

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

3408 Ardmore Trail ▪ South Bend, Indiana 46628  
574-234-6000 ▪ Fax: 574-234-6248  
www.saintvincent-in.org

## 50% off Sale

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Stores will be having their spring 50% off sale on Saturday, April 16th

at both locations:

3408 Ardmore Trail and

State Road 23 and Ironwood Road.

For directions and store hours please visit us at [http://www.saintvincent-in.org/thrift\\_store.html](http://www.saintvincent-in.org/thrift_store.html).

The sale excludes large appliances and electronics.

*"Love is your first gift to the poor"*  
- Blessed Rosalie Rendu

## SIMPLE LIVING RAFFLE: SIMPLY GREAT.

"WOW!"

"This is great!"

"I'm so glad that I came."

"Put my name down for next year."

These were just some of the sentiments that were heard at the St. Vincent de Paul Annual Mardi Gras Party / Raffle drawing. The Simple Living raffle has been a part of the fundraising efforts of the Society for the past five years. This year's drawing took place at Club Landing featuring the local live band "BLAMMO". "We are so glad to be a part of this celebration," commented Jeanette Hamil, owner of Club Landing.



As always, the Society was blessed to be the recipient of the talents of so



And the winning number is...

many volunteers, including but not limited to Patti Walz and Kathy Seidl, who chaired the event. With the help of these volunteers we were able to raise \$20,000 to serve the needy in our community. "I loved being a part of this and I know we can grow it and make it an even bigger success next year," Patti Walz commented.

Simple acts of kindness. Simple acts of charity. Simple acts are gifts of

ourselves. All of our simple acts create a culture focused on meeting the needs of others. Thank you for being a part of that culture and supporting the Simple Living Raffle. For a list of raffle winners, please visit us at [www.saintvincent-in.org/raffle-2011.html](http://www.saintvincent-in.org/raffle-2011.html).

St. Vincent De Paul's  
*Legacy Dinner*

Featured Spkcar - Lou Holtz  
Former Notre Dame Head Football Coach and ESPN Analyst

Thursday, April 28, 2011

Century Center Convention Hall  
South Bend

To purchase a table, tickets or assist with underwriting this event, please contact Kathy Seidl at 251.4903 or Patti Walz at 276.3417.

Please visit our website at  
<http://saintvincent-in.org/dinner-2011.html>

for a current list of silent and live auction items available for purchase at the dinner.



## THE Vincentian Word

SPRING 2011

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

In his modest apartment in north South Bend, Wayne Hubbard sits, smiles with his eyes and settles into his couch with his two adoring dogs. "My wife and I used to raise Weimaraners. We had ten acres, it was a perfect setup to pull my truck through and park." Wayne made good money driving steel between South Bend and Michigan for the automotive industry and taking construction jobs in the summer when his driving schedule lessened. Even when his hours hauling steel diminished, Wayne was able to find work. "I loved my job. I felt like a big kid getting to play with big kid toys when I went to work." A lot has changed for Wayne in the past five years.

Wayne lost his wife of 20 years, Dianne, in January 2007. Dianne had contracted Hepatitis C through a blood transfusion needed for a prior surgery. The medical bills that resulted from her lengthy illness forced Wayne to sell all of his belongings and the home that they had shared. "I took the money I had and moved into a mobile trailer. A neighbor of mine let me park on his land and run a power cord from his house. I was able to have heat and electricity in the trailer, but not much else." Wayne lived in the RV for fourteen months. It was during this time that, desperate for help, he turned

## DOWN BUT NEVER OUT



Wayne Hubbard

to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. "I don't like to take more than I need. I know there are a lot more people with families that need stuff more than I do. But knowing that people cared about me ... you saved my life and I will be eternally grateful to you all."

Wayne worked to pay his bills and get back on his feet after his wife died. But within two years, Wayne was facing serious medical issues of his own. After many bouts with excruciating back pain, a misdiagnosis and a return visit to the ER, Wayne was finally told that he had a massive staf infection in four of his vertebrae. The rush to save his life and the follow-up care lasted fifteen days. "I was within eight hours of qualifying for health insurance with my new job." Unable to work and uninsured, the St. Vincent de Paul Society referred Wayne to an agency to work on filing for disability. That battle lasted two years.

Today, Wayne is 56 years old, on disability and living with his two dogs in the same apartment complex as his loving sister, Carol. He has a wonderful network of friends and family that includes St. Vincent de Paul. He speaks with genuine gratitude when he says, "the staff at St. Vincent de Paul has really looked after me. I know that I am one of their favorites."

