



**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**

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# The Vincentian Word

## From the Director's Desk...

Mass was celebrated at St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) on Saturday, October 15, 2011 as we rededicated our recently remodeled Charitable Works Office.

Fr. Bart Stevens, Parochial Vicar of the Billings Catholic Cluster of Churches, celebrated Mass and blessed our new offices as more than 50 people lifted their voices up in prayer and song. Fr. Bart based his homily on Luke 10:25-37, a selection that stresses the personal service of Christ. The work of SVDP, Fr. Bart said, is based on personal service to the needy, the underprivileged and the homeless.

Fr. Bart's remarks were underscored when one of our friends asked to speak after the service. The man related how he was recently beaten into a coma. The man related how his faith had led him to recover and to forgive those who had harmed him.

The Mass, conducted with the blessing of Bishop Michael Warfel, was the first Mass celebrated at SVDP in several years and it marked the official reopening of SVDP's Charitable Works Office, which has undergone a major renovation in the last few months.

The renovation was financed by a major grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the Fortin Foundation and donations from the supporters of SVDP in Billings.

We now have beautiful colors and new lighting to showcase our new offices and facilities for our friends.

The renovated space includes two sets of energy efficient washers and dryers, public restrooms and water fountains.

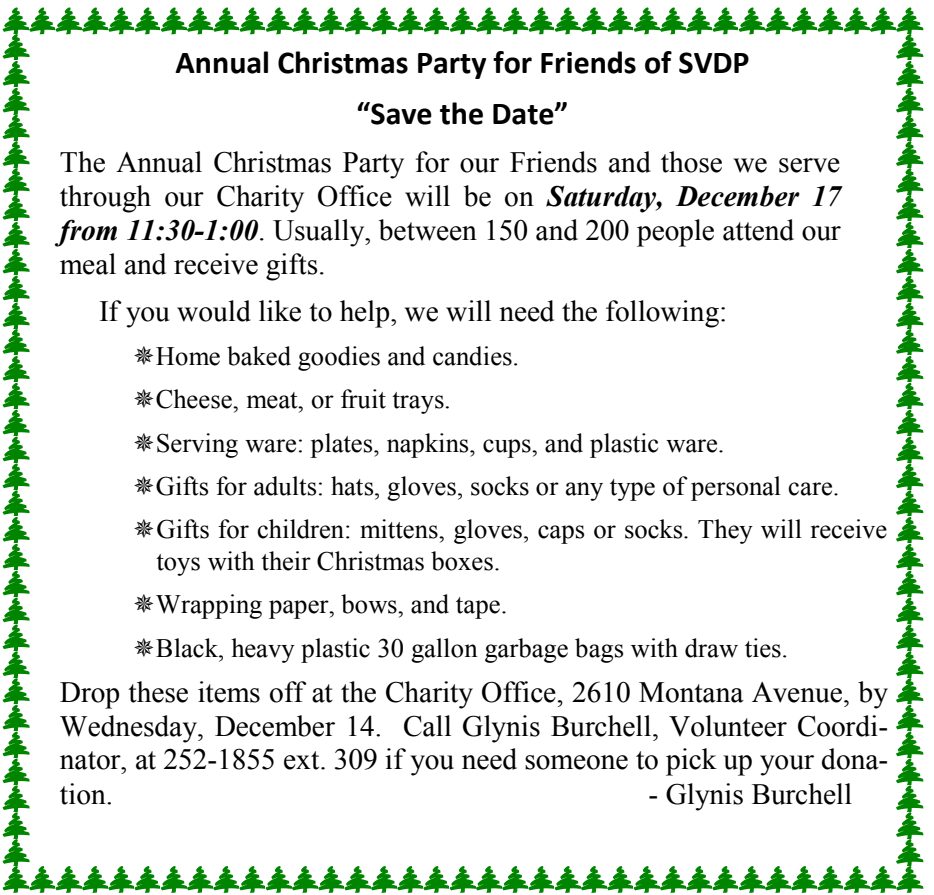
The grant application process was initiated by Harry Merchant, retired Executive Director of SVDP, who traced the history of SVDP for those attending the Mass and a reception afterwards.

