



**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
BILLINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL
2610 MONTANA AVENUE, BILLINGS, MT 59101
DOWNTOWN STORE: 406-252-1855
GRAND AVENUE OUTLET: 406-248-9125
CHARITY OFFICE: 406-248-1411**

June 2011

Volume 19, Issue 6

www.svdpmf.org

The Vincentian Word

From the Directors Desk...

I witnessed first-hand the works of St. Vincent de Paul at its best the last week of May when the floodwaters overwhelmed the Crow Reservation and surrounding areas of Billings. I want to report what "our" Society was able to accomplish at a moment's notice.

When SVDP learned that many residents of the Crow Reservation had been evacuated on Monday, May 23, to Petro Hall at MSU Billings, the president of "our" Society, Mary Jo Michels, was quick to respond by staffing the SVDP booth at MSUB. Mary Jo reports that SVDP was the only service agency distributing essentials to the evacuees at MSUB on Monday.

Mary Jo wrote vouchers for clothing and fuel assistance and distributed essential emergency personal hygiene items.

Jim Good and Harry Merchant manned our booth on Tuesday, May 24, and continued assisting the evacuees with vouchers and emergency items.

Also on Tuesday, SVDP collaborated with the American Red Cross and MSU Billings to bring vanloads of evacuees to shop for other needed essentials at SVDP's downtown thrift store. Evacuees were able to redeem their vouchers that had been written at MSUB and in SVDP's Charitable Works Office (CWO).

By Friday, May 27, SVDP had exhausted its resources of underwear, t-shirts, socks and pajamas for men, women, boys and girls. Then the good news came from the Wal-Mart in the Heights that SVDP was to receive a \$500 gift card to replenish our supply of much needed clothing. Within the hour of Wal-Mart's generous gift, volunteer Tom Harmon went shopping for these much needed supplies and we were "back in business."

Many people worked behind the scenes quietly to ensure there was "calm" in the middle of the storm.

My thanks go to "our" Society of St. Vincent de Paul, our dedicated board members, our hard-working staff and volunteers in the Charitable Works Office, the staff and volunteers in our thrift stores, and our dedicated volunteers and donors who responded quickly with money and clothing donations.

I am proud to be part of this organization. SVDP repeatedly demonstrates its determination in assisting those in need. As one board member said, "God will provide." Thank you God for "our" wonderful Society, volunteers and dedicated staff.

Other news to report this month — the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust has approved a \$100,000 grant to support St. Vincent de Paul's renovation project. We should receive the grant funds in July. When our project is completed, we will offer the first public restrooms in downtown Billings, and we will double our laundry service capacity for the needy. We will also be expanding our offices to offer financial planning and other classes. Harry Merchant got the ball rolling by submitting the original application, so we can say "thank you" to Harry and to Dave Coleman, program director with the Trust, for this great news.

— Agnes B. Samples

In Honor Of...

Mallory Real Bird

by: Michael & Jacquelyn Ayers

LaVerne Frank

by: Nancy Englert

Sue Hart

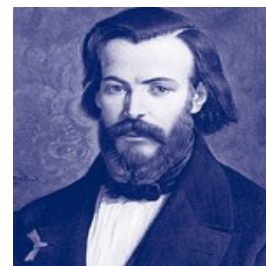
by: Mary Kay Latta

David Sletta

by: Dawn Sletta

Cletus J. Walsh

by: Kathleen & Bill LaMeres



Blessed Frederic Ozanam

In Memory Of...

Cletus Good Bird

by: Timothy Murphy

Wally Carlson

by: Eugene Eggebrecht

Robert Dell

by: Tom & Cindy Ann Dell

Stan Fredenburg

By: Celestine Fredenburg

Sue Glatt

By: Lawrence Glatt

Elizabeth Grass

by:

Charles & Patricia Beach

Julie Blakeslee

David Grass

Jim Huck

by: Hilda Huck

Jackie Hurick

by: Dorman Hurick

Edward Kammerer

by: Teresa Lechner

Kenneth Lucien

by:

Greg & Marilyn Schell

Jean Sullivan

Mike & Eunice Mueller

by:

Patrick Byorth

Maribeth & Robert Dietrich —
Haybeck

Marge & Gil Ficek

Ann Hefenieder

Irene Hefenieder

Ron & Maggie Jacobs

John & Joanne Larson

M. Leligdowicz

Sheila McKay

Donald & Susan Mueller

Lelah Ritz

Henry & Agnes Samples

Marion Schaaf

Ralph J. & Cemie Studer

Jack Padon

by: Don & Patricia Kelly

Rick Rigg

by: Don & Patricia Kelly

Ted Ritz

by: Lela Ritz

Cyril Sannes

By: Kay M. Larsen

Art Schaaf

by: Marion Schaaf

Betty Schock

by: Eugene Eggebrecht

Bob Smith

by:

