

**Society of St Vincent de Paul
Rogue Valley Council**

2016 Annual Report

- **Background**

- St. Vincent de Paul's name is recognized around the world and each Council is locally organized, funded and staffed for the purpose of helping our neighbors in need. There are now more than 150,000 members in about 4,360 conferences in the United States. We serve all who come regardless of race, creed or ethnic origin. The Rogue Valley District Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society was established in 1982 to serve the poor and needy in Jackson County. Over 300 part-time volunteers provide all staffing and services providing almost 86,850 volunteer hours in 2016. We have no paid employees. Funding is derived from church donations, fundraising, direct cash donations, grants from foundations and government entities, non-cash donations of food and clothing, donated automobiles, and through sales from our Thrift Store. Our facility consists of four buildings totaling 43,000 square feet on nearly four acres of property. We are located at 2424 North Pacific Highway in Medford, Oregon. Our main building contains our Emergency Family Shelter, Urban Rest Stop, Food Pantry, Kitchen/Dining facility, Social Services offices and Administration Offices. Our Thrift store is across the parking lot.

- **We are organized to serve our neighbors in need as follows:**

- **Social Services.** With eighteen trained volunteers, almost 12,650 individuals were carefully screened and counseled, providing a "hand-up, not just a hand-out". Many people we help are desperate with no one to turn to, having fallen through the State and Federal safety nets. They are families and single adults facing 72-hour eviction or utility shut-off notices. Many are those who have been negatively impacted by our recent down economy, or people recently released from jail, or alcohol and drug recovery units, needing clothing, work related identification or other legal documents. They are people living on the street who need clothing, tarps and tents, sleeping bags, candles, personal hygiene items and even used furniture is available. They are always encouraged to find work to stabilize their lives. Some are stranded travelers or victims of circumstances that leave them helpless. At St. Vincent's they find people who will listen and find ways to help.
- **Thrift Store.** Donations of clothing and household goods enable the store to provide help to the needy. In addition, the store sells selected items to the general public, the sales of which provide substantial monetary support for our many services, overhead and administration costs. Approximately 105 volunteers operate the Thrift Store and served 4,850 people with voucher items at no charge. The store generated \$855,975 in revenue in 2016 thanks to our many customers, so we can help the poor and needy.
- **Dining Room.** A healthy, hot lunch is served Monday through Saturday from 11 am to 1 pm. Approximately 43 volunteers prepared and served almost 58,200 meals last year to men, women and children, often exceeding 200 meals per day. Volunteers from 8 wards of the LDS church provide the Saturday lunch. The dining room is also open for special holidays; Thanksgiving and Christmas day meals are served thanks to many of our volunteers.

- **Food Pantry.** Some of our neighbors struggle on minimum wage, some have injuries, others are on government assistance and cannot manage their finances or make their checks stretch the entire month. To assist these people, 14 volunteers provide bagged groceries on the last two Fridays of each month to qualified low-income families and individuals. The pantry served over 11,525 adults and children last year with almost 7,600 bags of groceries with a four-day supply in each bag. In addition we provided 6,000 “no cook” bags to our homeless clients who lack cooking facilities. Referrals to other food pantries are also provided and we are part of the Medford Food Project. Our goal is for no one to be without food in Jackson County.
- **Family Shelter.** Emphasis is on the emergency needs of parents with children. The shelter provided 8,500 bed nights for families. During their stay, each family is counseled and plan is developed to get them back on their feet. Our partnership with La Clinica provides free Health Screening and free Dental Services every Monday morning.
- **Administration.** Fifteen volunteers answer telephones, greet and direct all visitors, assist our Social Service counselors, stay current on filing and computer input, and ensure we are organized and effectively serving our needy neighbors.
- **Ashland-Talent area.** Through a referral system, fourteen Ashland volunteers made 870 home visits and provided Social Services to almost 1,550 needy individuals in that area. This Conference is partnering with the City of Ashland to help keep needy people from becoming homeless.
- **Medford-Central Point area.** Thirteen Shepherd of the Valley Home Visit Team volunteers made home visits to provide Social Services to almost 405 needy individuals. These visits are often triggered by referrals from agencies and area churches. This group also provides help with getting access to free prescribed medication from pharmaceutical companies.
- **Urban Rest Stop.** This facility provided over 9,500 showers and almost 3,050 laundry loads to the needy in our area. The numerous volunteers who manage the facility say that they often are told how much the services are appreciated. It is a small community gathering.
- **Free Emergency Dental.** Services are provided by numerous dentists, dental assistants and hygienists volunteering their professional skills to those in Jackson County who are without affordable access to much needed dental care. They provided \$84,145 dental care to over 150 patients.
- **School Supplies.** This is a major project having provided back packs filled with grade-specific basic school supplies to over 3,500 needy children in 2016. Twenty six volunteers enable this service with ongoing pantry help.
- **Special Services.** Hair stylists/barbers cut hair one Monday per month. Almost 350 individuals were served in 2016. Our landscaping and parking lot are cleaned and maintained by dedicated volunteers. Other volunteers pick up food for our kitchen and our pantry, as well as furniture and other items for voucher users for our store.
- **Grant Writing.** In 2016, our grant writers were successful in rising over \$385,000 through 21 grants for Social Services, Home Visits, School Supplies, Food Pantry and Kitchen. The money came from various charitable foundations, the Cities of Ashland and Medford and four federal grants.
- **Church collections, Direct donations and Fund Raising.** Area churches in Jackson County, direct donations and Fund Raising accounted for over \$175, 000.

- **Treasurer's Office.** The handling of our money including over head bill payments, conference allocations, facility and property improvements and maintenance planning is managed by our dedicated treasurer's team.
- **Council Officers.** Each of the operations (9 conferences but excluding special works) described above is headed by a Council Board Member (Conference President). These members along with the Executive Committee members and functional vice presidents make up the Board of Directors for the Council. Generally, the Executive Committee makes recommendations to the Council Board. The Council meets monthly, to approve recommendations, review recent activities, plan seasonal changes and develop future programs.