

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

## **Media Advisory**

Contact: Jennifer Prine, Communications Manager  
602-850-6755, cell: 602-421-9543  
www.stvincentdepaul.net

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 14, 2006

The Human Services Campus celebrated its one year Anniversary Nov. 13 with the Maricopa Association of Governments committee on homelessness. It was love and a lot of hard work that brought together St. Vincent de Paul, Central Arizona Shelter Services, Nova Safe Haven, St. Joseph the Worker and Maricopa County Healthcare to serve the needs of the homeless community in Metro Phoenix. Members of MAG's Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness discussed the accomplishments of the campus over the past 12 months, while reaffirming the need for more services, including shelters, transitional housing and permanent housing.

The campus is home to St. Vincent de Paul's Henry Unger Dining Room. More 400 meals are served every morning with the help of volunteers from the local business community and nearly 900 lunches are served daily by volunteers throughout the community. It replaced the dining room on 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, where St. Vincent de Paul served the homeless seven days a week for 50 years.

### **During its first twelve months of operation, Human Services Campus successes included the following:**

- Nearly 400 individuals have acquired transitional and permanent housing.
- More than 1,200 individuals gained employment through interaction and engagement with the various on-site employment services.
- 2,200 unduplicated individuals have completed 5,700 supportive service encounters at the Day Resource Center.
- More than 15,000 dental and medical appointments have been generated.
- **More than 320,000 meals have been served, including lunch and a new breakfast program initiated in April.**

- Shelter beds (400) have been filled to maximum capacity each night.
- Low Demand Shelter beds (400) were added in June to prevent heat-related deaths. These additional beds, serving men, women and children, also are filled to capacity each night.
- More costly contacts/placements have been avoided (e.g., jail, emergency room visits, medical inpatient beds, psychiatric inpatient beds).
- Phoenix police from the immediate surrounding area report significant reduction in arrests, 911 calls, and hospital emergency room transports.

**PHOTOS ATTACHED:**

Martin Shultz, vice president of government affairs with Pinnacle West Capital Corporation (which includes APS) and Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox were advocates for the Human Services Campus since its inception. Both Shultz and Wilcox acknowledged the achievements of the campus in the last 12 months and urged continued support of homeless programs.

*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/dental care for the working poor, charity dining rooms and general assistance for individual's in need.*