

Vincent Place

voice for volunteers

vincentplacevoice@shaw.ca



ANNUAL MEETING AND NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors

President
Father Ron Ambeault
Vice President
Folgo Della Vedova
Secretary
Colleen Murphy
Treasurer
Carmen Borghese
Regis O'Connor
George McLeod
Mike Barker
Larry McNally
Deacon Larry Comte

Managers

Vincent Place
Harold Thompson
Thrift Store
Linda Lambert

Vincent Place Annual General Meeting

September 11, 2007

Copies of the Meeting Agenda, Opening Prayer, 2006 AGM Minutes, and 2006 Audited Financial Statements were available for pick-up.

22 members in attendance.

Chair of the Board of Directors Regis O'Connor opened the meeting with a prayer.

Agenda: Motion to approve: Fr. Ron Ambeault, George McLeod. Carried.

Minutes of AGM 2006 Sept. 14, 2006

Motion to approve: Kevin Pomber, Mike Barker. Carried.

2006 Audited Financial Statements

Motion to approve: Fr. Ron Ambeault, Margaret Harrison. Carried.

Auditor for 2007 – Joe Ruscio Chair's Annual Report – Regis O'Connor

Statistics for 2006,
prepared by Harold
Thompson

Men's Shelter:
519 men helped with
shelter

284 participated in our
now First Steps Pro-
gram helping them
on the road to em-
ployment.

Food Bank:

5807 people helped with
food this past year.

1992 of these were
children.

Soup Kitchen:

9925 meals were served
from our evening and
weekend meals

Since our last

annual meeting the Board has replaced 3 Operating Managers with 2 fulltime paid Managers. The Operating Managers were Fr. Ron Ambeault for the Men's Shelter, Mike Barker for Food Services, and George McLeod. The 2 Managers are Harold Thompson for all components of Vincent Place at 222 Albert St., the Men's Shelter and Food Services, and Linda Lambert for the Thrift Store

Regis pointed out that Vincent Place is unparalleled in most cities with all the components that we have. Thanks also go out to Dree Pauze and Carl Rosso of Social Services for their help.

Money is always an area of concern. Fr. Ron and Harold are instrumental in applying for any and all government grants and programs to help fund Vincent Place.

Fundraising efforts include the Valentine Dance held in February, and the Gerry McNally Memorial Golf Tournament held on Saturday September 15th.

Food Drives are held throughout the year. Thanks go out to Folgo Della Vedova for spearheading the Lenten Food Drive this spring.

Notice to appoint Vincentian Members to the Board

Mike Barker will continue on the Board for another term.

Larry McNally will fill one of the Vincentian positions for another term.

Election of Non- Vincentian Members to the Board

Nominations: Folgo Della Vedova, Carmen Borghese

Regis asked for further nominations. Since there were none, Regis moved to accept the two nominations. Seconded by Fr. Ron. Carried.

Motion to Patty Matthews

David Acland, Carried
6:55p.m.

FOOD BANK

FOOD SERVICES NEWS- from Harold Thompson General Manager

I have met with the Team Captains of Food Services, it was an excellent meeting and I was able to get a better grasp on what fully goes on in relation to Food Services. I left the meeting feeling very good about what we are doing and what we plan to do. We spent a nice portion of the meeting discussing our plans for our Christmas dinner.

- Our Soup Kitchen numbers are

SOUP KITCHEN

To the end of August the Soup Kitchen had served over 6,000 meals to the poor of the city.

Great work Volunteers

THRIFT STORE

Linda Lambert is our new Manager for the Thrift store.

Since her arrival in June things have been looking a lot neater and cleaner and better organized. She is still looking for more volunteers for various days .Please contact her at the store or email her at :

lindallambert@sympatico.ca

holding steady at the 3 year average.

- Food Donations are up by \$964 over Aug 2006. But Total to Date is still \$3000 below 2006 donation level. The Aug increase may be the beginning of an upward trend.

- Wednesday night is still our busiest night at the Food Bank. [Because of the dinner]

Food bank numbers are slightly down from previous years at 7% below 3 year average.



SHELTER

During the month of August we had more men on much longer stays at the shelter, we helped a total of 52 men who needed emergency shelter. We also had 3 men on room and board for the month. The total nights of service for those who needed emergency shelter is 230 total nights divided by 30. These figures average out to 7.6 men per night on hostel per diem, a very good month for us indeed.

Greetings Volunteers. This Newsletter is for you to keep you informed as to what is happening in the larger organization. It is nice to see the statistics of what is happening in each of the components.

We would like you to submit any stories or witnesses as to what volunteering has meant to you .

