

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

3408 Ardmore Trail  
South Bend, Indiana 46628  
574-234-6000 • Fax: 574-234-6248

## Pantry Items Needed:

spaghetti and sauce,  
pancake mix, syrup,  
cereal, ramen,  
pork and beans, ravioli,  
peanut butter, jelly,  
mac 'n cheese,  
canned corn,  
canned fruit,  
Hamburger or Tuna Helper

*“Do not turn your face away from the poor  
and the face of God will not be turned away from you”  
- Tobit 4:7*

## 2010 LEGACY DINNER EXCEEDS GOAL

BY  
JAN JENKINS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

“Who could turn down an appeal from Monsignor Mike?”; “I got some great Christmas gifts in the silent auction and contributed to a very worthwhile organization at the same time – thanks for the opportunity.”; “Lou Nanni’s speech on service inspired me to volunteer with a whole new spirit”; “Your oral auction items were fabulous.”; “I thought St. Vincent’s was just a thrift store – I had no idea that it helped people in so many ways.”

These are just a few of the comments we heard about the 2010 Legacy Dinner held on September 16th. Nearly 500 people filled the attractively decorated Gillespie Center to enjoy

the evening’s activities. Spirited bidding on silent auction items began soon after the doors opened and continued during the oral auction that included several exciting trip packages and the always-popular “Priest’s Dinner”. Fr. Bill Neidhart, Lou Ciesielski, Fred Hancock and Sue Liddell received awards for their invaluable contributions to the work of the Society. Guest speaker Lou Nanni encouraged perseverance in carrying out our mission despite the challenges that service presents. The highlight of the evening was Monsignor Mike Heintz’s “Feed the Need” segment. His good humor and heart-felt appeal resulted in a \$45,000 response to help meet the needs of the people we serve. The evening ended with music by Sharon Priemer’s singing monks.

A special thank-you goes to our very capable development director, Laura Chodacki Baker, for a job well-done as coordinator of the event. We are grateful to Sue Liddell who yet another year almost single-handedly secured the auction items. Our appreciation extends to all who contributed their time, talent and treasure to help us net a record \$130,000.

This past year a decision was made to change our major fundraiser to the spring, and the 2011 Legacy Dinner will take place on April 28th at a place to be announced. Lou Holtz will be the speaker for the Dinner which will be co-chaired by volunteers Kathy Seidl and Patti Walz. Mark your calendars for what promises to be another successful Legacy Dinner.

Visit our newest dropbox on the corner of  
SR 331 & Ireland Road  
in the Walgreens parking lot

To view a complete list of  
all of our drop boxes visit our website:  
[www.saintvincent-in.org/drop\\_box.html](http://www.saintvincent-in.org/drop_box.html)

# LEGACY DINNER 2011 THURSDAY, APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>



Floyd Erwin on the front porch of an apartment he shares with his teenage nephew.

## CLIENT GAVE - NOW RECEIVES

Floyd Erwin knows something about rolling with the punches. “When I was told that my kidneys were failing, the doctor called me back to tell me that I also had lung cancer.” His poor health has not deterred Floyd from living a full and purposeful life with his nephew, Theodore ... or sour his soothing disposition.

Until his medical diagnosis, Floyd was a gourmet chef. “My pastor asked me to volunteer to cook for the battered women and children center at the church. We used to get all sorts of food donated. It felt so good when those women were happy to see me, knowing that they were going to get a good meal out of all that hodge-podge.”

Vincent de Paul Society we serve our clients in a way that reflects the beliefs of St. Vincent himself, “We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings .. of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God.”

Born and raised in Chicago, Floyd described it as a “hard” place to live. His small apartment on West Washington Street is furnished sparsely but full of photos of extended family and the pottery that Theodore enjoys making in pottery class.

“I took Theodore and his brother

At St. Jesse on when my sister died back in 1998.” Theodore, now 17 years old, is a sophomore in high school. He suffers the lingering and long-term effects of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. The small family left their home in Chicago because at ten years old, Theodore had not learned to read or write. “I put him in the public schools here and he started learning right away.” Theodore has dreams for his future. He would like to work in a restaurant. To that end, he earned an internship at the University of Notre Dame where he assists at North Dining Hall every day after school. In response to a compliment about how lucky Theodore is to have him as a father-figure, Floyd responds, “I’m lucky to have Theodore. He is such a good boy with a big heart.”

Floyd and Theodore receive food from the St. Vincent de Paul Society to supplement Floyd’s disability benefits. “Every time I come to St. Vincent everybody is so welcoming and so nice. It makes asking for help so much easier. Theodore and I have hit some hard times, but we’ve had our blessings, too.” If his health improves, Floyd would like to go back to cooking to earn a living; “not that short order stuff, but cooking real food, like lobster and steak.”

