



**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...

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will rededicate our Charitable Works Office at 9 a.m. on October 15, 2011, and you are invited to come see the results of our renovation program.

Fr. Bart Stevens, Parochial Vicar at the Billings Catholic Cluster of Churches, will celebrate Mass at 9 a.m. and a ceremony marking the official rededication and opening of our Charitable Works Office will follow.

The day will be a special day for all of us who follow the teachings of Frederic Ozanam and St. Vincent de Paul.

Bishop Warfel has approved celebrating the Mass at St. Vincent de Paul and this will be the first Mass celebrated at our offices in many years.

The Mass will be followed by a short ceremony rededicating and reopening the Charitable Works Office at 2610 Montana Avenue.

This has been a frenetic year at our offices as volunteers knocked down walls, followed by workers from Jones Construction Co., who did a marvelous job bringing new life to our quarters.

We now have a new floor, modern lighting, new offices, and, most importantly, two sets of washers and dryers and a public restroom and water fountain. Our friends report that they really appreciate the warm colors of our new facility.

Grants from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust and the Fortin Foundation and donations from many special donors from the Billings community financed the work. Harry Merchant, former executive director of SVDP who first sought those funds, will help rededicate the new facility.

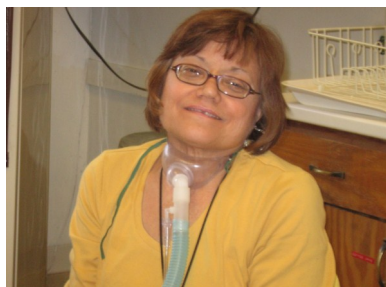
So, if you are a customer, a donor, a financial supporter, a volunteer, or someone who supports the mission of this lay Catholic organization, please come join us for our Mass and celebration at 9:00 a.m. on October 15.

We will have light refreshments following the Mass and the rededication, and we would love to have you with us on this very special day. God bless each of you. -Agnes B. Samples

## Volunteer of the Month

Marian Swialty volunteers as a check writer in the Payee office. She comes in whenever we want her and goes out of her way to call us to see if she can come in and do more work. Marian has lived in Billings for about 20 years. She has an Associate's Degree in accounting, and has worked as a Bookkeeper for several businesses. Marian has one daughter and two sons and she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren. She crochets and reads in her spare time. Marian attends Holy Rosary and Little Flower Churches, takes part in Bible classes, and volunteers when they need her.

We appreciate all the work that Marian does for us and we truly are blessed that she chooses our office to share her talents.



## From the Charity Office...

The last coat of paint has been splashed, the last door put on its hinges and the last filing cabinet has been put in its place. It doesn't seem like it was that long ago when Harry was bringing the rough draft of the blueprints to us, or Agnes was telling us to pack up our offices. Over the last 13 years I have seen a lot of changes at SVDP, but none as significant as this remodeling project.

When we first started this adventure it seemed like it would never get done. Through all the headaches, the circuit breakers popping and the waiting area getting smaller by the day, we made it. When our offices were reduced to boxes, when loud noises and tons and tons of dust permeated every crook and cranny, we made it.

And now that the dust has settled and everything is in its place, we get to hear from the people that we did this all for — our SVDP friends. Whether they are here for coffee and donuts, to apply for assistance or just to come in to say hello, they all seemed very pleased with the results. It is nice to hear someone say they had to walk past our door two or three times because they thought they were at the wrong place. It is nice to see the look of awe when a person comes in for the first time. I really enjoy hearing our friends remark about how much warmer and inviting our offices are than before the renovation. You can see the happiness with our public restrooms, and the new washers and dryers. They tell me that it feels like a place for them, a home for those who don't have one and a home away from home for those who come here.

So, if you haven't had a chance to come see our new facilities, come take a peek. I think we have accomplished a wonderful thing together, something that everyone can be proud of. God bless. -Felicia Lehman

## In Memory Of

**Thomas D. Kelly**

by: Patrick Byorth

Lil Dobitz

Katie Link

Edythe McCleary

Edward & Audrey Parks

Bill & Janis Pedersen

Dave & Nancy Rigg

**Ted Ritz**

by: Janice Coffman

Lelah Ritz

**Cade Butler**

by: Kay and Floyd King

Marion Walton

Mary Ann Catchpole

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

by: Michael & Pauline Cox

**Harriet Kriener**

by: Gil and Marge Ficek

**Jim Huck**

by: Vic and Loretta Frank

**Tim Moats**

by: Mary Ann Catchpole

**Thomas George Tokarski**

by: Kim Larsen

**Jackie Hurick**

by: Dorman Hurick

**Cyril A. Sannes**

by: Kay M. Larsen

**Sr. Mary Depner**

by: Mary Kay Latta

Rev. Anthony Schuster

Mary Ann Catchpole

**Herman K. Muthman**

by: Ann Muthman

**Karolyn Gainan**

by: Audrey Reed

Marion Walton

**Art A. Schaaf**

by: Marion Schaaf

**Lou Zygmund**

by: Marilyn Zygmund

**Mike & Eunice Mueller**

by: Marion Walton

## In Honor Of

**Cletus J. Walsh**

by: Kathleen & Bill LaMeres

**Grace Squires**

by: Agnes & Henry Samples

### From Glynis...

Cold weather is getting closer every day, and winter always tells us it's time for us to ask our patrons and donors for clothing items for our homeless and needy friends who are in desperate need of so many things.

