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St. Vincent de Paul, Cincinnati Council Backgrounder

St. Vincent de Paul's safety net extends into virtually every neighborhood in Cincinnati. More than 800 members, volunteers, and staff in 56 neighborhoods visit people in need in their homes and help with basic necessities like food, clothing, rent, utilities & furniture. In 2009, our members made 7,791 home visits. When the poor and vulnerable of our community have no other place to turn, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is there for them, regardless of race or religious affiliation.

In addition to these 56 volunteer groups, the District Council operates:

- A Charitable Pharmacy that provides free medication valued at \$2.5 million annually to help low-income people meet their most urgent prescriptive needs and guide them toward long-term solutions.
- A Social Services Department in the West End, which provided emergency help with shelter, utilities, food, clothing, transportation, IDs and furniture to more than 25,000 people last year.
- The Bank Street Choice Food Pantry, the largest in the West End, which provided supplemental groceries to more than 16,000 people in 2009. Throughout Hamilton County, St. Vincent de Paul operates many food services, including 7 parish-based pantries, and provided food to approximately 50,000 people in 2009.
- Operation Bootstrap, a job readiness program which placed 39 chronically unemployed individuals into permanent, full-time jobs in 2009.
- St. Vincent de Paul at Winton Hills, a satellite facility operating in one of Cincinnati's most impoverished neighborhoods to provide emergency assistance with basic needs along with programs emphasizing education and self-sufficiency.
- Thrift stores – Six stores provide low-cost and free clothing, household items and furniture to low-income and no-income individuals. Goods and furniture in the stores are made available free to clients on an emergency basis using vouchers disbursed by the Social Services Department, volunteer groups, and other agencies such as the FreeStore FoodBank.

St. Vincent de Paul is an essential underpinning for other human services in our community. Individuals in job training programs come to St. Vincent de Paul for work clothes. Families moving out of homeless shelters find mattresses, dishes, furniture and other essential items for setting up house. People in danger of losing their homes find respite through rent and utility assistance until they get back on their feet. For 140 years, the Cincinnati District Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been providing life's basic necessities to Greater Cincinnatians in need. In 2009, we came to the aid of those in need more than 80,000 times, bringing material relief and emotional comfort.