SVDP opened in Billings in 1972 and now serves more than 900 families each month with assistance such as clothing, furniture, household furnishing, rent assistance, utilities, transportation and prescriptions.

SVDP and its many volunteers have a renewed spirit with the completion of the renovation. We are now planning our Christmas Party, an annual event which provides gifts to underserved children and families.

- Agnes B. Samples

**Holiday Helpers** are needed for the Toy Distribution, December 19-22 from 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. We have so many volunteer opportunities here at SVDP, especially at this time of the year. From baking goodies for the Annual Homeless Christmas Party to staffing the donation truck. Please call Glynis Burchell, Volunteer Coordinator, 406-252-1855 ext. 309 to discuss your availability and interests.



## Annual Christmas Party for Friends of SVDP

### "Save the Date"

The Annual Christmas Party for our Friends and those we serve through our Charity Office will be on **Saturday, December 17 from 11:30-1:00**. Usually, between 150 and 200 people attend our meal and receive gifts.

If you would like to help, we will need the following:

- \* Home baked goodies and candies.
- \* Cheese, meat, or fruit trays.
- \* Serving ware: plates, napkins, cups, and plastic ware.
- \* Gifts for adults: hats, gloves, socks or any type of personal care.
- \* Gifts for children: mittens, gloves, caps or socks. They will receive toys with their Christmas boxes.
- \* Wrapping paper, bows, and tape.
- \* Black, heavy plastic 30 gallon garbage bags with draw ties.

Drop these items off at the Charity Office, 2610 Montana Avenue, by Wednesday, December 14. Call Glynis Burchell, Volunteer Coordinator, at 252-1855 ext. 309 if you need someone to pick up your donation.

- Glynis Burchell

## In Memory Of...

### Thomas D. Kelly

by: Jim & Peggy Good

Connie Kaiser

Fred & Mary May

Joseph McBride

Jean Smith

Anonymous

### Marie Danis

by: Luella Avens

### Reverend Stephen Tokarski

by: Roger & Nancy Beeter

Tom & Patti Dunbar

Eugene Eggebrecht

Celestine Fredenburg

Harold & Mary Kelso

Cindy & Jeff Steiner

Kim Larsen

### Ruth Bales

by: Mabel Bowman

### Maxine Bridger

by: Janet & Bertan Bridger

### Leonard Cruse

by: Carolyn Cruse

### Keith Johnson

by: Eugene Eggebrecht

### Jim Huck

by: Hilda Huck

### Ray Delaney

by: Beth Krokksa

### William, Mary, & Clem Krokksa

by: Mary Ann Krokksa

### Wes Wilcox

by: Richard & Rosemary Wenger

### Friends & Family of Deceased Sisters of Charity

by: Sisters of Charity

### Art A. Schaaf

by: Marion Schaaf

## In Honor Of...

### Cletus J. Walsh

by: Kathleen & Bill Lameris

### Fr. David Reichling

by: Eugene & Grace Reif

### Jennelle & Andrew Billstein

by: Eugene & Grace Reif

## Elevator Grant Received

The Fortin Foundation recently awarded St. Vincent de Paul \$20,000 toward the cost of a new freight elevator. If you are familiar with our operations you know how important the elevator is to us. Thank you to the Fortin Foundation for this generous sum toward replacing our 100-year-old elevator.

### From the Charity Office...

Mickey had started coming into St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) around the time I started working here. I remember the first time I met him, he had just gotten kicked out of his parent's house the day before, and he was living on the streets. He had just turned 18 as well; I listened to his story and referred him to Tumbleweed. I could tell by listening to him that he was suffering from some mental health issues. I didn't see Mickey again for several months. But when I did see him again I hardly recognized him. He was completely calm, and collected. He went on to tell me that he went to Tumbleweed and they got him going to Mental Health and so on. He got the help he needed. He was on medication. He got a job and eventually got his own place. In short, the world was a good place to Mickey at the moment.

