

Voice of the Poor

January 2008

www.voiceofthepoor.org

www.stvincentdepaul.net

Conference Issues Survey

Thank you to the 25 Conferences from 10 of the 12 diocesan council districts who took time to complete the survey. The top three issues reported by participating Conferences were **(1) funding for utilities (2) affordable housing and (3) healthcare coverage**. Other issues (in descending order of priority) were childcare subsidies, homeless and shelter services, educational training, immigration, removal of KidCap (from state welfare law), predatory lending (payday loans) and transition from prison to community.

(1) Utility assistance: Voice of the Poor successfully obtained nearly half a million dollars in emergency utility assistance (LIHEAP) for AZ through a direct appeal to Secretary Leavitt of Health and Human Services. These funds will be distributed through CAP offices, a source of collaborative funding for many of our Conferences.

(2) Affordable housing: VOP members, meeting with our congressional delegation in February in Washington, will ask for additional Section 8 vouchers to reduce the backlog of requests.

(3) Healthcare – SVdP can help enroll children in KidsCare...

KidsCare Community Outreach

Here is an opportunity for your Conference to help enroll eligible uninsured children in KidsCare! It is estimated that there are 130,000 Arizona children without healthcare who are eligible for KidsCare (low income healthcare). Last session, the state legislature set aside funding for KidsCare outreach. *Outreach funding was part of the Voice of the Poor legislative agenda last session.* **Faith-based organizations, non-profits and schools are being asked to help provide sites and volunteers for a KidsCare Enrollment Event on February 14 – “Love Your Kids Day.”** Your Conference can help make healthcare a reality for every eligible child in our state by helping out just ONE day.

Zip codes identified by the State with large numbers of eligible unenrolled children:

North Phoenix	85032, 85022, 85051, 85027, 85304, 85308, 85029
Mesa	85201, 85203, 85204, 85205, 85208, 85213
Flagstaff/Prescott Valley/Cottonwood	86001, 86004, 86314, 86326
Tempe	85202, 85282, 85283
Kingman, Bullhead City	86401, 86442
West Phoenix/Avondale/Glendale	85037, 85323, 85303, 85302

If your Conference serves any of these zip codes and you think your parish (with your pastor’s permission) might be used for this one day community event on February 14, please contact Voice of the Poor members Kathy Jorgensen (602) 942-3355 or Lucy Howell (480) 424-3883. Voice of the Poor members will be there to assist in eligibility screening. You will not be asked to complete KidCare applications; this will be done by AHCCCS personnel.

Voice of the Poor is open to all who are interested. Next meeting: Jan. 14 at 3:30 in VSS.