St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County’s
2007 Activity Report

From Our Board Chair...

“Is it not what we do that is important, but how much love we put into what we do; we should do small things with great love.”

— Mother Teresa 1910-1997

St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County declares that any charitable work that advances our goals toward assisting the poor and those in need of consolation is within our mission. As you can see in this issue of “The Voice,” there is no shortage of services that might benefit from your generosity, be that your time, your dollars, or your heartfelt advocacy.

For some, that advocacy may be your prayers or your good thoughts. For others, it may be volunteering to spend the night at Night Shelter. Others support SVdP financially. All is appreciated and used, from 500 of your hard-earned pennies to the $5,000 that might have been spent on a family vacation, to your talking to your neighbors about the good works we do, and the wonderful thrift stores that help make those works possible. SVdP of Lane County is grateful for anything you choose to do to help the poor and those in need of consolation. Review that long list of services we have provided and know that every single service unit was the result of some person’s choice to be charitable and to show great love to another human being. Small or big, what matters is the love we put into what we do. How great that you can maximize your caring by doing it with love.

Any of our services can use your help. You can call our office at 687-5820 and someone there would be glad to talk to you about matters is the love we put into what we do. How great that you can and to show great love to another human being. Small or big, what matters is the love we put into what we do. How great that you can maximize your caring by doing it with love.

Any of our services can use your help. You can call our office at 687-5820 and someone there would be glad to talk to you about how you can help in some small way (or big).

Thank you to every one of you who has helped, and thank you in advance to those who will help.

Anne O’Brien
Board Chair

St. Vinnie’s Voice
A journal of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.
Volume 9, Issue 3
Spring 2008

Music, food, golf and fun await St. Vinnie’s sponsors, volunteers

Plans are under way for three popular events that raise funds to support three critical St. Vincent de Paul programs. In chronological order they are: the Picnic Supper & Concert for First Place Family Center, the Golf for Kids tournament for children living in St. Vincent’s affordable housing, and the Dinner Theatre, also for First Place.

Here are details on the 2008 events:

Picnic Supper/Concert

The branch of a former Divina mom, the Picnic Supper & Concert combines the talents of two University of Oregon a capella groups with the culinary talents of St. Vincent de Paul directors and other supporters who prepare picnic-style suppers for specially invited guests. After dinner, the venue is open to ticket-holders for a performance by the UO’s award-winning groups.

This year’s event will be Friday, May 2 at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church at 13th and Pearl in Eugene. Anyone interested in receiving a Picnic Supper invitation is urged to contact St. Vincent de Paul.

The Concert portion of the evening will begin at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.

Golf for Kids Tournament

Eight years young, Golf for Kids has helped provide enrichment activities for at least 1,000 children whose families have lived in St. Vincent’s affordable housing. The Tournament will be Friday, September 12 at Springfield Country Club.

An important fund raiser, Golf for Kids is also great fun for St. Vincent’s business partners, vendors, supporting organizations and individuals. Golf prowess is not a prerequisite! Golfers may register in foursomes or individually. Registration includes a beautiful decorated table for eight. Individual tickets are available by calling Rebecca Larson at St. Vincent de Paul, 687-5820 x 121.

“These are wonderfully entertaining and rewarding events that affirm our community’s support for the good works of St. Vincent de Paul,” said Cindy Roone, chair of the Community Relations Advisory Board, which oversees fund-raising activities. “Of course, Golf for Kids is a local tradition, but we were thrilled with the enthusiastic response to our musical events that were held for the first time in 2007.

“We are so grateful that Divina, Oh the Rocks, and Ed Ragozzino and Friends have chosen to perform again on behalf of the children and families that we serve.”

Sponsor a hole for $750 or the whole tournament for a little more – like $9,250 more...

“Come out and enjoy this day for kids who need your help.”

Anyone interested in sponsoring, playing or volunteering is asked to contact Bill Barr at 746-4140.

Dinner Theatre

An astounding success in its first year, Dinner Theatre will bring Ed Ragozzino and Friends to the Eugene Hilton for an evening of fine dining and fabulous music, and lively fundraising with Eugene’s hometown auctioneer, Sid Voorhees. Sponsors and their guests are guaranteed they’ll go home humming a tune, and with a song in their hearts, having helped homeless families with children through First Place Family Center.

