

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

Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Freezing temperatures highlight homeless need

Donate, begin an item drive for St. Vincent de Paul

The first freezing temperatures of the season might be a blessing for some Valley residents trying to get into the holiday spirit, but for the homeless families and individuals who have no escape from the cold, its reason to despair.

Throughout the day, St. Vincent de Paul will be a refuge to more than 120 homeless people in southern Phoenix, who will be searching for food, a hot shower and warm clothing. Like any other day, the Henry Unger Dining Room downtown will serve 900 meals, but today, it will mean a little more to the hundreds of homeless people in search of shelter.

The cold front will blow over and the holiday scuffle will get back underway, but today marks the beginning of a miserable time of year for the homeless, even in a desert as warm as ours.

The community, however, can do something to help. Begin an item drive in your neighborhood, church, office or school. St. Vincent de Paul is in need of blankets, jackets, sweaters, men's jeans in sizes 30, 32 and 34, tennis shoes, new socks and new underwear. The community can also donate clothes and other gently-used items at any one of our six thrift stores in Apache Junction, Glendale, Mesa, Phoenix or Sunnyslope.

WHAT: Begin an item drive in your neighborhood, church, office or school for blankets, jackets, sweaters, men's jeans in sizes men's jeans in sizes 30, 32 and 34, tennis shoes, new socks and new underwear or donate to any of our thrift stores.

HOW: Call St. Vincent de Paul at 602-850-6737 to begin an item drive or visit our website at www.stvincentdepaul.net for store locations.

Photo Ops: **To show the public the homeless need, please feel free to visit: Special Ministry to the Homeless** at 420 W. Watkins Road in Phoenix
Volunteers work with homeless guests to get them clothes, a shower, food and into shelters.

Henry Unger Dining Room on the Human Services Campus at 9th Avenue and Jackson in downtown Phoenix. Lunch is served 11 a.m. to 12:45.

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, five charity dining rooms, thrift stores, a transitional housing shelter and general assistance for individuals in need.