Allow Pharmacy to Serve More Patients*

CINCINNATI, OH – May 19, 2008 - The St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy, which opened in September 2006, announced it has filled nearly 10,000 prescriptions for those in need with a total estimated retail value of more than \$1 million. Prescription volume is increasing steadily. In the first quarter of 2007, the pharmacy filled 932 prescriptions. In the first quarter of 2008, the pharmacy filled 3,709 prescriptions, with 98 prescriptions filled per business day in March alone. The pharmacy is currently open three days a week – Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The pharmacy drug list continues to grow, allowing the pharmacy to fill more than 90 percent of prescriptions presented. Beginning in February, the SVDP Charitable Pharmacy began taking advantage of the Ohio Repository Program and collecting medications from long-term care pharmacies that would have otherwise been destroyed.

“I am proud of the community partners that have come together around this common sense approach to helping people who do not have access to affordable prescription drugs. Karon’s Law is good public policy, and I’m encouraged by the recent efforts to expand it throughout the state,” said Ohio First Lady Frances Strickland.

Skilled Care and Med Rx in Greater Cincinnati have been donating unused pharmaceuticals that would have been incinerated for the last six months, while Continuum Care in Middletown and Healthcare Pharmacy in Troy recently started supplying pharmaceuticals through the Repository Program. In addition to this new

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resource, the pharmacy is stocked with pharmaceutical samples donated by physicians, donated generic drugs from Skilled Care and Keysource Medical, and limited purchase of wholesale and generic medications.

“We are now serving patients we were not able to serve before, such as diabetics and those in renal failure, because the medication coming through the Drug Repository Program provides a new source of brand name drugs and more expensive generic medications,” said Liz Carter, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul. “As prescription volume increases, the repository medication is helping us keep pace with the needs – these are medications that are not being donated and we cannot afford to buy,” she added.

Three years in the making, the SVDP Charitable Pharmacy, in partnership with Leadership Cincinnati and the Academy of Medicine, is the only pharmacy in southwest Ohio dedicated to providing completely free medication and professional pharmaceutical care to people in need from Hamilton, Butler, Warren and Clermont counties.

Serving as a model for the creation of the SVDP Charitable Pharmacy in Cincinnati, the SVDP Community Pharmacy in Northern Kentucky has been operating for nearly six years. Both pharmacies in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky are part of a growing national trend with other SVDP pharmacies operating in Louisiana, Florida and Mississippi.

The Charitable Pharmacy is currently accepting financial donations, donations of sample medication from physician offices and pharmaceuticals from long-term care pharmacies. Volunteer pharmacists willing to donate some time are also needed. For more information or to get involved, contact Mike Espel, R. Ph., St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy, at (513) 562-8841, ext. #264. Donations will also be accepted online at www.SVDPcincinnati.org.

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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