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## **Valley nonprofit vying for fruit tree orchard in national competition**

**PHOENIX (March 22, 2010)** - The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix is one of 100 organizations throughout the country competing for a fruit tree orchard grant as part of the Communities Take Root program, sponsored by Dreyer's Fruit Bars and the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation.

"The fruit orchard would replace some existing shrubs and trees near our main entrance to help beautify the premises, improve air quality and provide a fresh fruit source for our Family Evening Meal program and emergency food boxes," said Janice Ertl, director of the St. Vincent de Paul Virginia G. Piper Medical & Dental Clinic. "The orchard would also provide an educational opportunity for our Family Evening Meal guests to reinforce the '5 A Day' message and improve family health."

Five winners will be selected on the first of each month, May 1 through Sept. 1. Voting began March 15 and will continue through Aug. 31. Participants can vote one time each day.

St. Vincent de Paul is the only Phoenix-area organization competing in the Communities Take Root competition.

For more information, visit [www.communitiestakeroot.com](http://www.communitiestakeroot.com) and vote for St. Vincent de Paul today!

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

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international non-profit organization dedicated to serving the poor and providing others with the opportunity to serve. The Phoenix Diocesan Council has been assisting central and northern Arizona families since 1946. Programs include services for the homeless, medical and dental care for the working poor, charity dining rooms, thrift stores, a transitional housing shelter and general assistance for individuals in need. For more information, please visit [www.stvincentdepaul.net](http://www.stvincentdepaul.net).

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