

# Vincentian Charities

Newsletter and Chronicle of Activities  
DIOCESAN COUNCIL--SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL  
*Serving God's Poor in this Community Since 1865*

Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Fall Edition

Vol. XVIII, No. III

## Get into the Swing of Things



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is getting into the swing of things, preparing for our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Brian Harris Charity Golf Tournament. Our Golf Committee, led by Chairman, Rick Bayhi, is working hard to put together a fantastic tournament for 2009.

As we all know, the economy is still very tight, both nationally and locally, and many businesses are cutting back on their support of charitable events, such as our golf tournament. They are simply not able to offer the support they have in the past. We are extremely thankful to have the continued support of Brian Harris for this year's event. If you would like to support the tournament as a sponsor or by signing up as a team, please complete the form in this newsletter or call Lisa Hubble at 383-7837, extension 204.

This year's tournament will take place at The Island in Plaquemine on Monday, October 12. This wonderful golf  
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## That's What Friends Are For

Summer vacation is over and kids are back in school, but the start of a new school year doesn't mean our Uniforms for Kids effort is over. The need for school uniforms is ongoing.

A relatively new fund-raiser for Uniforms for Kids is an Evening Gala sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul, Chef John Folse and Moniotte Investments. We invite you to join us for *That's What Friends are For* at beautiful White Oak Plantation on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:30 to 9:00. Enjoy an evening of delicious food prepared by Chef Folse, good wine, fine jewelry raffles, sultry jazz, and a silent auction. Dress is business casual.

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## Answer a Mother's Prayer

Centuries ago, when Mary was in desperate need of shelter, her only concern was for the coming child and His safety. Joseph was there, providing a helping hand, and with God's help, Mary's prayer was answered. Safe shelter was found.

Through God's grace, homeless mothers and children today have a safe refuge. Our Bishop Ott Sweet Dreams Shelter is a place to rest and start over, a place of new beginnings and hope for the future. This year, we will serve hundreds of homeless women and children, but our focus is not on shelter alone. We know that providing a place to stay is just the first step in ending homelessness. Our goal is for every woman we serve to become self-sufficient, to be able to provide for herself and her children.

The Sweet Dreams Program was started in 2001 to provide for the hundreds of homeless women and children who  
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## PHARMACY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The pharmacy expansion is under way, and construction is going well. When you look at this picture, it's hard to believe that there was an empty lot next to our pharmacy just a few months ago. When the pharmacy was first built in 2003, the leadership of St. Vincent de Paul thought ahead strategically and left the lot next door available for future use. They knew that, at some point, we would need to expand this critical program.

**Continued on page 2, see "PHARMACY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE"**



*Workers are busy on the new two-story addition to our community pharmacy. We hope that construction will be complete and the ribbon-cutting can take place before the end of the year.*

### In this Issue:

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- A Special Message for You

**Get Into the Swing of Things Continued from page 1**  
 course, just 14 miles from downtown Baton Rouge, was selected as one of the inaugural members of Louisiana's Audubon Golf Trail, and is a true championship course.

Registration starts at 11:00 a.m., and the tournament tee off is at 1:00 p.m. Before the tournament begins, we will have a light lunch for golfers to enjoy, along with a wide variety of beverages. We thank the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, the Baton Rouge Beer Agency and Mockler Beverage Company for their continued support of this event. After the tournament, we will have a delicious barbecued chicken dinner prepared by West Baton Rouge Sheriff Mike Caze. If you've never tasted Sheriff Caze's famous barbecued chicken, you're in for a real treat.

Even if you don't play golf, we encourage you to be a Corporate, Associate, or Hole Sponsor to help make this our most successful tournament ever. This effort plays an important role in supporting the charities of St. Vincent de Paul. The funds raised by this event are used to help our community's most vulnerable citizens – needy children (through our Uniforms for Kids program) and homeless women (through our Myriam's House program).

There are a lot of good reasons to get involved in this year's effort, but the best reasons are the needy women and children we serve. So grab your golf bag and clubs and join us for a great time at this year's tournament!

**Registration Form**

Sponsor or Player Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorship Levels (Please check all that apply.)**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Corporate Sponsorship – \$3000.00**  
 (includes two 4-member teams and top public relations billing)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Associate Sponsorship – \$1000.00**  
 (includes one 4-member team and public relations)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Golf Team & Hole Sponsor – \$600.00**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Golf Team – \$500.00**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Hole Sponsor – \$125.00**  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **Individual Player – \$125.00**

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to play, but want to contribute to the event \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to St. Vincent de Paul and mail with this form to: P. O. Box 127, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 - - - - -

**Complete for all team players**

Captain \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Player #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Player #3 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Player #4 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Join the League of Angels*

Ensure that your values and beliefs live forever by remembering the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in your will. The League of Angels was established to recognize those who remember the Society in their planned giving. To join the League of Angels, call Michael Acaldo at (225) 383-7837, extension 0

**That's What Friends Are For Continued from page 1**  
*That's What Friends Are For* is an annual event that plays a critical role in our fund-raising efforts, generating much needed dollars to continue our uniform effort throughout the school year. However, our Uniforms for Kids effort is about much more than dollars.