Dinner Theatre will be Thursday, Nov. 13. Doors will open at 6 p.m. A range of corporate and individual sponsorships is available, all of which include a beautifully decorated table for eight. Individual tickets are available as well.

For all three fund raisers, community involvement is welcome at many levels, from all-important sponsorships to marketing and set-up. More information is available by calling Rebecca Larson at St. Vincent de Paul, 687-5820 x 121.

Thanks to volunteers like Sam Walkers, Georgeana Gutierrez, and Helen Kwak of OHara Catholic School, 2,440 Holiday Food Boxes were distributed in less than 20 hours!

Where might YOU fit in? Count the places you enjoy this edition of St. Vinnie’s Voice...
It lyrical words about the good works of St. Vincent de Paul catch your attention occasionally, that’s just what Jerry Schmidt intended a year or so ago when he was preparing radio ads on Eugene-area stations. If the ads’ recurring theme of soliciting your input prompted you to visit a St. Vinnie’s outlet and, “Have some fun, save some money, and do something nice for your neighbors,” that’s all that the better.

And, when you can dash into a St. Vincent de Paul thrift store on your lunch break, score the perfect article of clothing in the right color and size, and get back to work on time, the mission will have come full circle.

Retired after an illustrious career in marketing, Jerry Schmidt is not the only person with a deep expertise as a volunteer consultant for St. Vincent de Paul. Creating an ad campaign is hard work, and Jerry cut no corners in applying the same philosophy that 20 years ago redirected Serenity Lane's mission away from problem addiction to serving hope to women.

It prompted a New Year’s re-think of what it does for the community, or its own set of priorities. “Geez, I want some of that,” Jerry said. “And I just love this. I’ve caught the bug from the late-Mike Favret of the Stores Advisory Board, who is currently directing UO advertising interns, sent to this veteran marketer inspires ad campaign place to the University of Minnesota where he met Mrs. Winer, a journalism professor and advisor, and Jerry a life-long admirer of Regis and Kathie Lee.

“(Bill Winter) was so enthusiastic about this thing called advertising, it made you say, ‘Geez, I want some of that.’” Jerry remembered.

Jerry’s career included newspaper, retail promotion, teaching, and he always had a special affection for antique fishing gear than any St. Vincent’s Stores Advisory Board member of St. Vinnie’s Stores. I’m interested in learning what’s most important to the people of St. Vincent de Paul and that includes your concerns and questions. I’m interested in learning what’s most important to you. The next few minutes to email your thoughs, suggestions, comments, questions?

Here are some starter topics:

1. The Register-Guard featured an article about sustainability and various local recyclers. My question addressed the thousands of vinyl records sold to so many of us in the youth.

2. Now, St. Vincent de Paul receives approximately 200 pounds of vinyl each week. What should we do with it? Let me know!

3. Children in St. Vincent’s affordable housing program would benefit from having “adopted” grandparents. How do you feel about partnering with a family for fun activities? Could you host a drop-in to grandparents’ room so our tenants and their little ones can have some time apart? Are you most comfortable with infants? Toddlers? Older kids? Let me know!

4. Increasingly, families are communicating online. Would you prefer to receive our newsletter electronically? Would you prefer to read about St. Vincent de Paul in the newspaper format?

5. I want to communicate in the format most convenient for you. Any cost savings realized in the process will be used to help people in crisis. For example, nurturing “adopted” grandparents are just two areas in which you are invited to use your personal strengths and connections to help make a difference. St. Vincent de Paul’s list of opportunities goes on and on. Perhaps you have suggestions for outreach, questions about St. Vincent de Paul’s role in the global marketplace, or ideas of how we can better serve our community. I’d like to hear what’s on your mind. Please email me at tmcdonald@svdp.us or contact me in writing in care of PO Box 24608, Eugene, OR 97402.

