

Voice for the Volunteer



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Greetings to all volunteers!

Summer is here! And so is our seasonal newsletter. It's time to let everyone know what the Vincent Place family has been up to these last couple of months and what we're planning on for the next season.

So far this season, we've been keeping busy. In April, we had our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and in July we participated in the Rotaryfest celebrations. We said goodbye to some of our friends and said hello to some new ones.

In the coming months, Vincent Place will be throwing some major fundraising campaigns. Check out our future campaigns and make a note of them on your calendar.

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2008 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER



If you ask any volunteer here, why they volunteer here, I think you would find they all have the same answer: they help because they can and because there is a need.

On April 18th, we had our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Vincent Place and we were happy to see so many of your smiling faces!

For those volunteers who sadly couldn't be with us this year, we hope you will be able to make it next year.

Here's a recap of what you missed:

This year we had a springtime theme. The tables were decked out with colourful, green table cloths. Each table had vases that were decorated by resident's of the shelter and filled with flowers donated by local florists.

The walls were decorated with flowers and other springtime images. Across the back wall in fluorescent letters read: "Volunteers help us grow."



2008 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER



Do to the hard efforts of Harold and Leila (the Transferrable Skills Coordinator) the event was a complete success!

Leila's Room and Boarder's were more than happy to help. They did such a great job at preparing the meal that they even received a standing ovation.

Some of our more lucky volunteers received prizes that were donated by local businesses who wanted to show their appreciation to the dedicated volunteers of the community.

After the event, every volunteer went home with a packet of flower seeds. Attached to the packet was a little note that read: "Seeds of Kindness"

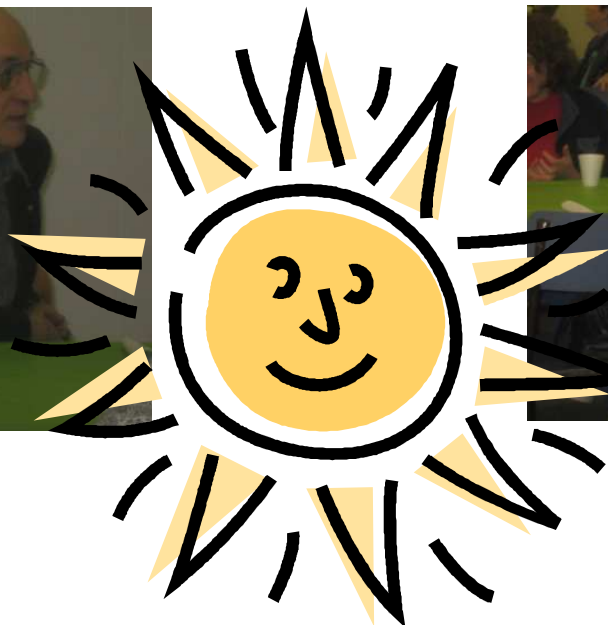
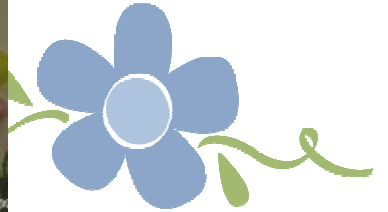
For those of you who came to the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, and those of you who could not make it, we just wanted to say,

Thank you

2008 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER



2008 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER





Guess Who's Online

Well, after several attempts, and lots of hard effort, Vincent Place finally has A WEBSITE! Deacon Larry Comte has been working hard at getting our organization a forum and now, thanks to him and a supportive friend, we have it up and running.

For the first website Vincent Place has had, this one looks really good, and its already filling up with lots of content and information for the VP family and supporters to see.

There is even a place to make online donations. If you can't find the time to make it in then you can go to the website and click the donate now button. You can also dedicate the donation in memory, on behalf of, or in honour of, and immediately print out a receipt. The donation is totally secure and there is no need for a stamp.