We like to keep our supporters informed, and we regularly share information about school uniforms from a financial perspective – cost per uniform, dollars raised, number of uniforms distributed. But that's not what this effort is about. What is much more important is saving the self-esteem of needy children. Their short lives have been filled with challenges, and the last thing they need is to face the humiliation of going to school without the proper attire. Education is their chance for a better life, and school should be something they look forward to, not something to dread.

Thanks to the outstanding community leadership of WAFB-Channel 9, Kean's the Cleaner, Chase, and Moniotte Investments, we met this year's ambitious goal of distributing 30,000 uniforms, which means we were able to help over 15,000 kids, providing each child with two uniforms for school.

Every prayer, every financial supporter, and every parent that donated gently used uniforms, touched a needy child's life. This year's collection effort was a success, not only because of financial contributions, but also because of our used uniform collections at Kean's the Cleaner.

Our used uniform collection went much better than anticipated; however, with the tight economy, our financial support did not do as well. Although this year's campaign raised over \$200,000, we still need financial support to help needy children throughout the school year. We try to help as many children as we can before school starts, but this is a year-round effort. We need to help children who become homeless, those whose homes have burned, or children that move to our schools from another area.

We urge you to support our Uniforms for Kids effort and encourage you to attend *That's What Friends Are For*, which generates critical funding for school uniforms. Call Lisa Hubble at 383-7837, extension 204, for more information.

**PHARMACY CONSTRUCTION Continued from page 1**  
 Thanks to the generous contributions of so many of our supporters, including the Huey & Angelina Wilson Foundation, the Greater Baton Rouge State Fair Foundation, Bob and Grace LeBlanc, and several other generous benefactors, construction is moving forward, and this vision will soon become a reality. Our goal is for construction to be complete by the end of the year. What a great Christmas present that would be for Baton Rouge – a better-than-ever charitable pharmacy to meet the needs of our community.

We often say that St. Vincent de Paul is a drive-by charity. From time to time, you can drive by and see a new project that's under way, like our pharmacy expansion. But you can drive by any day of the year and see your support in action. You can see people being served a hot meal,

prescriptions being filled, or homeless men, women and children who call our shelter facilities *home*. We would love to have you stop by for a tour of our main campus. To schedule a tour, call Lisa Hubble at 383-7837, ext. 204.



## Answer a Mother's Prayer

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needed this vital community service. When our Sweet Dreams fund-raising effort first started, its focus was to raise money to open this facility. Through the years, this effort has raised approximately \$50,000 annually to help with operational costs. These dollars ensure the continued essential services our program provides. But there is one thing that is even more critical than funding: prayer.

Time after time, homeless mothers have told us that our Sweet Dreams Shelter is the answer to their prayers. But without *your* prayers, this program would not be possible. We ask you to cut out and pray the Sweet Dreams prayer below. We also encourage you to be as generous as you can in your support of this year's Sweet Dreams effort.

### Sweet Dreams Prayer

*Lord God, Giver of Life,  
Fill us with your Spirit.*

*Use our hands to shelter the homeless;*

*Use our hearts to enable sweet dreams;*

*Use our voices to end homelessness.*

*May our actions improve life for others*

*And reflect your abundant love.*

*Through Christ our Lord, AMEN.*

## Taste & See this Holiday Season

If you haven't purchased your copy of our *Taste & See* cookbook, now is a good time to place your order. The holidays are just around the corner, and this would make a wonderful gift – for yourself or a friend. This cookbook is

packed with great recipes that will be welcome additions to your holiday menu. How about Cranberry Upside-Down Cake and Praline Pumpkin Pie for your Thanksgiving desserts, or Chef John Folse's Louisiana Style Crawfish Etouffee for your Christmas Eve get-together?

There are over 200 recipes that are guaranteed to make every meal a culinary triumph, but there's more here than just recipes. Every chapter begins with a story about our services and people who came to us in need. Each story is an example of faith in action.

