



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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St. Vincent dining room volunteers take a bite out of hunger National Hunger Awareness Day is Tuesday, June 7

PHOENIX, AZ – Running five dining rooms for the hungry and homeless throughout the Valley is a challenge that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is able to meet only with the help of thousands of Valley residents who volunteer to set-up the dining rooms, clean tables, mop floors, and serve meals to the Valley's hungry and homeless.

St. Vincent de Paul operates dining rooms in Mesa, El Mirage, Sunnyslope, and two near downtown Phoenix. All food is prepared at the Society's main campus and sent by truck to each dining room.

The Mesa dining room, located at 67 W. Broadway, serves 300 meals every day of the year. A dozen volunteers come to help each day. Some volunteers come in daily, some help out once a week or once a month.

Volunteers come for many reasons, but share one thing—the desire to make a difference.

"You get back so much more than you give," said Chris Anderson, who serves as president of the St. Vincent de Paul chapter at All Saints Catholic Church in Mesa. She has been volunteering for more than four years. "It's all about taking care of each other," she said.

"Volunteers keep these dining rooms running," said Jerry Castro, Dining Rooms Manager for the Society. "Thanks to volunteers we are able to serve every hungry person who comes through our doors," he said.

More than 6,000 volunteers help in the dining rooms each year.

"We are blessed to have so many volunteers, but we can use all the help we can get," Castro said, "We could especially use more now since many of our retired volunteers leave town, and with children out of school, there may be a bigger demand for meals at the dining rooms."

To volunteer, please call (602) 261-6886.

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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 and dental care for the working poor, five charity dining rooms and general assistance for individuals in need.

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