Check out our website regularly and see what's new at Vincent Place!

www.vincentplacesm.ca





The Transferable Skills Men's Group at Vincent Place will be hosting weekly car washes at our Shelter location at 222 Albert St. E. Car Wash by donation the Men's Group are raising funds for their group!

If you are in need of a clean vehicle stop on by any Sunday (until September) between 10:00am - 2:00pm at Vincent Place and **support a great bunch of guys!**

TO ALL VINCENT PLACE VOLUNTEERS

(Food Bank, Soup Kitchen, Thrift Store
& Shelter)

Mark your calendars for your

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At Vincent Place

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH 7:00PM

We need your vote:

- 1.) To approve our finance report
- 2.) To approve changes to our bylaws
- 3.) To approve our new relationship with the
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- 4.) To elect new Board Members, etc.

MEET THE STAFF

Meet Sandra Morris!

For the next two months, Sandra will be working closely with our residents through the First Steps Program. She is very excited to be here during the summer break from her university in London.

Sandra also works at the Christian Calvary Centre.

She is friendly and outgoing, so feel free to say hello if you see her.



I'm an Ojibwa from the Serpent River First Nation. I graduated from Elliot Lake Secondary High. After attending High School, I was interested in counseling. Also graduated from these programs. In May 2006 I was hired to work as an Attendant at Vincent Place Men's Shelter. Some of the jobs that I do are, intake of the residents, house cleaning duties, keeping files updated, and referring clients to the Case Manager, Ontario Works, and the Ontario Disability Support Program. For eight months I was working as a Healing and Wellness Coordinator. There was some counseling involved, including referrals to treatment centers, Detox Center, and referrals to places for employment. -- Wayne Pelletier /



On July 19th, Vincent Place participated in the annual, Rotaryfest parade like we do every year. This year, the theme for the parade was: "Your Community."

Vincent Place decided to design a float that promoted various agencies of Sault Ste. Marie. Our banner read: "Our Community Working Together."

With the help of some of the staff—and a lot of the Men's Shelter residents—we were able to make the float look great!

We also wouldn't have been able to participate in the parade if it hadn't been for the generosity of various businesses in the Sault who donated items for us to use. A big thank you needs to be given to Al Pyette of Show Stoppers. He lent us many of the props we used on the float. Dan Valequette of Construction Equipment donated his truck and his time. We also would have to thank: Colour Your World, H&S Outdoor Equipment, Soo Mill and the Culligan Man.

*Check out the pictures on the following page!



You may also have notice some friendly faces at the festivals in Clergue Park. From July 17-19, Harold Thompson and Jay Patterson ran the Crown and Anchor and they managed to raise Vincent Place over \$1200.00.

WAY TO GO GUYS!!!!



Thank you for your

Dedication & Devotion

Vincent Place staff, board of directors, volunteers and supporters would like to offer their gratitude to the following Board members who will be retiring at the end of September.

For their dedication and continuous devotion to the mission and vision of Vincent Place:

Carmen Borghese
Deacon Larry Comte
Folgo Della Vedova
George McLeod
Mike Barker
Regis O'Connor

WE THANK YOU!



COMING SOON

THE ANNUAL GERRY MCNALLY GOLF

The 5th annual Gerry McNally Memorial Golf Tournament fundraiser will be held Saturday, September 13, 2008 at Tanglewood Marsh in Soo Michigan. To date we have all 18 holes sponsored and Ken McBride tells me that prizes are continuing to be donated by many generous businesses in our already super-generous city of Sault Ste. Marie.

We expect even more teams will register this year, If you are interested, please contact Vincent Place. The fee is \$60 per player or \$240 per team. It will be a shot-gun start at 9:00am—Sincerely, Larry McNally

THE FALL HARVEST FOOD DRIVE

From September 25th to October 5th, Vincent Place—in partnership with the Salvation Army and the Community Soup Kitchen—will be holding its 2nd Annual Fall Harvest Food Drive.