By purchasing a copy of *Taste & See*, you are not only acquiring a wonderful addition to your cookbook collection, you are helping to raise funds that will go directly toward services for the poor and homeless. This is more important than ever as our economy continues to struggle. Every penny from the sale of our cookbook helps us to do a better job of serving our area's neediest citizens.

Use the form below to place your order. And don't forget – when you're ordering one for yourself, order an extra copy. It's the perfect gift for the person who has everything.

### Order Your Taste & See Cookbook!

Please send me a copy of the *Taste & See* cookbook at \$21.95 plus 9% tax – a total of \$23.93, plus shipping and handling of \$3.99 for a total of \$27.92. (To order more than one copy or to pick up your book to avoid shipping costs, call us at (225) 383-7837, ext. O.)

**My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail your order to St. Vincent de Paul, P.O. Box 127, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0127 or call us at (225) 383-7837.**

### A Special Message for You

We are sometimes asked, "Are you really making a difference in

the lives of the needy?" Those of us who work directly with the poor and homeless know the answer to that question. Yes, we are. The results of our efforts are not always apparent. Many of our guests are just passing through, and we see them only briefly as they travel toward some unknown destination. But quite often, we are able to see the impact we have made, and that reinforces our belief that what we are doing is worthwhile.

Our Bishop Ott Shelter is based on a philosophy of giving a hand-up, not a hand-out. Whether young or old, male or female, the guests at our shelters have one thing in common – their lives are at an all-time low, and they desperately need a chance to start over. This program, more than any other, demonstrates the importance of second chances.

We want to share a letter with you from one of our former shelter guests who came to us for assistance in getting his life back on track. A former tugboat captain, his is truly a success story. He is working again, and generously shares his good fortune with others who are down on their luck.

#### Friends in Christ:

*Last summer, when I was down and out, your dining room fed me every day. When I needed medicine, your pharmacy provided me what I needed. When my shoes wore out, Mr. Carl gave me another pair.*

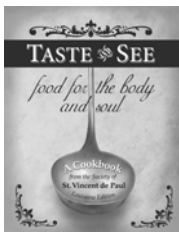
*In His grace and mercy, Our Father in Heaven has allowed my fortunes to change, so please accept my humble offering as a token of my gratitude to Almighty God; and my gratitude to you folks for helping me when I needed it most!*

*Keep up the good work!*

*Sincerely, Signed (kept anonymous for confidentiality)*

His expression of gratitude is directed to you, our supporters, and we are pleased to pass his thoughts on to you. You extended a helping hand to a stranger, and now he is doing the same.

Are we making a difference in the lives of the needy? The answer is a resounding *yes!*



## State of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

During this difficult economic time, and with the financial challenges we all face, I thought it would be a good time to

give a State of the Society report. Despite the financial turbulence of the past year, I am pleased to report that St. Vincent de Paul has continued to make a difference in the lives of those most in need – but it has certainly been a challenge. We are seeing many new faces. The beds at our shelters are full. The lines at our dining room are long. The need for our community pharmacy is greater than ever. Our thrift stores continue to give away a tremendous amount of much needed clothing and household items.

We have been able to provide these services because of the continued support of so many of you. This year, we have not received some of the larger gifts that we have in the past. Because of stock market losses and other economic factors, larger donations have decreased, but fortunately, we have received a greater number of smaller contributions. We have also been blessed with some generous gifts from people who remembered St. Vincent de Paul in their wills.

I wish I was in a position to report that the outlook for the remainder of 2009 and 2010 was better, but it's not. We know that we face a tremendous challenge in coming up with the resources to continue our services at the current level, not to mention the increased need we anticipate. Last year, we served record numbers during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, and we anticipate a repeat of that again this year.

There's one thing that keeps us going and helps us to face the challenges that lie ahead: *Faith*. Our faith is strong, and we are doing God's work. We are not a government run program, and we know that the government can't solve every problem. There will always be gaps in services to the truly needy – whether it's disaster relief, serving hot meals, providing emergency housing or filling prescriptions. As a non-profit, we will continue to effectively fill those gaps in our community.

Regarding the government's efforts toward Healthcare Reform, we recognize that this is something for the American people to decide; and we strongly urge everyone to communicate with your legislators and let them know where you stand on this issue. St. Vincent de Paul, both nationally and locally, believe it is critical that if any legislation should be passed, it must protect all stages of life from conception through death.

For 144 years, we have served our community's neediest citizens, with a profound respect for the value and quality of human life. Those years have included good times and bad, but we were always there to serve God's poor. With your help and God's grace, we will continue to be there wherever there is a need to be filled.

-- *Michael J. Acaldo, President & CEO, St. Vincent de Paul Charities*

Address Service Requested

*Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
P. O. Box 127  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0127*

