



St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Juneau, Alaska

[svdpjuneau.org](http://svdpjuneau.org)

Mindy Voigt, President

Ida Barnack

Terry Elder

Barbara Bechtold

Robert Rehfeld

Anna Marg Rear

Peggy Morris

Theresa Harris

Charles Van Kirk

*We provide material and  
spiritual charity and work  
for social justice for all  
people.*



## St. Vincent de Paul Society

### Diocesan Council of Southeast Alaska, Inc.

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January 22, 2013

Representative Mia Costello  
Representative Les Gara  
Alaska State Legislature

Honorable Representatives Costello and Gara;

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Juneau wishes to express our unreserved support for House Bill 50 "...to allow certain commercial uses in a multi-family residential housing development owned or financed by the corporation..."

Our non-profit corporation has for more than 20 years supported the housing costs of many of Juneau's poorest households from the sales revenue of our Thrift Store. This has allowed us to house more than 100 households per year, many of them with children. Because we have the store, we can do this with little or no help from state or federal government. Currently, our store supplies 51% of the operating budget for our shelter and transitional housing. Most of the rest comes from the tenants themselves.

You may be aware that Juneau is Alaska's Most Homeless City. Our homeless rate per capita far exceeds that of either Anchorage or Fairbanks. In fact, our homeless rate is three times that of Los Angeles County, considered the "homeless capital of America." Yet, many homeless households do have meager incomes that could help meet their housing needs, if we can reduce the costs. Mixed use development, especially when non-profit commercial revenue is dedicated to housing support, is one way to help reduce tenant rents.



By allowing developers and owners of low-income affordable housing to utilize AHFC financing in mixed use development, we will increase the amount of housing and reduce reliance on government subsidies. We term this the "Enterprise Solution."

Please call on us if we may be of any assistance in making HB 50 law.

Sincerely



Dan Austin, General Manager  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
321-5222