We hope to produce this email Newsletter at least for times a year and would like to include stories of the volunteers from the various components.

You can submit them by email only at vincentplacevoice@shaw.ca.

Vincent Place Volunteers

Thanks in advance. Any input for future Newsletters would be greatly appreciated.

As a volunteer you know that we can always use more dedicated people who are willing to help. Example is always the best teacher and motivator. If there is anyone you know that you think would be a good volunteer here please encourage them to speak to the coordinator of that component and fill out a volunteer application form.

All components can use more help.

MENNONITES DONATE FRESH PRODUCE TO VINCENT PLACE

For the past two summers the local Mennonite Community has been donating fresh vegetables to the Soup kitchen, Food Bank and Shelter. They have been donating on Mondays and Wednesdays. We will be looking in the spring for someone who is able to pick up donated vegetables after their farmers marked on Wednesdays or Saturdays to be brought to the Soo.

We thank them for their generosity.





MEN'S RECREATION ROOM

Email
Vincentplace@shaw.ca

SHELTER NEWS from Harold Thompson

Our official Staff handbook will be ready for Board Approval by October 1st. I have been adding deleting and re-adding almost daily, I want it to be comprehensive but not too over the top. I will be looking for Board review by the 1st, and I will email it accordingly.

Have met with David and we talked about the ending of his position in December, David had mentioned and I had agreed that he would most likely ask for his ROE at the end of December. I think David excels as an attendant and would leave that option open if he were to change his mind. However it looks that David is interested in obtaining his ROE and take some time off.

In regards to our Transferable Skill Development proposal it is all official, Mr. O'Connor signed off and we are ready to roll for October 1st. I have scheduled interviews for qualified staff which will take place Thursday September the 27th. So far we have 3 applicants Leila McMahon, Jason Levesque and Wayne Pelletier. The successful applicant will request a leave of absence from their position upstairs so in the event there is no extension that person may return to their position upstairs as an attendant. For the interim I have identified a person to fill the gap upstairs which I will place on a wage subsidy.

Vincent Place bids a very sad adieu to Beatrice McGuinness; Beatrice with a heavy heart has accepted employment elsewhere. We wish her the best of luck in all her endeavors.

Vincent Place welcomes Raphael Green to our staff; Mr. Green has agreed to take on all duties that Beatrice fulfilled. Raphael brings years of cooking experience and understands all aspects of our Kitchen and was fully trained by Beatrice before she left. I have successfully secured wage subsidy for Mr. Green.

Studio Ten has successfully held their Charity Golf Tourney for Vincent Place. I plan to pick up the Cheque Friday.

We have finally received our Garden

Vincent Place Incorporated Donation Form

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____
 Home Phone: (____) _____ Business Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____
 Email: _____ Donation Amount: _____

Receipt: yes no

Vincent Place Men's Shelter
222 Albert St. E, Sault Ste. Marie, ON, P6A 2J4



WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO JIM AND PAT PADDON

Here's some news about us. Pat could likely send a picture when she gets back from London Thursday.

Since we left the Soo in 2006.

We're living in my home town of Chatham and being within 3 hours of all 6 our daughters and 7 grandchildren is very nice.

We attend St. Joseph's Church in Chatham. We are both Eucharistic ministers at St. Joe's and members of the SSVP conference there. Pat is Secretary /treasurer of the conference..

Pat also helps Thursdays at St. Agnes church in Chatham with their weekly soup kitchen meal. She is also a Big Sister volunteer.

Jim ran for provincial president last year for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and finished a close second to John Staley of Windsor, who then appointed Jim as his only Vice-president..

I've enjoyed the position as John Staley gives me lots of work and freedom to develop some of my ideas and projects.

I might add that John has always been very impressed with the SSM operations from his visit there a couple of years ago. He went back to Windsor and started a food bank such as the one in the Soo. He is also very supportive of my work with natives from he saw in the Soo.

Some of my SSVP work has involved.

- >developing a centralized thrift store sales and store profile program so we have a better overall picture of our 44 stores.
- >starting a conference membership data bank where we have up to date info on all members. This will improve communications.
- >Northern Ontario- we now have a conference in Kenora and a new one in Thunder Bay, which is our 1st aboriginal conference.
- >work on several areas of province regarding incorporations/by-laws ,etc.
- >work in London area due to some serious problems that included closing both thrift stores for a few months.
- >Kingston diocese development-met with new Bishop and am visiting the area to expand our numbers there
- >Prison apostolate committee chair-member of this committee as we expand this needy program.
- >Health and Safety committee chair-to develop a complete program for our store system.
- >Northern Ontario-to oversee this area of province for ONPC (Ontario provincial council)

I also attended our AGA for SSVP in Kelowna BC this past June.