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Jenkins, *President*

Dave Bartkus, *Vice-President*

Vic DeCola, *Treasurer*

Amy Steketee, *Secretary*

Rev. Jose Martelli, *Spiritual Director*

Stephen Anella

Dave Diroll

Don Fischesser

Jack Gordon

Roy Miller

Roger Nawrot

Barb Phair

Andrew Sama

Mary Shanley

Thom Villing

Robert Zerr

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

In the spirit of charity and justice and guided by the Gospel, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County is a Catholic lay organization that engages people to join together, live their faith and grow spiritually through person-to-person service to all in need.

## A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I had the opportunity to attend the National St. Vincent de Paul Invitation for Renewal Retreat in Indianapolis from February 23rd through 27th. This retreat was designed to immerse leaders of the organization in intensive development and further understanding of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. What I left with was a profound sense of obligation to our mission to grow spiritually by serving those living in poverty.

## WORKING FOR JUSTICE

There are approximately 500 people in our community who consider themselves a Vincentian, or a member of the Society. The retreat spoke of the need for proper formation of these members and to look at being a Vincentian as a vocation. The need to constantly return to the Gospel, Rule of the Society, and mission for guidance on how best to serve our community is vital to the success of our organization and the spiritual growth we are seeking.

The Board of Directors is in the midst of creating a new strategic plan. As a part of that plan we must develop our organization's leadership, members and volunteers. This means offering proper orientation, training and spiritual formation. By focusing on these development efforts, we will be able to meet the needs of our community in an ever changing world.

Another area of focus will be on our programs. In an effort to better serve those living in poverty, we must constantly look to fulfill unmet needs and improve the programs we currently offer. These programs tend to focus on charity. This has been our emphasis for most of our existence. It is time to move beyond simply providing charity; we must work for justice. By working for justice we will improve everyone's position in life and further God's kingdom on earth.

Please join me and our hundreds of Vincentians in this call for charitable service and justice in our community. To learn about ways you can minister, visit our website at [www.saintvincent-in.org](http://www.saintvincent-in.org).

In Giving We Receive,

Charlie Thompson

### ERIC'S PROMISE

Our annual, Lenten material goods drive, Eric's Promise, is now in full-swing. Give life to Eric's Promise and help us live our mission of service to the poor with your donations of material goods. To make a material donation or host a stuff-a-truck, please call 234-6000 to schedule.

## ON THE MOVE Facilities Update

*In January, the Board of Directors of the Society passed a resolution to move from the current facility on Ardmore Trail. Its deteriorating condition, isolated location and the intent of the City of South Bend to redevelop the LaSalle Square area made it impractical if not impossible to remain at our current location. The Board also decided that the best means of advancing our mission would be to physically separate the programs of the Society from the thrift stores.*

In this new model, the thrift stores, which provide for the distribution of material goods to those in need and the generation of income to support programming, would be located at more retail-friendly and energy-efficient sites. A centrally located, separate building for programs would allow better service for clients, opportunities for additional programming, and enhanced support for our 18 parish-based conferences. The increased space would enable the pursuit of important new partnerships that would help minimize duplication of services and decrease the number of stops our clients would have to make to receive much needed assistance. A programs facility would also provide invaluable space for meetings, retreats, liturgies, volunteer training and social gatherings.

After three years of searching and strategizing, providence presented us with the opportunity to purchase an ideal program facility at a very reasonable price. This building is relatively new and was formerly the Sunshine Clubhouse, a part of the Madison Center complex. The agreement to purchase the building and property at 520 Crescent Avenue in South Bend was signed on February 7th, and the Society is currently in the

process of completing due diligence and securing financing. The purchase price for the building, office furniture, parking lot and adjacent lot is \$600,000. Architects are designing an addition that would allow us to store larger quantities of food for our pantry and provide additional office space for community partners.

We were able to move forward with the acquisition of the building due to an anonymous donation that led to leveraging more than \$300,000

emerge from the strategic planning process that the board is currently undertaking.

As you can see, we have many things moving forward at St. Vincent de Paul. During these exciting, but tumultuous times, we are grateful for your interest and your participation in our mission. I hope to see all of you at our annual Legacy Dinner on April 28th, our opportunity to celebrate and showcase our mission with the broader community. For more information on



Sunshine Clubhouse, formerly part of Madison Center Complex

in fundraising in a two month period. The Board also approved the fundraising efforts to cover the cost of the mortgage, addition, and operations of the program building.

In December the Society began negotiations with the Redevelopment Commission on the purchase of the Ardmore Trail facility. Since the beginning of the year, our building has been added to the acquisition list, and it is our hope that the sale will be finalized in the next few months. Future plans for additional thrift stores and a warehousing facility will

the event, do not hesitate to contact me.

Laura Baker, *Development Director*

**OUR VISION STATEMENT**  
As a premier social service provider comprised of diverse and dynamic individuals seeking spiritual growth through service, the St. Vincent DePaul Society of St. Joseph County cultivates hope through direct service and advocacy for those in need in collaboration with other social service providers. The Society is the Voice of the Poor working to reduce poverty, suffering and to correct the conditions that foster these injustices.