

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Human Services Campus takes over temporary shelter services St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room to return to normal service hours

PHOENIX – The Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s 9th Avenue dining room will resume its regular service hours on Thursday, September 1, serving lunch to approximately 850 homeless and working poor individuals from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

The dining room has been operating as a temporary shelter since July 27. Excessive heat and the need for additional overnight shelter prompted the Society to open from 7 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. to provide additional relief to the homeless.

“The staff and volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul have done a marvelous job,” said Michael “Mike” McQuaid, the Managing Director for the Human Services Campus, which will open a temporary shelter directly across from Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) at 12th Avenue and Madison on Thursday. “The Society has provided a critically needed shelter for more than a month. To stretch their resources and accommodate up to 190 individuals each night is phenomenal.”

“The Human Services Campus has now made arrangements with the County to rent a much larger building that is better equipped to operate as a shelter. We have gotten great cooperation from city, county, and state officials over the past month, while trying to provide relief from the heat for the homeless.”

Several organizations pitched in to help St. Vincent de Paul operate its temporary shelter. The American Red Cross, CASS, and the Human Services Campus provided staffing, security and some materials. Arizona Public Service and the Arizona Department of Housing each contributed \$25,000 to help offset the costs. Andre House and the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness also provided volunteers.

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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.