

It's a big year for Alex. The charitable organization will celebrate 10 years of Lemonade Days, from June 6 to 8, commemorating the goal of the Stand's inspiration, Alexandra "Alex" Scott, who challenged the nation to help her raise \$1 million for childhood-cancer cures. Although official lemonade stands will be set up all over the country, the original stand is right in our back yard. Check it out on June 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Penn Wynne Elementary School (250 E. Haverford Road, Wynnewood).

Alex's Lemonade Stand  
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of the Holy Name Society

The Catholic Register, March 10, 2014

## Local Agencies Hit Hard By Food Stamp Program Cuts

By Bruce A. Tomaselli

Saint Vincent DePaul has operated the Food For Families Program in the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese for the past 25 years. The Society has two food banks, two Family Kitchens, one in Altoona and one in Johnstown, as well as five food pantries serving Patton, Ebensburg, Carrolltown, Altoona, and Johnstown.

"All of our people have echoed this increase," Consiglio added. "In 12 years I've never seen this amount of need across the board for food, medical, fuel, etc."

"Our food pantries are serving over 1,500 to 1,800 persons per month and that's not counting all of the other public agencies. Believe me, it's affecting everyone."

It bothers him that sometimes people don't realize that those numbers represent human beings. "These figures represent real, live people," he said. "They aren't just random figures."

Generally, the cuts mean people are being forced to feed themselves on about \$5.00 per day. With the price of meats, vegetable, fruit, energy, etc., continually increasing, it's an impossibility. "Really," said Johnstone, "how can you expect anyone to survive on \$5.00 per day for food?"

Consiglio said it's not just persons we consider less fortunate that are seeking assistance. "You'd be surprised how many employed people with families just can't make ends meet. They look to us for assistance," he said.

Johnstone said the entire situation has snowballed because of the hard winter we're experiencing. Catholic Charities was already \$14,000 over their budget for energy at the end of January. Any agency that provides energy assistance, food banks, and food pantries have been hit hard this year.

"When I greet people I'm always wondering if they have eaten that day," Johnstone said. "You would be surprised how many people haven't eaten, especially our homeless population."

"Our food pantries are serving over 1,500 to 1,800 persons per month and that's not counting all of the other public agencies. Believe me, it's affecting everyone," said Sonny Consiglio, executive director of the Saint Vincent DePaul Society in the Altoona - Johnstown Diocese. It bothers him that sometimes people don't realize that those numbers represent human beings. "These figures represent real, live people," he said. "They aren't just random figures."

BLESSED JOHN OF VERCELLI PRAY FOR US!