

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 420 W. Watkins, Phoenix, AZ 85003**

## **MEDIA UPDATE**

Contact: Susan de Queljoe, Dir. Community Relations, Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Office: (602) 261-6805, Cell: (602) 430-8852, E-Mail: Susan@svdp-phx-az.org

For Immediate Release  
September 21, 2005

### **St. Vincent de Paul Continues to Help Katrina Evacuees**

*Phoenix* – Since the arrival of hurricane Katrina evacuees to the Veteran Memorial Coliseum on September 4, St. Vincent de Paul's Transient Aid Center (TAC) has been instrumental in reuniting families as well as furnishing the homes and apartments of those who have chosen to stay in the Phoenix area.

To date, St. Vincent de Paul has arranged transportation for more than 190 individuals allowing them to reach family members and friends in other cities or reuniting families here in Phoenix. Airline tickets, bus tickets, or gas cards were provided to these individuals.

As the need for transportation help has decreased, the need for home furnishing has increased. St. Vincent de Paul operates five thrift stores in the metro Phoenix. Drawing upon these resources, as well as donations from the community and help from Salvation Army, household furnishings have already been delivered to more than 325 individuals. The Transient Aid Center is also coordinating these deliveries with the added help of the many parish-based St. Vincent de Paul chapters across the Valley.

TAC's expertise is in helping individuals who become stranded in Phoenix get to an established support system elsewhere in the country. TAC contacts a family member or friend to confirm that they are able to help the individual and then arranges for transportation and any other incidental needs, such as food or clothing. Each year, TAC helps more than 1100 people get to where they need to be. Normally, St. Vincent de Paul does not take furniture orders or make deliveries. However, the need was obvious, and a system was quickly developed to get basic furniture necessities to the evacuees in their new homes or apartments.

St. Vincent de Paul's Transient Aid Center will be moving to the Arizona Katrina Assistance Center at 210 E. Earll on Thursday.