

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

Media Advisory

SVdP Contact: Jennifer Prine, Communications Manager
602-850-6755, cell: 623-640-5048
jprine@svdp-phx-az.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phoenix Community Alliance honors Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul SVdP's Stephen Zabilski recognized with a Center City Starr Award

Phoenix – On December 19, the Phoenix Community Alliance will recognize four community leaders – including St. Vincent de Paul's executive director, Stephen Zabilski – with a Center City Starr Award in honor of their continued commitment to Central Phoenix and its surrounding neighborhoods.

As executive director of St. Vincent de Paul in Phoenix, Steve Zabilski oversees an organization dedicated to serving the poor and giving others the opportunity to serve. The Phoenix Society is the largest of all the St. Vincent de Paul Councils in the United States. SVdP's programs include services for the homeless, medical/dental care for the working poor, five charity dining rooms, six Valley thrift stores and a transitional housing shelter. He also motivates others to serve the homeless and working poor by actively involving businesses, government, cultural organizations, neighborhood groups and many others in projects that aid the needy.

For more than eight years, Steve Zabilski has served on the on the board of directors for the Phoenix Community Alliance. The Alliance has been honoring men and women who have made outstanding contributions to Central Phoenix since 1993. The Center City Starr Award, previously named the Center City Champion Award, was renamed in 1997 to honor the career of late Barry Starr, who served as president of the Phoenix Community Alliance, a Phoenix city councilman, assistant to Governor Rose Mofford, president of Valley Big Brothers and as a Phoenix police officer.

James Bruner, a political and professional leader, Mark Holleran, chief executive officer of Central Arizona Shelter Services, David Smith, Maricopa County manager and Steve Zabilski will accept their awards at the 22nd annual membership luncheon for the Phoenix Community Alliance. Recipients for the Center City Starr Award are selected based on their dedication to quality growth and development; their support of community businesses, organizations and neighborhood groups and their dedication of both time and resources to the betterment of Central Phoenix.

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The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international volunteer organization that serves the poor in over 130 countries. The Phoenix Society was founded in 1946. With the help of more than 2,000 members and 6,000 volunteers, the Society currently feeds, clothes and assists families in need throughout central and northern Arizona.