Over the years Mickey came into SVDP. Sometime he was in for assistance and sometimes he just came in to say hi. Whatever reason, he always had some news to share with me. Anything GOOD or BAD that happened to Mickey he

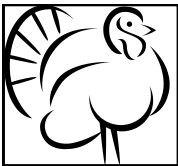
came in and told me all about it. He had made a connection with me and it has definitely stuck over the years. Every event in his life he would come share it with me. I was here when he got his first job, his first place, and his first car. I was here when he got married, and when his children, Ben and Naomi were born. But not once over the years had he had any problems with his mental health. He always took his medication, he was always fine. About two or three months ago Mickey had come in again. I hadn't seen him for about three months, but I knew he had recently gone through a divorce and was having custody issues with his children. I knew the moment I saw him that something was not right. I asked him how he was, and he told me terrible. I asked him why he wasn't taking his meds, and he said no money. He was on the edge and was in desperate need of help. The divorce had been very hard on him, and he wasn't able to see his kids. He had been fighting for custody and it wasn't getting anywhere. He had been ordered to pay child support, and this stopped him from having the money for his meds. He needed his meds and it was

going to take 30 days to get help from the state because of his income adjustment with his child support payments. I told him exactly what to do, where to go and what to bring back so I could help him. He accounted for every cent of his earnings with bills and the child support payments. With nothing left for his meds. He was not looking good, and so we helped him get his meds. He started crying, he knew without his meds he would not get to see his children, he would lose his job and that would create a lot more problems.

A couple of weeks ago I saw Mickey again, he had gotten his finances all straightened out and was very grateful for the help SVDP had given him. A little help was all he needed. It is situations like this that SVDP can help out with because of everyone involved with SVDP. To have the people here to help and the ability to help with financial emergencies is made possible because of you. God bless all the supporters, and volunteers of SVDP.

- Felicia Lehman

### Holiday Applications Due



St. Vincent de Paul is accepting applications for Holiday Baskets. To qualify for a basket, one must be a resident of Yellowstone County, have a picture ID, Social Security cards for each member of the household, have proof of address with a utility bill, rent receipt or lease agreement and proof of income. The Charitable Works Office is located at 2610 Montana Avenue and we are open Monday—Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you know anyone who is in need, please encourage them to sign up.

#### Society of St. Vincent de Paul— Board of Directors

- President:** Mary Jo Michels
- Vice-President:** Kelly Studer
- Secretary:** Jeanne Bender
- Program Coordinator:** Donna Pavlish
- Spiritual Advisor:** Bill Belinski
- Other Members:** Jim Good, Joan Michael, Mick Wolff

#### Society of St. Vincent de Paul — Staff

- Executive Director:** Agnes B. Samples
- Bookkeeper/Office Manager:** Debbie Francom
- Volunteer Coordinator:** Glynis Burchell
- Store Manager:** Debbie Butler
- Assistant Store Manager:** Barbara McIntire
- Resource Worker:** Felicia Lehman
- Representative Payee:** Jeanette Skinner
- Representative Payee:** Joe Krasowski
- Maintenance/Custodian:** Jim Steinmetz

### Welcome, Debbie Francom



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Board of Directors and Staff welcome Debbie Francom as full-time bookkeeper/office manager. Debbie is originally from Western Massachusetts. She attended the University of SW Florida and is a graduate of Holyoke Jr. College. Debbie has worked in finance for many years, including 10 years in the non-profit sector.

Debbie's husband, Dave, is a Montana native from Belt. They have three children. Their oldest son lives in Casper, Wyoming, a daughter who is a college student and is employed with the Army National Guard lives in Louisiana, while their youngest son is currently overseas with the US Army, due to return shortly and to be stationed in El Paso, Texas. Welcome, Debbie.

#### Assistant Store Manager Named

Barb McIntire has been named Assistant Store Manager at the Outlet Thrift Store. Barb hails from Monterey, California and has lived in Montana for five years. Barb's passions are animals and photography. In her spare time, she enjoys landscaping, yard work and renovating her house.

#### Best Wishes, Maxine

The Board of Directors would like to thank Maxine Steinmetz for her service to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you so much, Maxine, and God bless you.



### Volunteer of the Month

Alissa Leinwand is November's Volunteer of the Month. Alissa returned to Billings after 15 years in sunny Phoenix, Arizona. She's interested in yoga, going for long walks, traveling, and movies.

Alissa has found volunteering at SVDP to be rewarding and enjoyable because we help so many friends.

Alissa said, "I am so happy to be a part of the team. Moreover, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends"



Alissa Leinwand