



**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
BILLINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL  
2610 MONTANA AVENUE, BILLINGS, MT 59101  
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# The Vincentian Word

## From the Director's Desk...

During the last 10 months I have had the privilege to meet the many friends of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) and to learn how SVDP has made a difference in their lives.

We have been praying that volunteers would step forward to allow us to open our doors on Saturdays, especially now that cold weather will be with us for several months, and the Lord has answered our prayers. We have been blessed the last few months with many volunteers, youth groups, young adults and adults keeping our Saturdays brewing with activity.

The St. Bernard Youth Group kicked our Saturdays off with a Pancake Breakfast serving more than 100 persons. This group of young adults prayed, cooked, served, and ate with the divergent group of men, women, and children. Then JustFaith opened up our doors on the first snowy Saturday. The JustFaith group served almost 100 people. From their experience, this led to two more scheduled Saturdays and Billings Catholic Campus Ministry has a Saturday scheduled in February.

With your continued support, it is possible that we can be open every Saturday. Think about it; if each SVDP Conference took a Saturday, if each parish took a Saturday, if each PCCW, RCIA, or Knights of Columbus took a Saturday, it would be possible for us to be open every Saturday.

It is a wonderful sight to see our friends welcomed into a warm place with the odors of nutritious food wafting throughout our Charitable Works Office. Let me know when we can schedule your group to take a Saturday to make a difference in someone's life.

Speaking of wafting odors in the Charitable Works Office, there's a crispness in the air and a certain snap in our steps this month that reminds all of us, young and old, that one of our favorite seasons is just around the corner.

Yes, it's Christmas at SVDP, and we are reminded daily of what this event means to us spiritually, and what it means for our friends as we approach this special time of the year.

We all know that December 25 is the day youngsters will be hoping for presents under the tree and families will be gathering to not only recall favorite remembrances, but to also create new traditions. But for so many, their only Christmas will be made possible by the many volunteers of SVDP.

Our Toy Store preparations are in full swing as we prepare to distribute toys to needy children, and this year we have a tremendous event planned. We secured the space formerly occupied by the Wise Penny, 2606 Montana Avenue, and Glynis Burchell, our Volunteer Coordinator, and her volunteers have been busy the last several weeks turning this space into a virtual Winter Wonderland.

As Christmas is the season for giving and sharing, I must use this space to remind everyone that the needs of our friends and the disadvantaged are as great this year as any time in recent memory.

So, if you are thinking about volunteering, now would be a wonderful time to help us bless those in need. If you have items to donate, please do so now. We would love to pass your gifts on to those who rely on SVDP.

If you would like to send a monetary donation, please write and send your check to SVDP.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff and our volunteers, I would like to wish a Merry Christmas to everyone who receives this newsletter.

This is a special season, and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve our Lord and our many friends. Merry Christmas.

- Agnes B. Samples

## Annual Christmas Party for Friends of SVDP

The Annual Christmas Party for our Friends and those we serve through our Charity Office will be **Saturday, December 17 from 11:30-1:00**. Usually, between 150 and 200 people attend our meal and receive gifts. We still need help with the following: baked goodies and candies, cheese, meat, or fruit trays, plates, napkins, cups, and plastic ware, gifts for adults such as hats, gloves, socks, or hygiene items, and gifts for children such as mittens, gloves, caps or socks. Every friend will receive toys with their Christmas boxes.

We can also use wrapping paper, bows, and tape, black, heavy plastic 30 gallon garbage bags with draw ties, and small and large foam to-go containers.

These items can be dropped off at the Charity Office, 2610 Montana Avenue, through December 14. If you need someone to pick up your donation, please call Glynis Burchell, Volunteer Coordinator, at 406-252-1855 ext. 309. Thank you for your generosity.

## In Memory of...

**Robert Karls**

by: Patrick & Marian Burton

**Norene Snyder**

by: Patrick & Mary Kay Byorth

**Greg Quarles**

by: Patrick & Mary Kay Byorth

**Betty, Nathan, Leroy & Lyle Cox**

by: Michael & Pauline Cox

**Frank & Helen Sabo**

by: Gil & Marge Ficek

**Fr. Steve Tokarski**

by: Victor & Loretta Frank

**Agnes & Henry Samples**

**Brent & Jamie Wegner**

**Tom Kelly**

by: Ed & Elizabeth Greteman

**Jackie Hurick**

by: Doman Hurick

**Cyril A. Sannes**

by: Kay M. Larsen

**Mary McCormick**

by: Judith McCormick

**Eunice Mueller**

by: Timothy Murphy

**Lawrence M. Nelson**

by: Lura Thelen

**Wes Wilcox**

by: Richard & Rosemary Wenger

**Ted Ritz**

by: Janice Coffman

**Leonard Pacht**

by: Marion & Rose Coleman

**Mary Papka**

by: Gil & Marge Ficek

**Mary & Joseph Kraninger**

by: Lee and Delores Lemke

**Dorothy Stampfel**

by: Mick Wolff & Diann Mueller

## In Honor Of...

**Donna Pavlish**

by: Donald & Valerie King

Thank you,  
Ben Uselman at Bruco  
for supplying SVDP  
paper products for our  
public restrooms.



