

St. Vincent de Paul Story

A woman calling for help from SVDP said that she had nine children, ages 4 to 17, all of whom, except the seventeen-year-old, were sleeping on the floor. Two beds per family has been the policy of the conference for some time, but clearly more was needed here. Some Vincentians began to call around to friends and family, asking them about the possibility of getting a bed from them. Within a week or so they found four more beds.

Another Vincentian borrowed a van one morning and drove to Hamilton, Mason and Wyoming to pick up these donations. The Vincentians then drove to Anderson to pick up a bed frame and a mattress and some pots, pans, sheets and towels that the neighbor very much needed. Meanwhile, another Vincentian purchased ten new pillows for this mom and her children. The van, filled with all of these "gifts," arrived at our neighbor's house, where all of the children, jumping with excitement, waited for them. In fifteen minutes all the items had been unloaded and were in the home for this very grateful family.

The Vincentians also gave the neighbor the voucher for two more beds to be picked up from the SVDP Thrift Store. No one would any longer be sleeping on the floor! In addition, the Vincentian in charge of coordinating food deliveries arranged to pick up a box of food from the SVDP Food Pantry and shared with the neighbor information about how to get food monthly to supplement the food stamps they were receiving.

United in determination to provide beds for this family, these Vincentians brought joy to this family who now would enjoy the comfort of a bed instead of having to sleep on a hard floor. It was Christmas in July, the gift of beds and the love and concern of neighbors who made a difference in the lives of ten people!

If you want to get involved in this life-saving work, call parishioner and conference President Jim Doerger at 617-2085 or 378-8548.