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First Place (day shelter):

- Number of Families Served: 443
- Children: 820
- Adults: 671
- Total individuals: 1,491
- Number of meals eaten: 18,991
- Number of Bus Passes Given: 213
- Number of Bus Tokens Given: 3,698

Interfaith Night Shelter:

- Families served: 55
- Children: 90
- Adults: 85
- Total individuals: 175
- Person Nights of shelter provided: 6,198
- Total Person Nights of shelter: 11,982

First Place Kids Center: A unique therapeutic preschool

**BY JACK SPAVINS  Kids Center Director**

In September of 2007, the Child Development Center at First Place Family Center was reopened as First Place Kids Center. Its mission, through partnerships with Head Start, EC CARES, and the Place Family Center was reopened as First Place Kids Center. Its mission, through partnerships with Head Start, EC CARES, and the Place Family Center, was to help homeless and at-risk families with children gain income and adequate housing in order to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency.

First Place Kids Center celebrated, representing the private donors, faith communities, and business partners whose generosity sustains and shelters families with children that find themselves homeless or on the brink of homelessness. Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy welcomed the guests, saying the community can take pride in its willingness to open its heart and budget to lend support to those less fortunate. “It’s a part of being human,” she said.

The mayor had glowing words for First Place parents whose perseverance, courage, and heart are “a testament to determination and hope.”

“Together, we’ve given each other and our community a reality that their plight is part of a human-resources assistant. As a single dad, evicted due to his young son’s noisy behavior, Louis Pocza couldn’t muster enough money to get back into housing, but publicity about homelessness cost him his job.

The speakers’ reasons for attending were as varied as the accounts of homelessness and the people at First Place worked from, thanks to First Place. Louis Pocza couldn’t muster enough to lend support to those less fortunate. “It’s a part of being human,” she said.

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“Together, we’ve given each other and our community a reality that their plight is part of a human-resources assistant. As a single dad, evicted due to his young son’s noisy behavior, Louis Pocza couldn’t muster enough money to get back into housing, but publicity about homelessness cost him his job. Some nights, he and his 10-year-old son slept in their Ford Aerostar – legally, thanks to St. Vincent’s Overnight Parking Program.

No matter where they slept, Louis and his son always had a hot shower and a warm base to work from, thanks to First Place. They were accepted into Night Shelter and enjoyed nutritious meals, comfortable, safe nights, and a sense that the host faith communities truly were concerned about their well being.
Ending homelessness:
Among caring people, one good turn inspires another

A holiday news item about Ginny Osteen, a local benefactor who raises funds to help homeless families, inspired Ann Giang who realized that two of her coworkers were volunteering with St. Vincent de Paul as the holiday season approached. Ginny had previously raised money for the organization, so she decided to contribute to the cause.

With the opening of the Royal Building in Springfield topping the accomplishments for 2007, St. Vincent de Paul’s Housing staff is making headway on a second development in Springfield – the Astor Apartments for low-income seniors – and second and third Vet LIFT complexes in Eugene for chronically homeless military veterans.

The Connections program served 52 families in 2007, with 89 entering during the program and 33 continuing their participation from previous years. Eight families graduated and moved on to permanent housing.

Connections is a two-year transitional housing program offering homeless families an opportunity to move into homes and help pay their rent.

The program is designed to help families stabilize. It provides temporary housing, so the families can work towards long-term stability and self-sufficiency.

As many families must be homeless, or about to become homeless through an eviction or something similar. They must have at least one minor-aged child living in the household and must have enough income to pay their own rent and utilities.

At the heart of the programs success is each participant’s willingness to do the ongoing work of identifying and addressing barriers to self-sufficiency.

One veteran volunteers for the food-box program at Catholic Community Services. He finds satisfaction and a sense of pride in giving back to a community that helped him through tough times.

Another veteran has been deeply touched by the program. His self-esteem has improved to the point where he believes he can now make a positive difference in his world.

In 2007, 15 military veterans received case management and affordable housing through Vet LIFT I.

Eight Connections families get housing in 2007

For some veterans in St. Vincent’s Vet LIFT program, 2007 brought a return to social connection, whether as volunteers or recipients of community generosity.

For those wishing to assist Vet LIFT participants, donations for dental work and YMCA memberships are especially needed. More information is available by calling Cindy Lemay at 687-6582.

