

# St. Vincent de Paul energy relief

## Overview

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a worldwide non profit organization of lay Catholic men and women. The members of St. Vincent de Paul in Moscow meet weekly in order to help local people in need. We visit anyone who requests our help from Latah County regardless of race, nationality, religion or sexual orientation on a person-to-person basis. Great care is taken to preserve the dignity of the person served and we visit those in need in their homes.

Last year we distributed over \$22,000 in emergency funds to families and individuals in Latah county, plus in-kind donations, such as used furniture, clothes, major appliances and even a few cars. We served over 250 people who requested our help. In the past five years we have provided for the basic needs of the poor ñ shelter, medical care, clothing, heating, transportation, medicine and food.

## Grant Report

This year,s grant from THE CIRCLE: Moscow Women Giving Together was to fund emergency *energy* assistance for low income families, single parents with children and disabled persons this spring.

Over the past few years the number of requests and the amount needed for energy assistance has steadily increased. This year after a hard winter we were anticipating a higher demand for energy assistance. True to our expectations we received numerous requests from families and individuals already without power or soon to be shut off.

Between April and June we successfully distributed our grant funds from The Circle of \$5,000 to 25 households helping a total of 58 people. The average amount given per household was \$200.00, with a range of \$52.00 to \$367.00. Almost half of the households were families with children and several were homes of disabled people. Whereas some of the people we helped already had their power turned off, in a higher percentage of cases we were able to prevent the homes from losing power thus preventing costly shut off fees and high deposits to resume service.

Also noteworthy was our advocacy work with Avista on behalf of these patrons. Patrons who have paid their past due energy bills can benefit from an Avista program called “comfort” billing. Avista will structure their future payments so that their power bills will remain the same amount each month. This allows these patrons to work within their monthly budgets and pay their power bill when due. Note that customers who are continually behind on paying their power bills are barred from this program. St. Vincent de Paul coordinated with Avista and the customers we helped to get enrolled in this program.

## Volunteer opportunities

We sometimes need help in delivering household furniture or goods or delivering firewood

## Wish list

Stamps, Thank you notes, Wal-Mart or grocery Gift Cards.

## Contact

Donations to support our work can be sent to: St. Vincent de Paul, P.O. Box 9888, Moscow, Idaho 83843

Anyone interested in volunteering or joining St. Vincent de Paul should contact Fran Trevisan at [trevisan@moscow.com](mailto:trevisan@moscow.com)