

St. Vincent's Vision

A Newsletter for Supporters of North Idaho's St. Vincent de Paul

Volume 3, Issue 2

Over 60 Years of Service to Northern Idaho

Spring 2008

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St. Vincent de Paul

For more information about our services, programs, or this newsletter, please contact us at:
208-664-3095

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Twenty Years of Dedication & Growth

It was 1988. St Vincent de Paul was just a thrift store with a small social service office tucked in a back corner. Our services were of a much smaller scale; but we still helped people in need of clothing, household goods, food, gas, and motel vouchers.

It was also the year Lynn Peterson came to work for St. Vincent de Paul as store manager. The thrift store (located on Government Way) needed some work, as many of you may remember. Lynn had a vision of what the store could be and took the challenge of bringing that vision to life. She began by cleaning the store, increasing the selection, and improving the quality of items. The result: sales went from \$282,790 in 1988 to almost \$700,000 by the end of 1993!

After five years of managing the thrift store, Lynn was promoted to Executive Director in 1994. The position was the right fit for this talented lady and the catalyst for her bigger passion: helping those in need.

She took a dog-eared little thrift store in North Idaho and instigated its improvement; causing growth in merchandise and sales, adding some human services that would reach into several counties, and built St. Vincent's into the organization it is today. Lynn is someone who has been "in-the-know" on the issue of homelessness for many years and pioneered the first shelters to assist the homeless in Kootenai County. Under her direction, two houses were purchased behind the thrift store to become emergency shelters. She moved the Social Service Office into one of them and began to provide an array of services to the hungry, homeless, and financially distressed.



In her first year as E.D., Lynn was pivotal in acquiring the funds to build and open St. Vincent's first transitional housing facility for homeless families with minor children. It was the obvious next step in giving those in need the chance to transform their lives and achieve self-reliance and a sense of self worth. The shelter projects gave St. Vincent's the opportunity to build financial stability and a solid reputation in the community. This placed us in a position to obtain several affordable rental properties that another local agency was no longer able to maintain.

Because of Lynn's determination, St. Vincent now has eight affordable rental properties with a total of 118 units. We continued to operate the Transitional Housing Center, while adding yet another three facilities to house more homeless families as well as individuals without children. She also put into action a variety of other programs meant to assist people in achieving self sufficiency and a brighter

(continued on page 2)

*From the
Desk of the
Executive
Director*



Dear
Friends,

As many of you in the community already have heard, May 1, 2008, will be my final day with St. Vincent de Paul. It's been almost 20 years of service that I feel blessed to have experienced. I've come to know and admire many of you through this work and it wouldn't have been possible without such a great organization and all those who support it.

It is at this time that I would like to extend a very special thank you to some people who have truly made a huge difference both in my professional life here at St. Vincent's, as well as in my personal life: John O'Brien, past SVDP Board President, who was truly a saint. His patience and kindness was unwavering and something I admired greatly; Gary Strobe, past SVDP Board President, who helped me tremendously as I learned my new position at St. Vincent's; Ginger Seaman, past SVDP Board President, who's support during much of St. Vincent's growth really helped make this organization what it is today; and Joe Venkus, past SVDP Board Treasurer and volunteer, who's take-charge attitude helped get this very newsletter off the ground! Thank you to all of you — you're the best! And thank you to this great community!

Lynn Peterson

Thank you to Deborah Brady for letting us use her success story.

A SUCCESS STORY FROM TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Before I got into transitional housing, I was living with my two children in my sister's old single wide trailer in Rathdrum with her two children. It was not in good condition and needed major repair. I was looking for work and finally got a job at Altek through Humanix where my sister worked. I had to car pool with my sister to work daily. I was struggling with alcohol at this time and Super Bowl Sunday 2007 was thankfully the last day I drank. I decided that a place to live with my 2 children was more important than alcohol. I then moved into transitional housing on February 15, 2007.

I have accomplished several important goals with the help of my case manager staying on top of it all. I have paid my rent monthly on time, due to the help from a kind administrative person in the office. I purchased a vehicle, got my Idaho drivers license, purchased license plates, registration and insurance, got the oil changed on my car on a regular basis, stayed on Idaho's housing list, found a good babysitter, improved my wages with a different job, got a home phone and saved lots of money. I also am going to get some dental work done in the near future thanks to St. Luke's church here in Coeur d'Alene. My future plans include getting my CNA license to work in private care homes, to stay clean and sober, complete my GED, work close to home until I get my CNA license and do some flagging in the summer.

I have learned that I love to accomplish goals and stay organized in the process, to stay focused on the future, that it is exciting to stay clean and sober, to stay honest about my alcohol urges and how to overcome them. I have also learned from parenting classes about the value of giving children choices, how to use them with my kids, and to be consistent in my discipline. I have lots to work on to stay consistent as a parent, though. I also learned through Real Life Ministries that I am rich because of all that I have in my life.

I am so glad that St. Vincent de Paul gave me a second chance in life!!

Sincerely, Deborah Brady



TWENTY YEARS (continued from page 1)

future.

Though the community may never know the numbers of individuals who have come through our doors and exited with the tools to successfully rebuild their lives, this extraordinary woman knows many of their faces and stories. In fact, she has hired a few of them!

The impact to our organization and the community has been significant as a result of her

dedication. A message started centuries ago by the St. Vincent de Paul Society states, "Only love for our fellow man could open the way for a new and better world." Lynn believes this message and carries it with her in her daily life and connections with others. She takes seriously, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

It's for this reason we wish to showcase Lynn Peterson and her achievements, in this newsletter; and before she leaves St.