Donate online!
Visit our website at www.svdp.us
Holiday Food Box distribution attracts helpers who share an appetite for community service

Bitterly cold rain and wind didn’t cool the hearts of community volunteers who turned out in record numbers to help assemble and distribute 2,400 Holiday Food Boxes. Mainstay of St. Vincent’s annual Turkey Drive, businesswoman Betty Snowden braved the elements for three days to greet folks who visited the drive-through distribution center outside St. Vincent’s Theron Atkinson Food Room. As honorary chair of Turkey Drive, Ms. Snowden spends much of her fall seasons drumming up food donations to fill the increasing number of requests. Among her allies have been the Lane County commissioners, who were represented at this year’s giveaway by Commissioners Bobby Green and Bill Dwyer. In addition, dozens of students from HomeSource and O’Hara Catholic School were veterans of community service.

“Greeting Holiday Food Box recipients, from left, Lane County Commissioners Bobby Green and Bill Dwyer, and Turkey Drive spokesperson Betty Snowden.

Organized and ready for action, HomeSource’s team of teen volunteers.

Eighth-graders from O’Hara Catholic School bundled up to help.
St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County’s 2007 Activity Report

Manufacturing & Recycling

A matter of thinking outside the box

It is both fascinating and an honor to serve as chair of St. Vincent de Paul’s Manufacturing and Recycling Committee. For more than a half century, St. Vincent’s has relied upon the waste stream to generate materials and funds to assist the poor. More recently, we have all come to recognize recycling as fundamental to preserving our environment.

Melding the two requires “thinking outside the box,” as demonstrated and tried again by enterprises such as the mattress factory, the appliance shop, and the glass foundry, all of which divert major tax dollars from our landfills and either refurbish or use their components new lives as commodities.

Our meetings provide a quiet forum for hardworking staff members to pause and share their thoughts, and for seasoned volunteers to offer ideas and insights that may not have been considered.

Here’s what was saved...

Thanks to St. Vincent de Paul’s public and private partnerships in Oregon & California, here’s what didn’t go into the waste stream in 2007:

**Appliance department:**
- refrigerant R-12 3,000 lbs.
- refrigerant R-22 4,000 lbs.
- 2,400 gallons of compressor oil
- 1,153 refrigerators
- 1,000 ranges
- 800 washer machines
- 800 dryers
- 2,600 tons of steel
- 2 tons of aluminum
- 1.4 tons of copper
- 2 tons of EC wire

**DePaul Systems:**
- 25,396 recycled mattresses
- 1,000 mattresses for rebuilding
- 30.8 tons of baled cotton
- 49.9 tons of baled toppers
- 36.4 tons of baled foam
- 200 containers of springs
- 150 containers of wood

**Aurora Glass**
- 20 tons of window glass
- 119,142 mattresses

Energy-efficient furnace fuels

Aurora’s awards business

Trays of glass medallions glistening green will honor finishers in a Nature’s Path marathon. Freestanding awards, arranged now like translucent chess teams, will honor accomplishment in the home-improvement and auto industries. At St. Vincent’s, Aurora Glass foundry, the beauty of recognition and appreciation is clear,

We are always on the lookout for new ways to mine the waste stream, provide jobs, improve efficiency, and preserve the environment, always with the ultimate goal of providing assistance to the poor.

Dennis Maricle
Chair, Manufacturing and Recycling Committee

**Maintenance project that provides work for Jerry Vernacchio could mean job training for others.**

Jerry, 50, has a stepson age 12, and 7-year-old twin boys. The family now lives within walking distance of Jerry’s workplace, which keeps the fuel bill at a minimum.

Jerry may be the first beneficiary of a larger program. From the start, Nancy Brendle has envisioned rack maintenance as a source of training and employment not only for TANF recipients but for people in St. Vincent’s vocational-rehabilitation programs as well. She is awaiting word on a contract proposed to St. Vincent’s.

Dave Miles is a believer.

“Our whole transportation system is based on those racks,” he said. “It was very important that when we mentioned that rack maintenance (the maintenance program) get good corporate work because it’s important that we be able to keep the lights on for the kids.”

Maintenance project provides work for Jerry Vernacchio who could mean job training for others.

**Partnership keeps bakery racks ‘straight, true and rolling’**

A family breadwinner is employed, and hundreds of employees are working more safely thanks to an innovative test program that matches a need of a leading Northwest bakery with the job-development resources of St. Vincent de Paul’s Lane Workforce Partnership.

