

# *Voice of the Poor*

**Report from SVdP National Meeting**

**St. Louis, Missouri**

**September 2-5, 2009**

## **Health Care Reform:**

All Vincentians attending the national meeting received a copy of President Joe Flannigan's statement on the Society's position on health care reform.

*Future statements to our members about health care reform will be jointly issued by:*

- *U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops*
- *Catholic Healthcare Association*
- *Catholic Charities, USA*
- *Society of St. Vincent de Paul*

None of these organizations has taken a position on specific health care legislation. There are currently four health care reform bills in Congress. For accurate information about bill content and the Catholic perspective, go to:

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) and click on "health care" or [chausa.org](http://chausa.org)

(This is the bishops' site)

(Catholic Health Association site)

## **Voice of the Poor National Committee Meeting:**

All eight regions were represented and reported that they held VOP workshops at their recent regional meetings. Members are collecting information about the number of Vincentians signed up for CapWiz (aciton alert from national) as well as participating in local networks. Each region has the goal of enrolling 10% of their active members in VOP: "Campaign for 10%". Nationally this would mean the potential of 12,600 Vincentians ready to respond to an issue on behalf of the poor.

## **Voice of the Poor Workshops:**

Members of the National Voice of the Poor Committee collaborated on two workshops – the first was "Basic VOP" geared for Vincentians who come from areas where they do not yet have VOP. The second workshop, "VOP Workshop Forum" focused on issues of interest – SVdP's position on health care reform, an organizational model from the Seattle Archdiocese, an alternative to payday lending from E. Belleview, IL, commentary on the next VOP position statement on education, a free, simple website for VOP's and an overview of immigration issues. Both workshops were well-attended with over 50 in each session.

**Mark your calendars!**

**Annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, D.C.: Feb. 7-10., 2010** Registration will be posted on the USCCB website (usccb.org) sometime in October and circulated to SVdP. The Western Region has generously set aside \$2,000 in scholarship funding to help defray the cost of attendance this year for those who may need assistance. Please contact Lucy Howell ([howishome@aol.com](mailto:howishome@aol.com)) for an application.

**SVdP Mid-Year Meeting – St. Louis, MO April 20-24, 2010**

**Western Region Meeting will be held in Orange County, CA June 23-26, 2010**

**SVdP Annual Meeting New Orleans, LA Sept. 7-11, 2010**