



JAMES N. WITKOWIAK
ALDERMAN, 12TH DISTRICT

Meal Site Set for Super Sunday Re-Opening

**Statement of Alderman James N. Witkowiak
January 28, 2011**

While a huge percentage of Milwaukee residents will be settling in to watch the opening kickoff of the big game at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 6, some residents will be happily waiting for the doors to re-open at the St. Vincent de Paul Society free meal site at 931 W. Madison St.

The staff and volunteers at the meal site truly perform God's work, and I am so pleased that this critical source of food for homeless and poor individuals and families will once again be open and serving warm meals

The location had the unfortunate experience of having one staff member and one former staff member arrested for allegedly dealing drugs out of the facility. Untrue rumors that the location was "out-of-control" were unfounded. The St. Vincent de Paul Society closed the meal site to make changes to improve safety and to undertake a few renovations to improve the site's operations. Security measures were also put in place to lessen the chances of something like that happening again.

The fact remains that the site has been a dedicated, positive and hope-instilling part of the Walker's Square neighborhood on the south side for 28 years, serving warm meals to the hungry six days a week.

I thank the great staff members and volunteers who work so hard at the location to help make life a little less rough for some of our city's poorest families and residents. They do a tremendous job of treating each individual as a human being worthy of respect, compassion, and a warm meal.

No matter what happens with the big game, there WILL be a victory – albeit a small one – that will be savored by many souls at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 6 at 931 W. Madison St.!

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