

# Media Advisory

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### St. Vincent de Paul unveils Jungle Room

A culmination of one man's vision

Phoenix — Along with the end of the school year is the end of lunch-time meals for thousands Valley children. To help fill this void, St. Vincent de Paul received help from its supporters and local companies to open the Jungle Room in its Henry Unger Dining Room, 1075 W. Jackson Ave.

The idea to transform the room came from long-time supporter Jess Roman while he was touring the facility. He noticed the room was drab and uninviting. He wanted to create an atmosphere that was fun and exciting, but knew he needed help.

The Jungle Room, which is the family dining area, was transformed into a fun, child-friendly space with animal-filled jungle murals on the walls and floor. The room also has several three-dimensional design elements, which really makes it stand out. There are two bridges connected to the walls and clouds hanging from the ceiling. The room also has a section for children to read and play after they dine.

"I'm a financial person. I'm not creative," said Roman. "So I called some creative friends and asked for help."

Chris Connelly, of Pinnacle Design, and Joe Hitzel, Southwest Architectural Builders, eagerly accepted the offer to help. Both companies donated funds and worked long hours to bring the project to full fruition. The groups were so eager to take on this project; they started working before all of the funds were raised.

While raising the additional funds for the project, Roman received more help than he asked for from Greg Cleveland of BNC Bank; Steve Van Der Toorn, of Southwest Forest Products, Inc; Jim Radzik, of Storage Equipment Systems; Jim Adamany and Tim McCabe, of First Community Financial; Craig Eisenberg, of Eisenberg Co.; and Dr. Larry Bans and Greg Sharp.

"So many people were generous when I asked them to help," said Roman. "I would ask for \$250 and they would send me \$500. Or I asked for \$500 and they sent \$1,000. These people really came through for the children that rely on St. Vincent de Paul for daily meals."

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*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/dental care for the working poor, five charity dining rooms, seven thrift stores, a transitional housing shelter and general assistance for individuals in need.*