

Arizona State Housing Trust Fund

A Vital Supplement for St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul Response to Requests for Emergency Assistance...

Last year the 86 St. Vincent de Paul Conferences of Charity at Catholic churches in central and northern Arizona, helped thousands of low income families with emergency rent and utility assistance who come to us as a last resort.

- The total amount distributed by Society Conferences to help keep families housed amounted to **nearly \$2.5 million dollars, a 40 per cent increase over the prior year.**
- This is donated money coming from church poor boxes and special collections. **However, increases of this magnitude are not sustainable during hard times.**
- **The economic downturn has already resulted in increasing numbers of requests for help with rent and utilities from our Conferences in larger amounts.**
- **Lack of affordable housing remains the #1 issue for members of St. Vincent de Paul who serve Arizona's poor.**

How the State Housing Trust Fund Helps St. Vincent de Paul

For the past four years, **St. Vincent de Paul has received a grant from the State Housing Trust Fund for “eviction prevention”** through its Family Assistance Ministry (FAM) at Watkins Road. This grant is used as a supplement for families referred to us by local Conferences where requests for help exceed their capacity to respond.

Last year over 400 families remained housed using funding from the State Housing Trust Fund for St. Vincent de Paul's FAM program. The average assistance per family was just under \$400.

Without the supplemental assistance from the State Housing Trust Fund, these 400 families would have likely been added to the wait lists for homeless family shelters where the cost to re-house is far more than \$400.

Already this year, the unprecedented increase in the number of requests and in their amount has forced the SVdP FAM program to reduce the maximum amount available per family for the next few months.

The Housing Trust Fund is an essential part of Arizona's safety net and must NOT be cut.