



**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
BILLINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL  
2610 MONTANA AVENUE, BILLINGS, MT 59101  
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GRAND AVENUE OUTLET: 406-248-9125  
CHARITY OFFICE: 406-248-1411**

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[www.svdpmf.org](http://www.svdpmf.org)

# The Vincentian Word

## From the Directors Desk...

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Billings has been providing local individuals and families with a variety of assistance since 1972.

Today, this assistance includes helping more than 900 Yellowstone County families with fuel and rent assistance, food, clothing, and household items through our Charity Office.

In the last few newsletters, I have kept you abreast of the renovations underway at the Charity Office. As with any facility, it had started to tell its age. The floors needed replacing, the walls needed a coat of paint, and we needed lighting. The washer and dryer in the kitchen were an inconvenience to our friends and staff, and most importantly, we had to tell our friends that we didn't have a public restroom. We agonized over this.

With the help from M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, we were blessed with \$100,000 to modernize the Charity Office. Our supporters have contributed more than \$80,000 in additional funds, but this leaves us \$25,000 short of the funds needed to complete the project.

Will you please consider making a special donation to help us complete our much needed renovation project? If each person on our mailing list sends \$5 earmarked for our construction project, our goal will be met. Please consider helping us raise the remaining \$25,000. Checks written must be noted for the "Renovation" project. If you send cash – please write a note that you would like the cash to be earmarked for the construction effort. Every cent so earmarked will go towards the remodeling of the Charity Office.

I hope you will visit us and give prayerful consideration to helping us raise the remaining funds. Thank you and God bless.

-Agnes B. Samples

## Volunteer of the Month...



The August 2011 Volunteer of the Month is Ruth Romero. Ruth sorts and folds linen every week, and helps with the newsletter the first Thursday of every month.

Ruth loves cats, especially Garfield, and she also volunteers at Help for Homeless Pets. She is a member of the Red Hat Society and wears flip-flops no matter what.

We count on Ruth to organize the mailing by zip code to ensure that the newsletter is in tip top shape for the Business Mail Entry Unit (BMEU). Having the mail sorted in a very particular way saves SVDP money. Thank you, Ruth, for all you do.

**Thank you, St. Pius X**

**Thank you to St. Pius X for hosting St. Vincent de Paul's Newsletter Parties.**

**The renovation at the Charitable Works Office has caused us to look for a convenient place for the 20 people who gather the first Thursday of every month to prepare our newsletter for mailing.**

**Thank you, St. Pius X, for opening your doors to us.**

## In honor of...

**LaVerne Frank's Birthday**

by: Nancy Englert

**Cletus J. Walsh**

by: Kathleen & Bill LaMeres

**Sue Hart**

by: Mary Kay Latta

**David Sletta**

by: Dawn Sletta

**Ken & Juanita Bennett**

by: Agnes & Henry Samples

## In Memory of...

**Karolyn Kane Gainan**

by: Bruce & Darlene Ellis

**Harold & Jeanne Habein**

by: Donna & G.L. Powell

**Mary Topel**

**Cyril Sannes**

by: Kay M. Larsen

**Fred J. Wanner**

by: Donna Berkner

**Don & LaDonna Wanner**

**Leah Boyer**

by: Gil & Marge Fieck

**Diana Achten**

by: Jerry Achten

**Andrea Workman**

by: Valarie Bender

**Sue Glatt**

by: Lawrence Glatt

**Jackie Hurick**

by: Dorman Hurick

**Mike & Eunice Mueller**

by: Patricia Jaffray

**Theresa Leiby**

by: E. Louise O'Malley

**Wayne Scharosch**

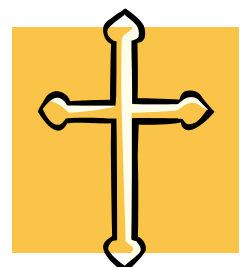
by: Julie Palmersheim

**Art A. Schaaf**

by: Marion Schaaf

**Lee Sturm**

by: Richard & Rosemary Wenger



**Volunteer Coordinator Named**

Hello everyone, my name is Glynis R Burchell. I am happy and excited to be the new Volunteer Coordinator at St Vincent de Paul. I am looking forward to working with all of the dedicated staff and volunteers at SVDP.

I recently retired from the State of Montana where I worked in the Department of Public Health and Human Services for the past 24 years. I am married to my wonderful husband Danny and have two adult sons. We have lived in Billings our entire lives and I am looking forward to giving back to the community that has given us so much.

I am thrilled to start this new chapter in my life here at SVDP. I look forward to serving the members of our community and providing the best service possible. We can only achieve this because of the hard working and devoted volunteers of SVDP.

Everyone here has unique talents and skills which are key to our success. I look forward to meeting and talking to each and every one of you wonderful people.

