

## WHAT DO WE DO?



In these days of economic uncertainty and high unemployment rates, working families are undergoing constant stress and sometimes turn to St. Vincent's for help. What can we do to help?

### Thrift Store

Volunteers of all ages help out in the Thrift Store – some sorting clothes, some hanging them, and others displaying the clothing in an artful way, hoping to catch the eye of a shopper looking for just the right outfit. The children's room always has good buys since the children grow so quickly. If you need a new book to read, you can find one in the bookroom. The same is true of housewares, costume jewelry, glassware, DVDs and other items. And the hours of the Store have been extended on Thursdays and Saturdays so those who work can still find time to shop!

### Ministry



Although some people think the money earned in the store is profit for those running the store, they are surprised to learn that we are all volunteers, and the money earned is used by the volunteers in the Ministry to serve those in need in the community, providing them with clothing and food, as well as helping them avoid eviction and pay their utility bills. Through person-to-person meetings in home visits or in the office, we determine how best we can help those in crisis situations, and we also refer them to social service agencies. To help them allocate resources properly and develop a systematic approach to their finances, one of our volunteers counsels them on budgeting issues. Perhaps rent or mortgage payments, utility, medical or prescription bills are paid. Food from our Food Pantry, clothing and other household items from the store are provided to them. The confidentiality of the information received in the process of determining how best we can help those who come to us for help is guarded scrupulously, to protect the dignity of those we serve.

We try to be a sign of hope for people of all faiths, helping the families regain their self-sufficiency. In every case we try to see Christ in the faces of the poor that we serve, and we pray that they are able to see him in us.



### Food Pantry

Parishioners from St. Mary of the Lakes Church make monthly food donations and they are given a list of specific items needed in the Pantry. St. Peter's Episcopal Church provides us with laundry and dish detergent for those we serve. The Food Pantry organizers go to the Food Bank monthly to pick up food on our allotment list, and we are required to make monthly reports regarding the number of food bags that we distribute. We buy hot dogs, cheese, eggs, and chickens, all of which are a big hit with the hungry families we serve. The Medford Bagel Shop provides us with day-old bagels & muffins, and a local bakery donates day-old bread; the Roselli Family provides spaghetti sauce, breads and sometimes frozen meals. Ron Murphy of Murphy's Marketplace supplies us with paper bags for the food collections at the Church.