Last year, the campaign managed to raise (after expenses) \$3386.71—that's \$1262.20 per organization. Not too shabby. This year, the committee is hoping to double that amount.

So look for the sign at the cashier and lets make this campaign a successful one.

"I (Name) support our
community food banks"



COMING SOON

Vincent Place is holding its 1st Annual Punchline Comedy Event at the Great Northern Resort and Conference Center (formerly known as the Best Western) on Friday, September 12th at 9:00pm.

The event features Bob Zany from Los Angeles, California and Tim Cavanaugh from Chicago, Illinois. Both comedians are regulars on "The Bob and Tom Show" - a National syndicated radio show played in the morning on 97.9, Classic Rock The Bear.

They've also appeared on "The Tonight Show" and "Comedy Central Presents..." as well as countless other comedy shows and venues.

Tickets are just \$25 a piece. They are available at The Great Northern Resort, Muntz Stereo, Peter's Place, Madonna Optical, The Knights Inn, and, of course, Vincent Place.

All proceeds go to Vincent Place!

Vincent Place Presents
September 12th 9:00pm
Great Northern Resort & Conference Center

PUNCHLINE

Comedy Night
Featuring
FROM THE BOB AND TOM SHOW


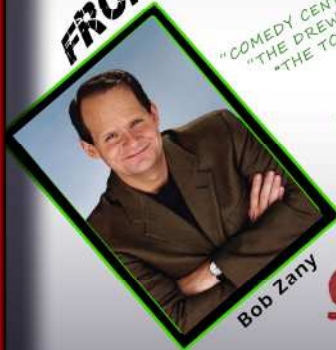

"COMEDY CENTRAL PRESENTS"
"THE DREW CAREY SHOW"
"THE TONIGHT SHOW"
AND
ON AND ON....

Bob Zany

Tim Cavanaugh

Classic Rock
The BEAR

TICKETS \$25 AVAILABLE AT
Great Northern Resort and Conference Center
Muntz Stereo • Peter's Place • Madonna Optical
Vincent Place • The Knights Inn



SOME WARM & FUZZIES

I come to the office everyday, sit down at my desk and turn on my computer. Half-asleep I attempt to wake my brain up enough to focus on the work at hand—I don't drink caffeinated coffee.

Just when I start to give in and think, maybe I can curl up in the corner of my office and take a nap without anyone knowing, you come in.

You come bouncing past my office and with a smile you cheerfully greet me and ask me how my day is going.

In case your wondering who you are, it's all of you.

Almost every volunteer that passes my office is kind enough to say hello, and the energy that you give off is infectious. It doesn't take long before I'm wide awake and ready to take on the day.

When I think about how many volunteers there are who willingly give up their time to help those less fortunate—without asking for any recognition or payment—I find it nothing less than inspiring.

I hope you realize that the work you do does make a difference. Here's a little reminder of how important you are:

Payback

It was a cold Saturday afternoon in mid-December. Our golf gang is taking its turn serving soup and sandwiches at the Vincent Place Soup Kitchen in Sault Ste Marie.

We're one of 5 teams of volunteers who take turns making Saturday lunches for anyone who wants to come in off the street for a bowl of hot soup and a sandwich or two.

We were just cleaning up after feeding about 60 clients, most of them regulars. 90 sandwiches and about 4 gallons of hearty bean soup. Two of the team have just left. People are trickling into the hall for the Food Bank that will open in a few minutes.

George McLeod and I are just tidying up. A trio of strangers come in. 2 men and a woman. *“Can we get a sandwich or something?”* says one of the men into the open kitchen door. *“Sorry pal, you’re too late they’re all gone.”* I tell him.

