



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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A second chance at life

Ozanam Manor plans open house

PHOENIX — The residents at St. Vincent de Paul's Ozanam Manor, 1730 E. Monroe St., all have unique stories. Unfortunately, they all have one thing in common — they used to be homeless.

Janelle, a former resident, had a good-paying job as a nurse. She had health insurance, a 401k plan and seemed to be doing well. While scuba diving on vacationing, she had an accident that left her severely injured. As she went through rehabilitation, her insurance ran out, she exhausted her 401k, and she ran out of money. Janelle — unable to return to her career — was left homeless. Then she came to Ozanam Manor. Janelle — who was one of 49 residents at the shelter — developed a plan and received the help she needed to return to mainstream society. Today, she is off the street and living on her own.

Ozanam Manor, a transitional shelter, offers a second chance at life for a group of people who are often overlooked. It serves a vulnerable segment of the homeless population — physically or mentally disabled adults and those older than 50 — by helping them move toward the path of independent living. With assistance from professional case managers, shelter staff members, mentors, and each other, the residents develop a written plan to achieve their goals. They receive job skills development, resource referrals, group activities and mentoring in a stable community environment. In 2006, more than 150 people received help from Ozanam Manor.

Learn more about Ozanam Manor's residents and services during an open house on March 8, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Residents will be on hand to share their stories and Director Mike Bell — a leading expert on homelessness — will be available to discuss the shelter's programs.

Who: Society of St. Vincent de Paul

What: Ozanam Manor open house

When: Saturday, March 8 from 10:30 a.m. to noon

Where: Ozanam Manor, 1730 E. Monroe St., Phoenix

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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, medical/dental care for the working poor, five charity dining rooms, six thrift stores, a transitional housing shelter and general assistance for individuals in need.