

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

MEDIA ALERT

Contact Information:

Susan de Queljoe (SVdP)

602-261-6805 office; 602-430-8852 cell

susan@svdp-phx-az.org

Pastor Scott Ritchey, Director of Justa Center

602-254-6524 office; 602-614-9099 cell

July 10, 2006

For Immediate Release

Old St. Vincent de Paul dining room to be used as overnight shelter

Phoenix – Due to the need for additional overnight shelter for homeless families and children, St. Vincent de Paul is providing their old dining room at 9th Ave. and Madison to UMOM Justa Center to be used as an emergency overnight shelter, beginning the evening of July 11. The shelter will be open from 4 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. each day. This is a temporary measure to help ease the shortage of shelter space in the downtown area as the temperatures continue to rise.

“We felt we had to respond to the needs of these homeless families,” said Steve Zabilski, Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul. “Using the old St. Vincent de Paul dining room was an obvious solution. Since opening our new dining room on the Human Services Campus last November, this building has been empty. It worked well as an emergency shelter, when we used it as such last summer.”

The UMOM Justa Center will operate this emergency overnight shelter. They have repainted the inside of the building and put up dividers to make room for 25 families. The Justa Center on 10th Ave will be used for their day programs.

“This is a wonderful example of non-profit organizations working together to solve community problems,” said United Methodist Pastor Scott Ritchey and the Director of the Justa Center.

Donations of water, diapers, baby wipes, and hygiene items like toilet paper, soap and shampoo are a continuing need. Donations can be dropped off at the St. Vincent de Paul dining room at 119 S. 9th Ave or the UMOM Justa Center at 1001 W. Jefferson.

-30-

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, the incarcerated and their families, medical/dental care for the working poor, five charity dining rooms, thrift stores, a transitional housing shelter and general assistance for individuals in need in central and northern Arizona.

UMOM Justa Center services homeless families on an emergency basis and facilitates parental access to social services.