We’re impatient to be away but there’s something particularly needy about the way he asks. I stifle a grumble, this delay is not on my agenda, but *“Well maybe I could heat up some soup in the microwave.”* *“Naw, I don’t want soup, I wanted a sandwich.”* he says. [St. Vincent tells us the Poor are stern taskmasters]. The other two say, *“Oh, yeah, a hot soup would be great!”*

So I dig it out of the fridge and set about heating the soup. George, who has overheard, and is also anxious to leave, says, *“Maybe I’ll make them each a sandwich.”*

We take them the food and hurry about our final tasks. As we don our coats to leave the woman stops us at the kitchen door. She puts her hand gently on my arm, looks deeply into our eyes and says, *“I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I know my Father would highly approve of you guys.”* Those carefully chosen words in her calm, earnest voice reach to the bottom of our hearts and leave us flustered and shaken.

Payback. It doesn’t happen often but when it does it sure feels good.

-Mike Barker



One Good Deed Deserves Another

Cash donations are low, and the Food Bank is having to stretch the food supplies even more than usual. The media was asked to help and they jumped into action. Within a day, the generosity of the community was pouring in. People from all walks of life started to donate what they could.

One woman called and asked if someone could come and pick up a \$100 cash donation because she wanted to help but was unable to get down to Albert Street. When our Food Bank Coordinator went to pick up the cheque she spent a moment to thank the lady. The lady explained that the reason she had chosen to donate the money was because her son, at a rather difficult time in his life, had stayed in our shelter. The time that he had spent at Vincent Place had allowed him to get his life in order again and now he was living in British Columbia where he had found himself a good job. He was now very happy. Instead of \$100 the woman had offered Vincent Place on the phone, she gave the food bank \$200.

Do you have a “Warm and Fuzzie” you would like to submit?

Email us at: vincentplacevoice@shaw.ca

It's Report Time Again

The Food Bank

Since the beginning of this year, 2845 people have used the services at our Food Bank.

This year, to date, food donations are down by about \$3000. Unfortunately, due to the low donations in the last couple of months, our Food Bank has been low on supplies.

With the help of the media, we were able to get a call out to the community asking for assistance and the community has been answering. With a little hope and a lot of generosity, we should be able to get our shelves stocked up again.

The Soup Kitchen

All our volunteers are working hard—as usual. This year, to date, 3567 people have received meals from our various volunteer teams.

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!

The Thrift Store

As I'm sure most of you know, our Thrift Store was robbed of over \$1200.00 on the Canada Day holiday. And though we were saddened by the idea of someone taking money from those in need, the volunteers of the thrift store continue to work hard and do what is needed to keep the Thrift Store running and bring in donations for the operations here at Vincent Place.

The Men's Shelter

Our Transferrable Skills Program is doing extremely well. Sandra Moore has come on board to assist with The First Steps Program for the summer. The shelter's rooms have been filled the majority of the summer. Many transients have been passing through on their way to other locations. Our Long-term residents are actively seeking jobs and apartments, and have been very helpful with anything we ask from them.

A Notice to all Vincent Place Members

August 2008

This is to advise you that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Vincent Place Inc. is scheduled for Tuesday September 30th, 2008.

Among other business, the meeting will elect members to the Board of Directors. As you may know, there is a 9-member board. This year there are five positions of one to three years to fill.

The Board has appointed a Nominating Committee with Larry McNally (irishmcnally@shaw.ca) as chairperson to bring forward the names of candidates.

Are you interested in becoming a director? If so, kindly fill out the attached application form and submit it to the office at Vincent Place before Sept 1/08.

Do you know someone who would make a good director? If so encourage them to apply.

Applications will be reviewed by the Board and brought forward to the AGM for election. Candidates can also be nominated from the floor at the AGM. If there are any questions please contact the nominating committee.

The applicable sections of the corporate bylaws are attached for your information.

We hope you'll seriously consider this important service.

Application
To become a
Director of Vincent Place

The Nominating Committee
Vincent Place
Board of Directors

Please consider this my application to stand for election for a Director position on the St Vincent de Paul – Vincent Place Board of Directors.

I am interested in becoming a Director because:

My experience and background on Boards [if any] includes:

Note: I understand this information may be read out at the Annual General Meeting

Name [Please print]: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Signature