Patrick Byorth

Don & Patricia Kelly

Verna Stroup

by: Bulah Manning

Dr. William H. Walton, Jr.

by: Don & Patricia Kelly

Bertha Zumbrun

by: Richard & Rosemary
Wenger

Lou Zygmund

by: Marilyn Zygmund



Volunteer of the Month



Joseph Krasowki is our Volunteer of the Month. Joe is a scientist whose specialty was determining if prescription and over-the-counter medicine was safe. He and his family moved to Montana and settled in Hardin when his wife received an opportunity to practice dentistry. Joe was approached by Eunice Mueller to start volunteering at SVDP and anyone who knew Eunice knew it was almost impossible to tell her no, so now Joe works in our Payee Office as a check register balancer. This job isn't easy when you have 92 bank statements to reconcile, not to mention deciphering Jeanette's handwriting! Joe makes it look like a piece of cake and we appreciate Joe choosing to spend his volunteer time with St. Vincent de Paul!

In Memory of Eunice Mueller

If our founder Frederic Ozanam was standing beside me today, he would say that we need to respect and honor the people who help us in our mission of serving our friends and neighbors. One person who deserves our utmost respect and honor is Eunice Mueller.

Eunice was so much more than a person who came in to our office to help; she was a member of our day family. She was a kind, vibrant, loving, gentle woman who enjoyed lending a hand anywhere she was needed. She gave of herself without hesitation and never asked for attention or a reward. She brought clothing and household items, candy, and baked goods to give to our clients, and she was always here to listen to them and acknowledge their struggle. Rarely did a week go by that Eunice wasn't helping and when she couldn't be here she would call and apologize numerous times! We all loved Eunice and she never once took advantage of the spell she cast on all of us!

Eunice loved her family. She shared pictures and told of every achievement her children and grandchildren made and I am grateful for all the marvelous stories she shared. She wasn't rich, but she was one of the richest women on earth for the love she shared with her family. She would always check in with Mike before leaving the office and if she forgot, he would call. The last day she worked, Mike called and I told him "I am sending your lady home now." Little did I know it would be the last time I would talk to him and the last time I would have one of those wonderful hugs only Eunice could give.

Eunice was at the hospital everyday when I was there, and when I was home she or Mike would call to see if I needed anything. She had an entire crew make sure my office was cleaned ceiling to floor before I came back to work. I often told her if anyone can get a job done, it's you. She would laugh and say it's you, and you give me too much credit; not even close Eunice!

A lot of the changes made over the years in the Payee office were made because Eunice saw a way to do things better. She made changes to our filing that makes it more efficient, the check drawer is better organized and after she wrote checks one month the spreadsheets we use were redesigned. She recently brought in two people to volunteer with her and she told me if I can't come in I want to make sure you have people you can rely on. Only Eunice could make sure her job was covered in advance of her going to do God's work. We were blessed that Eunice was our volunteer and I am in awe and deeply honored that I was able to stand beside Eunice as we served those in need.

— Jeanette Skinner

Charity Office Update...

St. Vincent de Paul's seven-month partnership with The Billings Food Bank to distribute food boxes to our friends is putting a smile on everyone's face!

I admit there were some nervous jitters when we first closed our food store, but having The Billings Food Bank collect and distribute the food from one central location has become a smooth operation.

Heretofore, SVDP drew its food from a small store we maintained. Now, we give our friends a food voucher, which can be exchanged for a food box at The Billings Food Bank. In addition, The Billings Food Bank keeps us supplied with sack lunches to meet our daily needs.

This new arrangement also allowed us to sell our huge walk-in freezer/cooler combo, providing space that will be available for additional offices in our renovation project. (See column by Agnes B. Samples.)

I miss the volunteers who used to work at our food store, but the food voucher program has been a tremendous success. I hear from our friends that they like going through the food bank because they have more choices and more food. Thanks to the Billings Food Bank for this great program!

And for you "food room" volunteers, I really need you at the front desk!

— Felicia Lehman

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Staff

Executive Director: Agnes B. Samples
Charity Office: Felicia Lehman
Payee Office: Jeanette Skinner
Store Manager: Debbie Butler

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Board of Directors

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