One more item- I think it's important to note that I enjoyed our time in the Soo so much and the many volunteers that came out to help SSVP is something I'll always cherish.

Jim Paddon



MEET THE SHELTER STAFF

In each issue of the news letter we wish to highlight one or our staff persons with a bit of background and what they do.



Hello everyone, my name is David Gregoire. I am a lifelong resident of Sault Ste. Marie; as a child I attended Holy Angels School then graduated to Lakeway Colligate and Vocational School. I came to work at Vincent Place as a Shelter attendant in June 2005. I worked nightshifts while finishing my second Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science – Public Administration from Lake Superior State University in Michigan. Five years before, I was conferred with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services and an Associate degree in Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. In June 2006, I accepted the First Steps Coordinator / Transitional Case Manager position. The program is intended to improve some of the difficulties homeless men experience while trying to become better prepared to enter the paid workforce toward greater self sufficiency.



IF ANY ONE CAN FIGURE OUT WHO THESE CHARACTERS ARE PLEASE SUBMIT THEIR NEW NAMES TO THE NEWS LETTER E MAIL ADDRESS AND WIN A PRIZE.



ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

PATRON SAINT FOTHE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.



FREDERICK OZANAM

FOUNDER OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



OFFICIAL SYMBOL OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Back row Left to Right: Regis O'Connor, Fr. Ron Ambeault, Deacon Larry Comte, Carmen Borghese, Harold Thompson, (Manager of shelter and Food Services) Larry McNally.

Front Row Left to Right: Colleen Murphy, Linda Lambert, (Manager of Thrift Store) Dree Pauze, (Community Coordinator for Homelessness, visitor) Folgo Della Vedova, George McLeod. Absent Mike Barker

OUR FIRST APPRECIATION TO DONORS THANK YOU



Cassie giving a presentation of Vincent Place at the Open House on October 27th, 2007

Vincent Place Open House

As a way of thanking the donators and supporters of Vincent Place Inc, the First Annual Open House was held on Thursday, October 25th, 2007. Father Ron provided the welcome and introductions, Deacon Larry Comte was kind enough to do the opening prayer, General Manager, Harold Thompson gave a brief introduction of the staff and Cassie Baxter, Public Relations, gave a presentation and Virtual Tour of Vincent Place. The presentation was followed by actual tours of the shelter and facility for anyone who wished to participate. The overall impression of the event was positive and the Open House was considered a great suc-

FOOD AT OPEN HOUSE



We also would like to highlight a volunteer team in each issue. Cassie has already taken pictures of the Wednesday Soup kitchen teams and will be asking for your permissions to publish in this news letter. The Food Bank Teams and Saturday Soup Kitchen teams are asked to submit your pictures as well.

All are asked to submit a short article on your team to vincentplacevoice@shaw.ca

**ANOTHER
VIEW
OF THE
BOARD**



Board of Directors '08

One Participant's Comments

Dear Harold and staff...

Mark and I just wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed our day (open house) at Vincent Place with you and your staff.

First of all, the food was delicious and the atmosphere was most comfortable. But, the thing that we noticed the most was the dedication and caring shown by all your staff members.

We were under the impression that Vincent Place was a motel-like safe place for men who were homeless, but never guessed all the programs and help they receive to get their lives back on track, when needed.

In particular, there was a man staying there that I have known off and on for the past twenty years, most of his time spent in jail or conning people when he could. I couldn't believe his clean appearance and good looks when I saw him there. It made my heart feel good that he was doing so well and hopefully with your help, will live a productive life.

A special thank you to Leila, she was our guide for the tour. Just looking in her eyes she expresses her love and compassion for her job and I pray for her to continue with such enthusiasm.

We will be passing the word on about volunteers needed for the food bank, I will try to get you some computers and anything else I think you might need, not just snacks.

God Bless each and every one of you at Vincent Place, you are truly making this world a better place, one day at a time.

Your sister and brother in Christ...

Shirley Reed & Mark Ambeault - Peter's Place

Public Relations Coordinators



Kathy

Cassie

Les

From left to right: Kathy MacIntyre (supervisor), Cassie Baxter and Les Becker

We're working hard to create awareness about Vincent Place Inc. and the services the organization provides to those in need. By speaking with local groups such as the Kinsmen Club and the Kiwanis Lakeshore Club, and planning events such as our recent Open House, our goal is to get even more of the community involved through donations, fundraising and volunteering.