

**\*\*\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*\*\***

Thanks to a pledge just announced, the St. Vincent De Paul Society of Appleton has pledged to match up to \$20,000 in donations to sponsor LEAVEN in the Human Race. Contributions to LEAVEN will be worth twice as much this year.

"The [SVDP] board has so much respect for the work done by LEAVEN, and we want to help them raise money to provide assistance for the less fortunate in our community, said SVDP executive director Andrew Wilson."

"We are humbled by the opportunity created from the match", said LEAVEN's executive director, Jennifer Wanke. The money contributed for LEAVEN's participation in the race will be allocated to LEAVEN's Needy Children's Program to help families experiencing financial emergencies.

In 2008 LEAVEN spent \$753,727 to help 6,793 families (18,371 people) with emergencies related to housing, utilities, and transportation.

The Human Race, to be held this year on May 2, 2009 is an annual event sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Northeast Wisconsin that provides an opportunity for charities to raise money by walking in the race and also recruiting others to walk on their behalf.

To support LEAVEN in this year's race, send contributions to: LEAVEN Human Race/Match, 1475 Opportunity Way, Menasha, WI 54952.

For more information on contributions or how you can participate in the race, contact Julie Coenen or Jennifer Wanke at 738-9635.