Please feel free to contact me at 406-252-1855 ext. 309 or stop by my office any time, my door is always open. My email address is [glynis@svdpmt.org](mailto:glynis@svdpmt.org).  
-Glynis Burchell

**Charity Office Update...**

Pauline is a good friend of St. Vincent de Paul. When she first came into the office about eight years ago she was having a very bad time. She was in financial despair, and on the verge of getting her utilities shut off, and her rent was overdue. And several months back her son had been in an accident, and was now in a wheelchair.

She came into the office distraught and in tears. There was so much she needed help with, I really didn't know where to start. We made a lot of phone calls that day, and we shared a lot of tears and stories. I knew that very first day we would be fast friends.

We did find ways to help her. Slowly but surely, she got back on her feet. Every time she came in she needed less and less help. She always shared her life stories with me about her family, her health and her life in general. Every time she came in we prayed together. She was always so positive, no matter what was going on in her life. About a year ago her visits became less and less. I knew she was doing much better financially than she had been doing, but I did greatly miss her visits.

She signed up to get a food box. When I called her in the office she was her usual cheerful self. She told me how things were going, and she asked me how I was. It was a very brief visit. As she was getting ready to walk out of the office, she turned around with a very distraught look on her face. She said "Felicia, can I tell you something?" The tears were just rolling down her face. She hadn't needed food; she needed to talk to someone. She just had an encounter at the bus stop that triggered a bad memory from when she was little. She said that she didn't know where to go or what to do. And she thought of me, she knew she could trust me to listen to her and comfort her. So she took the bus all the way from the West End to our downtown office so she would have someone to talk to her. We talked for about 20 minutes longer, and she cried and we hugged. She left saying she felt so much better. And that she felt so blessed to have such a wonderful safe place to go to.

St. Vincent de Paul helps people. We help with material things, food, and monetarily. And we help people by just being there. Jeanette and Michael do that, our volunteers do that and all of the staff does that. Sometimes they just need a friendly face, an ear to listen to them and comforting words.  
- Felicia Lehman

**Voice of the Poor — Kelly's Corner**

The Voice of the Poor Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Charity Office at St. Vincent de Paul. This committee provides a voice to those who have no one to speak for them. Many of these voiceless people are the homeless, the working poor, single mothers, and jobless individuals.

The Voice of the Poor Committee is seeking individuals who would like to join our group. By agreeing to sit on this committee, you are dedicating your unique talents to help those who are unable to help themselves.

The Committee is currently conducting a needs assessment in the Charity Office and hopes to have data to share at the August meeting. Meanwhile, if you are interested in social justice and the teachings of the Catholic Church, please drop by. We welcome all newcomers!  
- Kelly Studer

**Catholic HEART Work Visits Billings**

while the campers were here with us in Billings.

The Catholic HEART Workcamp sent three teams to St. Vincent de Paul in mid-July. The energy and enthusiasm of the teams was incredible. Their mantra from the beginning was "no job was too big." The young adults prioritized our wants and needs and decided how to proceed with the projects.

These projects included painting the façade of 1235 Grand Avenue Thrift Store, building a handicap ramp, and many painting projects at 2624 Montana Avenue.

Additionally, the campers helped us prepare for the Christmas Party for the Homeless by organizing our basement.

Thank you to Catholic HEART Workcamp and all the young people who joined in our efforts at St. Vincent de Paul. A big shout out goes to all the donors who helped us accomplish so many goals



- Big Sky Steel and Salvage
- Billings Heights Ace Hardware
- Billings Heights Wal-Mart
- Jim's Jungle Garden Center
- King's Ace Hardware
- The Paint Center
- Probuild
- Sherwin-Williams
- Thank you!

**Maiden Resigns from Board**

Jackie Maiden announced at the June 2011 Board of Directors meeting that she was resigning as President of the St. Pius X Conference and as Secretary on the Board of Directors, effective immediately.

Jackie served in both positions for the past three years.

Jackie's resignation will be great loss to the Society, but she promises to stay active in the Conference so she isn't saying entirely good-bye.

Thank you, Jackie, for your years of dedication, service, and love for the Society. We wish you and your family the very best.

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul Staff**

<b>Executive Director:</b>	<b>Agnes B. Samples</b>
<b>Volunteer Coordinator:</b>	<b>Glynis Burchell</b>
<b>Store Manager:</b>	<b>Debbie Butler</b>
<b>Resource Worker:</b>	<b>Felicia Lehman</b>
<b>Payee Representative:</b>	<b>Jeanette Skinner</b>

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul Board of Directors**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Mary Jo Michels</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Jeanne Bender</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bruce Ellis</b>
<b>Program Coordinator</b>	<b>Donna Pavlish</b>
<b>Spiritual Advisor</b>	<b>Bill Belinski</b>
<b>Other Members:</b>	<b>Jim Good</b>
	<b>Joan Michael</b>
	<b>Kelly Studer</b>