

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

## **MEDIA ALERT**

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**For Immediate Release**

### **The Aftermath of Katrina**

*St. Vincent de Paul continues to help*

St. Vincent de Paul is once again actively assisting some Katrina evacuees in the Phoenix area with long-term recovery assistance. While most Katrina evacuees, who chose to remain in the Valley are successfully rebuilding their lives, there are still about 10% of the evacuees who need continued long-term recovery assistance.

The Katrina Program is funded by a federal grant, which has allowed St. Vincent de Paul to hire Chris Finney to supervise the program and two case managers, Jeanine Bashir Kayana and LaTonya Davis to work directly with Katrina victims. They are helping access community resources, providing advocacy and support, and helping to create a specific plan to assist families in their recovery. Together with the parish conferences of SVdP, these individuals and families are receiving the needed extra help to create completely new lives for themselves and move into a sustainable situation.

The Katrina Program is currently serving 80 clients with 20 others on a wait list.

St. Vincent de Paul is one of three agencies providing longer-term assistance. Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Ministries are also working with Katrina victims.

Working with evacuees from Hurricane Katrina is not new to St. Vincent de Paul. Last year, as evacuees began streaming into Phoenix, St. Vincent de Paul stepped in to help. We re-united families separated in the evacuations and settled families into new homes with furniture and food.

Volunteers, willing to make a commitment of at least one day a week, are needed to help with home visits in the southwest Valley or in the Katrina offices in downtown Phoenix.

Chris Finney, supervisor of the St. Vincent de Paul Katrina Program can be reached at 602-340-5988.

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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, 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.*