

Catholic School Donations For St. Vincent de Paul *of* Seattle|King County

**Working Collaboratively to Help the Poor
Through Increased Thrift Store Donations**



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Introduction

We are grateful for the leadership and support we have received from your Pastor and we thank the Catholic Schools for past support.

We are interested in making donating clothing and household goods to St. Vincent de Paul more convenient for your school parents and their children.

We have a program idea that won't cost your school or the families any funds. Yet they can become major donors of ours by donating gently used clothing and household goods.

Currently, we do not have a program for encouraging school families to donate goods and clothing to St. Vincent de Paul.

Our hope is to have your school consider developing an annual Clean Your Closets and Help the Poor plan with us.

The plan would be developed to fit into the school's normal operations and normal calendar.

There would be no substantial administrative requirements. We will do most of the work for the school.

There are three program options we want to offer. They can be customized to each school as needed.

The bottom line for us is that we really want to develop cooperative working relationships with all the Catholic schools. The ideas we are offering are beginning points for our collaboration. We will be calling to organize meetings so we can discuss all of this in more depth.

We are also interested in sponsoring a comprehensive "Clean Your Closets Week," which would be complementary to this initiative but would have added service hour and curriculum components this program does not. Clean Your Closets Week is explained in a separate document

1. Pick Up Kids|Drop-Off Donations

We would enjoy doing this event once or twice at schools. We have a special program idea for schools that have established programs that allow parents to drive children to and from school.

This program enables parents to pick-up kids in the afternoon and drop off donations of goods and clothing at the same time.

Getting Started

1. This can be done while they remain in their vehicle.
2. We promote the events on the school's website, the St. Vincent de Paul website, in the "weekly envelope" sent home to parents for several weeks in advance of the event.
3. Further, older students or a parent volunteer can help distribute emails to families and students who may be interested in participating.
4. We will have a staff member or a volunteer accepting donations of goods and clothing donations from parent vehicles and distributing a thank you notes.
5. We will have our own signage, a canopy with our name on it and develop a customized logistics plan with the school.
6. We work with the school in setting dates.
7. We will take all the donations that parents bring to the school, everything.
8. We will keep a record of total donations given so we can provide the school with an estimate of the total dollar value, based on average of \$150 to \$300 for a 30 gallon bag of donations.
9. We will prepare email blasts, posters and other materials as needed to support the effort.

2. Clean Closet Class Competitions

St. Vincent de Paul offers a unique goods and clothing “class competition idea” called “Clean Your Closets & Help the Poor.” It enables teams of students to fill a number of our donation bags with clothing for a set number of days.

A St. Vincent de Paul Goods & Clothing Competition is the perfect team builder for student groups since students have to work together, organize the effort, maintain momentum, report results and learn about the poor, volunteering and charitable giving at the same time.

We recommend that schools consider this approach as short duration events that can be connected to an existing curriculum approach or sequence. We will help you develop some promotion and competition schemes and ways to get people involved. You distribute bags to teams, along with some ideas, and let the competition begin!

Getting Started

1. Set Dates for Event---we recommend between five and ten days in duration.
2. Divide Class groups into teams -- three person teams generate interest internally.
3. Meet with Team Leaders---get organized & to discuss creative ideas.
3. We provide donation bags for the students and donation collection barrels for the school.
4. We will provide donation logs for tabulating how many items are donated by each individual and each team.
6. We will work with the school on developing acceptable ways for promoting and recognizing students who participate.
7. When your event has concluded and all the results are tallied, we will work with you on scheduling to have the donations picked up.

3. St. Vincent's Anytime Clothing Donations

We have had a number of organizations ask about “anytime clothing donations” and so we have developed a simple and convenient way to do these if you are interested.

We provide you with promotion materials and a donation bin which you place in a location at your school where clothing donations can be stored. Parents and students will be encouraged to bring items to school when they wish to and place them in the donation bins.

It is also possible to ask parents to bring certain items for the “Anytime Donations” campaign approach. For example, in much the same way Parish food banks ask for certain food items, the same thing can be done with clothing, shoes, or personal hygiene items.

Then just call us and we will schedule a “St. Vincent's Anytime Donation Pick-Up.”

Your only obligation here is to find a location for the donation bin, use some of our promotion literature to send to school families and call us to schedule a pick up.

Getting Started

1. Make the decision to implement an “Anytime Donation.”
2. Ask St. Vincent de Paul to deliver donation barrels for the school.
3. Request promotion announcements and publicity notes both in hard copy and electronic formats to promote this donation idea.
4. Promote Anytime Donation campaign information to school community.
5. Set up a “Regularly Scheduled Pick-Up” with St. Vincent de Paul.
6. Meet with St. Vincent de Paul to discuss feedback about program.



About St. Vincent de Paul

Our Mission

Inspired by Gospel values, St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic volunteer organization, leads individuals to join together to offer person-to-person service to the poor and the suffering. And in doing this work, we all enrich our lives spiritually.

Our Core Strength

Our 1,100 neighborhood-based home visit volunteers are the heart, soul, and face of our organization. We have a long history of listening face to face to the poor, going into their homes, and doing the best we can to improve their lives. We help families stay in their homes and not be forced onto the streets. We also help people learn to become self-sufficient.

Our Service Impact

Our home visit teams prevent homelessness and utility shutoffs, ease hunger, and link people to our longer-term case management services. In 2011, our 52 neighborhood chapters made over 29,000 person-to-person visits to help the poor. We served 281,000 people in 2011. At our Fourth Avenue South Food Bank, we served 130,000 people in 2011 and distributed over 1,475,000 pounds of food. Our thrift store sales provided us with additional funding for programs to help the poor. We are a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization.

Results & Business-Like Stewardship

Our volunteers donate 120,000 hours annually helping the poor. Our Help Line handles over 24,000 referral calls from Community 211 Line, more than any of the other 1,700 other social service agencies in & King County. About 95 cents of every dollar donated to us goes to programs. The more items you donate to us, the more we are able to help the poor. We help everyone without regard to religion, race, color, national origin, or sex.