

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Earth Day is an opportunity to give to those in need**

*More families relying on assistance in troubled economy*

**PHOENIX** (April 21, 2009) – From using less energy to implementing the three R’s – reduce, reuse, recycle – Earth Day presents an opportunity for everyone to give back, especially to those in need during a troublesome economy.

Through community funding and donations, St. Vincent de Paul’s eight thrift stores across the Valley – including its boutique store Ozzie’s Furnishing – offer low-income families the opportunity to purchase gently-used goods like clothing, furniture and other household items at an affordable cost.

“This is one of the most Earth-friendly things that people can do,” said Susan de Queljoe, community relations director for St. Vincent de Paul. “By donating gently-used items, people are helping cut down on waste and giving others the chance to get the things they need that they typically wouldn’t be able to afford.”

The St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores thrive solely on donations made by the public. Each year, volunteers contribute more than 60,000 hours and distribute more than \$300,000 of free goods to those in need.

For a complete listing of St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores throughout the Valley or for more information on how you can become involved by donating time, goods or other resources, visit [www.stvincentdepaul.net](http://www.stvincentdepaul.net) or call 602-266-HOPE (4673).

### **About the Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the poor and providing others with the opportunity to serve. Programs include services for the homeless, medical and dental care for the working poor, five charity dining rooms, eight Valley thrift stores, a transitional housing shelter and general assistance for individuals in need.

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