The heart of the program is a rack maintenance project involving approximately 4,500 in all — used to move freshly baked bread, buns, and cookies from six regional bakeries to transport depots throughout Oregon and Washington.

In the process, wheels become dislodged, frames get bent, and welds break, allowing the racks to lose their integrity. The potential for injury increases as workers maneuver damaged units on ramps, between obstacles, and through doorways.

“Any time you have racks — whether it’s in airports, hospitals, or bakeries -- the number one thing to prevent injury is to maintain them,” said Dave Miles, recruiting and safety supervisor for the Oregon Division of the Franco-Bakery Eugene (long known as Williams Bakery).

“It behoves us to have our racks straight, true and rolling.”

Early in 2007, Franz’s rack-maintenance program in Portland had gone off track. Newly promoted to his current position, Dave Miles added the racks to his list of priorities, keeping in mind the partnership and job-training opportunities afforded by non-profits.

When Franz’s transport team met to discuss its maintenance options, Dave suggested contacting St. Vincent de Paul in Eugene.

“I know how much they do in the community,” he said.

He contacted Nancy Brendle, St. Vincent’s director of Self-Sufficiency Services, to discuss having a repair service provider at the Franz plant. With space for “dirty work” at a premium there, Nancy offered a tour of St. Vincent’s Mattress Factory/Workshop, which accommodates many a sideline endeavor.

“We did a site visit, and it was a perfect fit,” Dave said.

Almost perfect. To fully accommodate the trial endeavor, St. Vincent’s retrofitted the loading dock so that equipment could be loaded and unloaded into and from Franz’s transport trailers.

As the Franz project evolved, Jerry Vernacchio was recycling computers at St. Vincent’s West Broadway location to fulfill its TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) program. With many years’ experience in auto-body and fiberglass work, Jerry came to St. Vincent’s highly recommended by the Lane Workforce Partnership for his diligence, punctuality, and determination to find permanent employment.

Assigned to the Franz project, Jerry quickly demonstrated his bent for assessment, repair, and occasional fabrication. With grease gun, hammer and torch as his primary tools, he strengthens and repairs metal frames, secures and lubricates wheels, and sometimes combines two dilapidated racks into one serviceable unit. He can complete at least 60 per week, subject to the delivery schedule of their owner. When business is slow, he turns his attention to clothes racks, grocery carts, and other equipment necessary to St. Vincent’s rent-store and recycling operations, or he performs shop maintenance.

“I enjoy having a job,” he said. “The supervisors at Franz seem happy with what I’m doing, and the people at the Mattress Factory are good, get-along types. “The most important thing is for me to be able to keep the lights on, the staff happy and for the kids.”

Maintenance project provides work for Jerry Vernacchio who could mean job training for others.

**St. Vinnie’s Board member, Eugene couple honored by Pope for service**

Already legendary for bringing art therapy to inmates, incarcerated youth, and mental patients, Sister Margaret Graziano is one of three Lane County residents honored by Pope Benedict XVI for “doing their part to build the kingdom of God here and beyond.”

With those words, Archbishop John Vlazny conferred the papal honours on Sister Margaret, John and Crissy Mur- phy of Eugene, and 28 others members of the religious and lay communities. The ceremony was held in January at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland.

Sister Margaret has served on St. Vincent’s 15-member Board of Directors since 2005. A native Oregonian and affiliated with the Sisters of the Holy Names, she has been a nun for 70 years and has provid-
Longtime friends, Helen Lindell and KZEL’s Cyd, C-Y-D, coordinates legal campaign specificaly for families that prefer to sleep in their vehicles.

As integral to the holiday broadcast as its web of electronics and the KZEL tent are Trucker Ron and Big Al, loveable bears of men who don’t mind posting themselves at curbsides to encourage holiday generosity toward homeless parents and children.

Men who can be moved to tears by a child’s thanks, scrawled in crayon, as Ron does when he recalls a note from a little girl, thanking him for pizza that was her only hot meal till the following Monday, at school.

“Other kids took the pizza for granted,” he said. “But for her, to have something hot was very important.”

“It’s hard to imagine having no food, and no place to live,” added Big Al. “We take all that for granted.”

