

# Voice of the Poor

January, 2009

[www.voiceofthepoor.org](http://www.voiceofthepoor.org)

[www.stvincentdepaul.net](http://www.stvincentdepaul.net)

## **NOT TOO LATE!**

It's not too late to sign up and attend the Navigating the Benefit Maze workshop on Saturday, January 10th from 8:30 TO 11:30 a.m. in Matt Scott Vincentian Hall. Voice of the Poor (VOP) is pleased to sponsor this refresher course in social services. The various presentations will provide Vincentians with the tools to help those who come to us for help access needed benefits.

Program information will include SNAP (Food Stamps), WIC (Women, Infants, & Children), EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit), KidsCare, Child Tax Credit, Child Support, and Arizona Self Help.

Please RSVP to Lucy Howell – 480-424-3883 – with Conference name and number attending.

budget and elimination of after school programs and summer youth employment in the inner city. Phoenix will hold a series of public forums regarding the proposed cuts between Jan. 13 and Jan. 27. Vincentians are urged to attend meetings in their local communities and speak out for the poor. Remember, we are frequently the only voice they have.

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## **VOP SURVEY RESULTS OUT NEXT TIME**

Thanks to all the conferences who responded to the VOP survey. We had a record number of responses. The results are being tallied and will be reported in the next newsletter. If you have not yet turned in your survey, please send it to Kathy Jorgensen – 11623 N 29th Ave Phoenix AZ 85029 – or [kejorg@cox.net](mailto:kejorg@cox.net)

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## **BUDGET WOES CONTINUE...**

Many Arizona cities are currently in the process of discussing their budgets and proposed cuts based on lack of anticipated revenue. Programs serving low income Arizonans will be impacted. The City of Phoenix has already announced the intention to close 1/3 of its senior centers, another cut to the CASS

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## **VOP MEETING DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED**

due to holiday conflicts. Meetings will be held on Monday, January 12 and Monday, February 9 at 3:30 in Vincentian Support Services (one week *earlier* than the original schedule). Meetings are open to all who are interested. Agenda items can be submitted to Lucy Howell at [Howishome@aol.com](mailto:Howishome@aol.com) or by phone (602) 695-1604.