



Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Portland Council

P.O. Box 42157 Portland, OR 97242-0157

"Giving Help and Hope, One Person at a Time"

September, 2017

Dear Friends of St. Vincent de Paul,

This past summer we lost two wonderful men whose lives impacted the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and their community, Vince Meyer from Holy Rosary Parish and Ron Knox from St. Peters. Vince passed away on June 21st, leaving behind a legacy that included, but wasn't limited to, answering the call to be a true Vincentian and offering service to those less fortunate around him. Among his many volunteer credits, Vince, along with his wife Connie who passed in 2010, taught ESL classes to a large Hispanic population that would show up at the main Council office, then located on SE Powell Blvd. He was also instrumental in providing leadership for our Lead Gift Appeal that took place in the Fall of each year.

Ron Knox passed away on June 24th, and at the time of his death he was still an active member on the board of the Portland Council, of which he had been a member for many years. He was also President of St. Peters St. Vincent de Paul Conference, and was very active, till the end, in personally helping any and all who came to the SVdP Conference looking for assistance. Like Vince, Ron was a Vincentian who answered the call to walk in Christ's footsteps through his service to the poor, which included taking the ministry of St. Vincent de Paul directly to the homes of those who needed help the most. Ron worked outside the lines at times, helping individuals more times per year than what the "rules" allowed for. But that's what made Ron special. If someone needed help, he would do his best to help them, no questions asked. Both Ron and Vince will be sorely missed, but never forgotten. We are grateful for their devotion to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and for their compassion toward the poor among us.

As we head into the upcoming school year, our staff and volunteers are encountering families who are not only struggling to put food on the table and pay their monthly rent and utility bills, but find themselves not knowing how they will find additional monies for purchasing school supplies, new clothes and shoes, and those miscellaneous expenses that pop up when you least expect it. Because we should never have to tell a client we cannot help them in some way, I am asking you to please help ease their burdens by giving "over and above" what you gave last year. While prayer is something everyone needs on a regular basis, we also must meet the practical needs of those we serve.

In remembering the lives of Vince and Ron, let us all be Vincentians and show a willingness to help the poor and vulnerable of our community. On behalf of all those who will be helped during the next few months, I thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Sincerely,

Brian Ferschweiler
Executive Director