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# VINCENT DE PAUL CENTER NEDERLAND

## - center for social spirituality -

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Vincent de Paul Center Nederland (since 2012) is an open social-spiritual center where people work together to create a social, sustainable and inspiring community and environment.

### **Aim**

On the basis of a Christian-social spirituality the center wants to provide an innovative impulse to social well-being and growth of people, to the strengthening of the community and to the quality of the environment.

### **Starting point**

Starting point is the concept 'people for people', the mutual, voluntary and reciprocal willingness of people to dedicate oneself to one another, to the community and the environment.

### **Source of inspiration**

Source of inspiration is the social-religious heritage of French priest Vincent de Paul (1581-1660), founder of the Congregation of the Mission, the Congregation Daughters of Charity and inspiring power of the broad Vincentian Family.

Life and work of Vincent de Paul were characterized by two lifelong projects: mission and caritas. Mission: prophetic vision of a world of truth, beauty and justice. Caritas: effective mutual help wherever and whenever needed. Both vision and help are teachers. They evoke energy, compassion and solidarity. To combine and shape these good forces is the essence of De Paul's motto: 'there is love in abundance but badly organized'.

### **Motivation**

Material, social and spiritual poverty are not only features of the past and faraway places but also present in our world here and now. Not everybody can share in prosperity (material poverty), loneliness and isolation are increasing (social poverty), faith in mankind and the ability to give meaning to life are under pressure (spiritual poverty).

### **Organization**

Vincent de Paul Center Nederland is active in three fields:

- a market place                      for social action in practice
- a learning place                     for personal and professional development
- a study place                         for knowledge and research

### **Some of the activities**

- *My view on Life*

A project for exploring one's philosophy of life.

- *Tuesday Conferences*

Small-scale, interactive meetings on old and new sources of spirituality.

- *Between Name & Identity*

Model for spiritual guidance.

- *Masterclass 'Inspiring and Serving'*

Program for social-spiritual leadership.

### **Target group**

The center is wide open to everyone wanting to contribute in one way or another to the realization of the objectives of the center. This can be done in many ways and modalities.

### **Organization**

The legal form of the center is a foundation. The center is led and financed by a platform of religious and non-religious organizations, institutions and sponsors. The day-to-day management is in the hands of professional coordinators and volunteers.