We are especially in need of warm clothing of all types, hats, gloves, blankets, socks and hand warmers.

A lot of friends spend very cold nights outside and need these things if they are to survive. What is a gently used coat to you might be the difference between life and death for someone living on the street or in a structure with no heat.

Please keep this need in mind as you consider making your plans to donate to SVDP this winter.

If you are thinking of volunteering, Tom Harmon could use your help getting ready for our annual Santa's Wonderland, an event that provides toys for children. If you would like to help Tom, he will be working in the basement of our Charitable Works Office from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Tuesdays. We need volunteers to help get the space ready, and volunteers to help sort and arrange toys by gender and age.

Volunteers are also needed November 22 and 23 to assist with Thanksgiving Baskets at the Billings Food Bank.

Volunteers are needed for the Santa's Wonderland to assist families making gift selections December 19 through December 22 from 8:30 a.m.—3 p.m. Restocking will take place after the families leave each day, so we need volunteers to restock the toys from 3-5 p.m.

Contact Glynis Burchell, Volunteer Coordinator, at 406-252-1855 ext. 309 or email me at [glynis@svdpmt.org](mailto:glynis@svdpmt.org) if you would like to help. We can always use the extra hands volunteers provide.

- Glynis Burchell

### New President of St. Pius X Conference



Mick Wolff is the new President of the St. Pius X Conference and the newest member of the Board of Directors for The Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Mick and his wife Diann, pictured above, have been members of the St. Pius X Parish for 25 years, and active members of the St. Pius X Conference for two years. Diann will serve as vice president of the St. Pius X Conference.

Mick loves God and his Catholic faith. He is a family man with a sense of humor and he working hard at being a great grandfather.

Mick is retired from the U.S. Postal Service and he is enjoying learning more about SVDP and serving the needy.

Thank you, Mick, for accepting God's call to service for the poor. We look forward to seeing you around the board table at 7:00 a.m. the third Friday of each month.

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

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

### Kelly's Corner...

The members of the Voice of the Poor Committee would like to thank Ben Uselman at BRUCO for donating the supplies for our new public restrooms at the Charitable Works Office at St. Vincent de Paul. The supplies ensured our facilities were ready for our friends. Thank you, Ben, for everything you do to support the effort of the Voice of the Poor and St. Vincent de Paul. If you have not visited us in a while, please make time in your schedule to visit the Charity Office, we would love for you to see how appreciative our friends are to have public restrooms, a safe and secure place to do laundry, and water fountains for a cool drink water.

- Kelly Studer

St. Vincent de Paul will begin accepting applications for Holiday Baskets on October 14<sup>th</sup>. 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, proof of address with a utility bill, rent receipt or lease agreement and proof of income. Our office at 2610 Montana Avenue is 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.



### Thank you Walkers and Supporters...

More than \$6,000 was generated for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) during the Fourth Annual Friends of the Poor Walk held here September 10.

Those funds were raised/donated to the Society by 55 runners/walkers who turned out for the 10 a.m. two-mile walk that started and ended at the newly remodeled Charitable Works Office of SVDP at 2610 Montana Avenue. Many of the walkers obtained pledges from sponsors.

We are excited by the donations generated by the Friends of the Poor Walk, but we are also excited by the number of walkers and runners who donated their time toward raising awareness about poverty and homelessness in Billings and in our society. One hundred percent of the funds raised through the walk will be used to help those seeking emergency assistance at our Charitable Works Office. The route chosen for the walk, which was co-sponsored by St. Vincent Healthcare, took participants through an impoverished area of downtown Billings, giving walkers and runners a glimpse of where the chronically homeless live, such as underpasses and cardboard houses. The route chosen contributed



to some meaningful discussion and gave walkers a better awareness of what the homeless endure. Donna Pavlish, an organizer of the event, gave the opening prayer, reading from the Book of Micah.

### From the Board...

The Board of Directors would like to thank Bruce Ellis for his service to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Bruce has contributed his time and talents to the Society for many years. He served as president of the Board for



three years and then was persuaded to take the position of treasurer. Bruce recently stepped down from the Board but remains an active member of the St. Thomas Conference of St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you so much, Bruce, and God bless you.

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

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