The KZEL broadcast brings an eclectic brand of donor to First Place, folks who are tuned in, compelled to act, and/or eager to touch bases with KZEL’s legendary hosts, Mark Raney and Cyd, C-Y-D, who’ve been with the broadcast since its Autzen Stadium days.

Cyd once talked in a contractor, bushy-haired, reluctant and gruff, stuffing a pickup loaded with laundry detergent. He’d heard on the radio that it was needed, he said. He’d heard it was needed for him.

“Gave him a candy cane,” Cyd remembered.

During the 2006 broadcast, a First Place kid mentioned on-air that he wanted a guitar for Christmas. Inevitably, a listener dropped off a guitar in a box.

Cyd won’t forget the stunned look on that young man’s face when it sunk in that the guitar was for him.

“It’s fun to give to people for no reason,” he said.

As dusk settled, and traffic on Amazon Parkway wound ribbons of red and white, Helen Lindell unloaded donations from her mini-van. She had already filled Christmas wishes from a community tree and Toys for Tots.

She’s a longtime follower of Mark and Cyd, and wanted to do her part.

“I’ve known these guys for a while,” she said. “I brought this shirt because I know it’s going to people, not to some corporate pocket,” she said.

Trucker Ron may have expressed holiday sentiment best when he commented, “This (radiothon) is a reality check for me. To come here, see families living in their cars or from shelter to shelter…

“That tells me you’d better be thankful for what you’ve got.”

Thanks to all supporters of First Place Family Center, including:

KZEL, Mark and C-Y-D, and these 12-Hour Marathon participants:

- Pump Cafe • Sweet Life • Pizza Pete’s • Hawthorne Deli & Cafe
- Applebees • Papa John’s Pizza • McGrath’s Fish House • Mazzii’s.
- The Wing Coyote • Elive Garden • Sy’s Pizza • Ice Cream on Langenburg Water • Beehive Rental • Raat Enterprises
- Coastal Farm • Bikers for Christ • Knife River Corp.

Foundations:
- Chambers Family Foundation • McKay Family Foundation • San Francisco Foundation • Wakerly Family Foundation

Community partners:
- EC Cares • Head Start • United Way • Womenspace

Businesses:
- Levi Strauss • Symantec

A pillar of the KZEL broadcast, Trucker Ron with donors Sandy Cameron and her sons, Caleb, left, and Chris.
SVDP-administered program helps low-income savers achieve their goals

Aleta Plummer has much to smile about as she pursues her educational goals. But one year out, Aleta learned of VIDA. Her long-held dream of going to school suddenly became an attainable goal. She agreed to an IDA and received a generous VIDA match for school. She is now taking courses online with the goal of earning a bachelor's degree in management.

In the meantime, her annual income has mushroomed from $5,000 to $50,000. Aleta hasn’t forgotten the lessons of her prison class. “I pay attention to what I think,” she said. “I write down my sons of her prison class.”

Bruce Swenson heard about the VIDA opportunity, his first thought was that it was too good to be true. He pursued it anyway because, as an older person in the work force, he knew he had to expand his skill base for employability.

Bruce’s year of consistent savings plus the match for his first seven quarters of computer coursework. Even though he was working full time while taking two classes each term, his IDA made the difference.

“I doubt that I could have paid for school without this program,” he said. “It required making a commitment and sticking to it.”

“I did it again in a heartbeat.”

St. Vincent de Paul has received a $10,500 grant from Neighborhood Partnership Fund to increase the number of IDA participants in Lane County. Special efforts will be made to reach rural households, to serve a diverse clientele, and to expand the program through networking and financial support. Anyone interested in applying for VIDA, or in helping address the need for financial and networking support, may contact Michael Coleen Stewart at 687-5820 x142.

Jobs at St. Vincent de Paul

Department

No. of jobs

Mattress Recycling

5

Class Factory

Housing Development

2

Housing Mgmt.

12

Woodshop/Mattress Factory

5

Casa for a Cause

4

Housing Services

10

Admin/Accounting

12

Stores/Recycling

128

Emergency Services

8

When you donate to St. Vincent de Paul, you help the local economy!

We take them.

We use the proceeds to provide emergency services to low-income individuals & families.

Cars • RV’s

Trucks

We provide paper work & provide free towing.

St. Vincent de Paul

Cars for a Cause

607-4601 • 1175 Hwy 99

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