Vincent de Paul for a new chapter in her life. The staff and employees who have had the pleasure of working with Lynn truly value her and the difference she has made in their lives. After nearly 20 years, her contributions to this community will continue to grow, and we thank her for all she has started for us.

Lynn, we are sad to see you go and you will be missed!

Helping Others: Recognizing the Volunteers

Robert Peterson grew up in Coeur d'Alene. Earning a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Idaho, he went on to accept a three-year management training assignment with GE. Robert moved to Philadelphia, PA; Owensboro, KY; and Ontario, CA. He lived and worked in Ponce, Puerto Rico; then moved to Providence, RI; and finally settled in St. Louis, MO, where he stayed for 20 years. He retired in 2003 to his hometown, Coeur d'Alene.

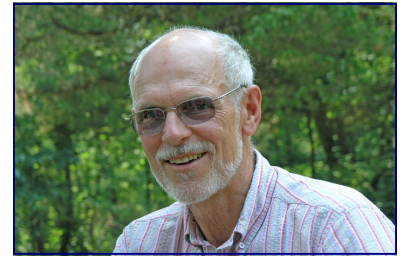
His hobbies include photography and woodworking. An avid bicyclist, Robert trekked the United States

from LA to Boston and participated in group rides for weeks at a time, camping along the way. The cross-country ride took 7 weeks. In winter he runs to keep his legs going. While in St. Louis he competed in many triathlons, usually winning in his age group.

At the CdA St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Robert found a fine place in which

to contribute to the community. He's one of two founders of an active outreach group with a focus of ministry outside the usual church activities. Robert states that while looking for ways to serve others, they came across St. Vincent de Paul, where their energies could be applied to assist an already successful undertaking. "Together, we are able to bring about additional resources that would not otherwise be available to St. Vincent," Robert says. These efforts play a large role in the mission to support people who are on their way back to being contributing citizens.

Robert Peterson is a star volunteer! He collects and delivers needed items for our Women's and Men's Emergency Shelters, helps out during youth activities at Transitional Housing, takes exceptional photographs for us, locates and refurbishes bicycles for the tenants, works behind the scene with grant proposals and reports on our behalf, and often follows up with the needs of those who successfully move out of SVdP Transitional Housing.



There are
always volunteer
opportunities at St.
Vincent de Paul!
Come Join Us!

COUPON

Receive an extra 10% off electrical items (anything that plugs in) with this coupon at either one of our St. Vincent de Paul stores.

Post Falls St. Vincent Books and More
202 W. Seltice
Post Falls, ID 83854
(208) 773-6836



WE DO PICK-UPS!
Help us help others
(208) 664-3095

Coeur d'Alene St. Vincent de Paul
108 E. Walnut
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 664-3095

Coupon expires 5/31/08

St. Vincent de Paul: BE PART OF OUR TEAM!

YES! I would like to be part of St. Vincent's team! I am making the following donation:

- \$ _____ for St. Vincent de Paul's Men's Emergency Shelter
- \$ _____ for St. Vincent de Paul's Women & Children's Emergency Shelter
- \$ _____ for St. Vincent de Paul's Social Services
- \$ _____ for St. Vincent de Paul's Transitional Housing Program
- \$ _____ for St. Vincent de Paul's Art on the Edge Program
- \$ _____ for wherever it is most needed (\$1.85 per day feeds one guest)

***No donation is too small,
and 100% of your donation
goes directly to your choice!
\$0 will be used for administration,
fundraising, or advertising!***

Thank You! Your donation is tax deductible. If you would like a receipt mailed to you, please check here and include your information below. Yes, please mail receipt No, no receipt is necessary Please remove me from mailing list

Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____ Email _____
City/State/Zip _____ Response to a mailing you received? _____

St. Vincent de Paul

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Dick Nimtz
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Dick Mott
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We're almost on the web!

Our website at

www.stvincentdepaulcda.org
is under construction, but
please check back often!

St. Vincent de Paul is an equal-opportunity employer, as well as service and housing provider. We strongly believe in committed personal involvement without judgment or regard to race, nationality, or religious preference.

Questions? Comments? A story you would like to see? Please feel free to let us know! You may mail it to the Editor at the above address, or you may email it to:

shelly_hines_svdpa@yahoo.com

Please note, we cannot guarantee the use of submitted items and all items sent may be edited for content and space.

Become a Part of Our Team!

1. Shop at our stores in Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls.
2. Donate quality items to our stores.
3. Call 664-3095 and volunteer your valuable time and experience.
4. Use the enclosed envelope to make a donation, no matter how small.

All donations stay here to help those in need in Kootenai County — and they are tax deductible!

Don't forget to show your support!

**Purchase your
St. Vincent de Paul
car magnet and display it
proudly on your car!**

**Available now at
both St. Vincent
Thrift Stores for
\$2.00 each!**



All proceeds help support St. Vincent de Paul's homeless and social service programs and stay here in Kootenai County!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S WISH LIST

Like most non-profit agencies, our resources are limited. That's why we have created this wish list as an additional way supporters of St. Vincent de Paul can help. If you can help by donating any of the following items, please contact us at 208-664-3095.

- ♥ Personal products such as toothbrushes and paste, dental floss, soap, shampoo and conditioner, shaving cream, disposable razors, combs and brushes, laundry and cleaning supplies, and lotion
- ♥ Baby supplies, including disposable diapers, baby wipes, and formula
- ♥ Non-perishable food items such as canned goods (vegetables, soup, fruit, beans, etc.)
- ♥ Smaller increment gift cards to places like Fred Meyer, Kmart, Target, Wal-Mart
- ♥ Gas gift cards (Exxon, Shell, Chevron, etc.)
- ♥ Digital reader boards for our thrift stores

"Once you form a judgment, you've limited your own growth."

— *Unknown*

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