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CINCINNATI REDS, NEWS 5, ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FAR EXCEED FOOD DRIVE GOAL; REDS VS. CUBS WEEKEND SERIES NETS OVER 20,000 LBS OF FOOD FOR LOCAL NEIGHBORS IN NEED

CINCINNATI, OH –June 16, 2009– The Cincinnati Reds and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul with NEWS 5 partnered Friday, June 5 through Sunday June 7 during the Reds vs. Cubs series at Great American Ball Park with a goal of collecting 5,000 pounds of non-perishable food items to help strike out hunger in Greater Cincinnati. Reds fans showed their dedication, donating a total of 20,000 pounds of food over the three-day series. The food collected will feed 7,000 people in our community for one day.

Anyone who donated a non-perishable food item received two tickets an upcoming game. In addition, each fan donating to the food drive was entered into a drawing to throw out the first pitch at the June 17 game. The winner who will throw out the first pitch is Ryan Link of Milford, who will attend Milford High School this fall as a freshman.

“We are overwhelmed by the support from our local community. Clearly we are surrounded by people who genuinely care about those in need in our community and stepped up to help”, said Liz Carter, Executive Director, St. Vincent de Paul. “Requests for food assistance are at record levels, and we are seeing significant increases in requests from those who have never used our services before – people who have

unexpectedly lost their job or who those who are having a tougher time making ends meet as a result of rising food costs”, she continued.

“We are thrilled to have such a successful outcome and know that this effort, through the kindness and support of our fans will help so many people in our community”, noted Lorrie Platt, Cincinnati Reds community relations director.

For more information regarding the Reds, St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive, contact the Reds Community Relations at 513-765-7022. For more information about donating or volunteering at the SVDP Bank Street Food Pantry, please contact 513-562-8841, ext. # 225 or visit www.svdpcincinnati.org.

About St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) has been helping Greater Cincinnati and Hamilton County residents in need with the basic necessities of life for nearly 140 years. The organization works personally with those in need, regardless of race or creed, to bridge the spiritual, emotional and financial gaps in their lives through home visits provided by neighborhood-based volunteer groups, and groundbreaking initiatives like the Charitable Pharmacy. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to be a leading community service organization, recently recognized by The Better Business Bureau (BBB) as a Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics winner and by The CincinnatiUSA Regional Chamber of Commerce as Non-Profit of the Year. For more information, go to www.SVDPcincinnati.org.

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