

St. Vincent de Paul Society
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January, 2011

2010 St. Vincent de Paul Report to the Bloomington Community

Due to the generosity of our community we continue to be able to help those in need throughout Monroe County. The eighty very active lay volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul Society come from the three parishes of St. Charles Borromeo, St. John the Apostle, and St. Paul Catholic Center as well as from other area churches, especially St. Thomas Lutheran Church. We are the hands that carry out your generous intentions.

What is our role? We visit people who ask for help with rent, utilities, and the like; we try to assess their situation and then offer whatever appropriate help we can—both material and spiritual. We collect donated furniture and distribute it to people who need it; and we do this without regard to religion, race, creed, color, or sexual orientation.

How do people contact us? People send us an email or call us (see information listed above) and leave messages. Our phone ministers retrieve those messages and forward the information to the appropriate persons: to our Furniture Ministers to pick up donated furniture or to our Home Visitors for those seeking financial and/or furniture help. We also refer clients to other appropriate agencies for assistance.

What is a home visit? A home visit is one of the unique features of St. Vincent de Paul. Pairs of Vincentians meet the clients in their home or in a public place such as restaurant or coffee shop if they are homeless. Reaching out to clients in their own environment we feel allows us to better assess each person's need and also makes for a more comfortable person to person experience for those being helped.

How many people do we help and how much assistance is provided? Last year we were able to grant 2430 requests for financial aid and 560 requests for furniture. Note chart below:

Data from 10/01/2009 to 09/30/2010

<u>Financial</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>
Housing (rent, deposits, ...)	450	25,900	58
Utilities	540	26,900	50
Auto/Transportation (fuel, repairs, travel, bus tickets ...)	1120	11,700	10
Other (medical, groceries, clothing, ...)	320	\$10,200	32
<u>Total</u>	2,430	\$74,700	\$31
<u>Furniture</u>	<u>Households</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Est Val</u>
Includes furniture and appliances	560	4,300	\$200,000+

What are our resources? Our gross income last year was \$86,900, with over 67 percent coming from the three local Catholic parishes. Additional sources of income came from the Indianapolis Council (\$12,000), other friends of St. Vincent de Paul (\$13,200), and local Bloomington groups (\$3,100), whose monies not only directly helped those in need, but helped maintain the Furniture Operations costs. Our furniture distribution relies on donations from furniture companies, motels, Indiana University, individuals, etc. Last year our volunteers made approximately 1,000 pickups and collected and distributed over 4,300 items.

Did we use your donations wisely? Absolutely! We are an all-volunteer organization; we pay no salaries and take no reimbursements for many of the personal expenses we incur doing community work, such as driving expenses. We strive to see that the aid requested is truly needed and that the assistance offered will indeed be beneficial. Overall, we provided approximately \$275,000 of furniture and financial aid to clients, with an overhead expense of about \$12,600 (of which \$10,200 was for Furniture Warehouse Operations), less than 5% of the combined furniture and financial aid provided.