



### **A Message from the Executive Director**

This year I am celebrating my 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as St. Vincent de Paul's Executive Director. Built on a solid foundation, the Society has grown, evolved and today reaches more people than ever. Not much of a revelation ... but looking back (and actually ahead) it appears our success is a direct result of our partnerships.

The professional partnerships we've forged and strengthened over the years allow the Society to feed, clothe and tend to our neighbors' needs. Corporate partners donate their surplus goods and Non-profit partners, including food shelves and shelters, redistribute goods to their communities.

At the end of St. Vincent de Paul's supply chain are individuals and families struggling with poverty. We witnessed last year, for example, that hunger is not confined to the inner-city: It also lives in our affluent neighborhoods. So we partnered with Parish Conferences and added drive-up food distributions there.

The personal partnerships I share with SVdP employees, members, volunteers and clients are what still get me up in the morning.

Using the Society of St. Vincent de Paul as an instrument to serve hundreds of thousands in need wasn't my idea. The Lord, our Partner-in-Chief, led me here 20 years ago.

Blessings!

Ed Koerner  
Executive Director  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Twin Cities

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