Floyd is one of many who find hope in the generosity of his neighbors; those who now support him as he has supported others in his life.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Jenkins, *President*  
 Dave Bartkus, *Vice-President*  
 Jack Gordon, *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  
 Matthew Young  
 Robert Zerr

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by Gospel values, the St. Vincent de Paul Society brings people together in prayer and in person-to-person service to those who are in need and suffering — providing food, clothing and financial assistance to families in our community. Vincentians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice, and collaborate with others who share this vision.

## A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Okay, we are still eating candy from Halloween, the Thanksgiving turkey isn't yet thawed and the first snow (at the time of my writing this) has yet to fall, but around St. Vincent de Paul, Christmas is in full swing.

Since September volunteers and staff have been preparing for our annual Christmas program. Once again we plan to assist 1,300 families with food and toys. We have come a long way in the 30 plus years we have been providing this seasonal assistance. It would not be possible without your support!

Each year we hear from families that, if not for St. Vincent's, there would be no toys for their children or food for Christmas dinner. During these difficult times it is hard for many families to experience the joy that most of us have at the birth of our Lord. Parents are having a hard time finding work let alone toys for their children. With your help, St. Vincent de Paul can help provide basic needs that make the season bright.

There are many ways you can spread hope and joy at this time of the year. Volunteer opportunities abound to assist with packing toy boxes to be delivered on Dec. 10 and 11. If interested in packing toys you may contact Denise Blanche at 234-6000 ext. 12105.

Another way you can assist is by adopting a family. Hundreds of people have participated in our Christmas adoption program. By simply calling Denise and letting her know that you are interested in adopting a family in need, the process will begin. Someone will give you all the information you need to purchase food and toys for a family in need. We can even put you in direct contact with them to find out what sort of toys the children would like and when a convenient time is for delivery. This is a wonderful family or service project.

Finally, your financial support will allow us to continue this program long in to the future. We spend more than \$40,000 to make this program happen each year. Our food boxes cost approximately \$18 each and, in addition, each family receives food certificates to a local grocer. Please consider a contribution today to help us fulfill the Christmas dreams of thousands of children in our community.

As we enter into the Holy season of Advent and Christmas to follow, please know that you and your family are in my prayers. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure are what will make this a joyful Christmas for those in need this year. Thank you for responding to the cry of the poor.

*Charlie*



St. Vincent de Paul provided 1,361 people with more than \$72,000 in rent and utility assistance last fiscal year. Those numbers only tell a small part of our story and if you'd like to know the rest, ask Fred Hancock.

Fred Hancock has been a Vincentian for more than 20 years. Originally hired by St. Vincent de Paul Society as a budget counselor, Fred's calling has grown, he incorporated his own non-profit and now advises our clients while being housed

## LIVING THE MISSION ONE BUDGET AT A TIME

by Stone Soup Community. Fred smiles, "I like to think of myself as a Vincentian watchdog when it comes to funds from St. Vincent de Paul." During the past 20 years, Fred has counseled countless numbers of our clients.

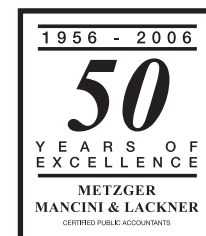
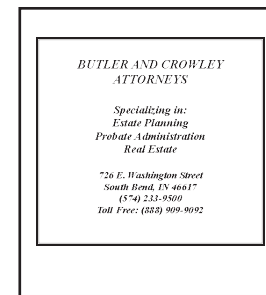
A typical client who is in need of rent and utility assistance is sent to budget counseling after meeting with a Vincentian at the conference level. That person or family then meets with Fred to determine the portion of their bill that the client will take responsibility for and the remainder that the Society will directly pay to the vendor or landlord. "Many who receive assistance toward a heat bill or rent are required to attend budgeting class, have an individual budget review and meet with a family development counselor."

Although Fred enjoys working

one-on-one with clients, he most enjoys working with people to help them gain employment. "My greatest successes are when someone finds a job" Fred explains. "I once worked with a young man who went for four years without work because of a single DUI. He believed that he would never find work and that, more than anything, kept him unemployed. We worked together for a while to prepare him for interviews and job searches. I can remember clearly that I was out in the yard cutting wood when he called me at home to say 'Mr. Hancock, I got the job.' The dignity of work is a very important thing."

Fred lives and shares the mission of St. Vincent de Paul Society everyday by providing dignity to those in need. As a Society we are proud to minister to our clients through Fred's dedicated service.

## FOUNDERS AND PATRON SPONSORS



## Upcoming Events

December 10 & 11, 2010  
**Christmas Basket Delivery Days**  
 (Volunteers Needed)

January & February 2011  
**Simple Living Raffle**

March 8, 2010  
**Mardis Gras Party & Raffle Drawing**

March 9 - April 24, 2011  
**Eric's Promise**  
**Material Donation Program**

April 28, 2011  
**Legacy Dinner**

May 10, 2011  
**Advisory Council Meeting**