

Society of St Vincent de Paul Rogue Valley Council

2018 Annual Report

³⁵₁₇ **Background**

³⁵₁₇ 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 270 part-time volunteers provide all staffing and services providing almost 84,890 volunteer hours in 2018. We have no paid employees. Funding is derived from church donations, fundraising, direct cash donations, grants from foundations, 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.

³⁵₁₇ **We are organized to serve our neighbors in need as follows:**

³⁵₁₇ **Social Services.** With sixteen trained volunteers, almost 18,774 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 current down economy, and 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.

³⁵₁₇ **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 100 volunteers operate the Thrift Store and served 4,614 people with voucher items at no charge. The store generated \$740,760 in revenue in 2018 thanks to our many customers, so we can help the poor and needy.

³⁵₁₇ **Dining Room.** A healthy, hot lunch is served Monday through Saturday from 11am to 1pm. Approximately 43 volunteers prepared and served almost 64,5200 meals last year to men, women and children, often exceeding 215 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.

³⁵₁₇ **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, 13 volunteers provide bagged groceries on the last two Fridays of each month to qualified low-income families and individuals. The pantry served over 13,304 adults and children last year with almost 7,220 bags of groceries with a four-day supply in each bag. In addition, we provided, 5,790 "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.

- ³⁵₁₇ **Shelter.** Emphasis is on the emergency needs of families. The shelter provided 8,217 bed nights for families. During their stay, each family is counseled, and a plan is developed to get them back on their feet.
- ³⁵₁₇ **Administration.** Twenty-two 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.
- ³⁵₁₇ **Ashland-Talent area.** Through a referral system, twenty-nine Ashland volunteers made 941 home visits and provided Social Services to almost 1,650 needy individuals in that area. This Conference is partnering with the City of Ashland to help keep needy people from becoming homeless.
- ³⁵₁₇ **Medford-Central Point area.** Nine volunteers of the Shepherd of the Valley Home Visit Team volunteers made home visits to provide Social Services to almost 619 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.
- ³⁵₁₇ **Urban Rest Stop.** This facility provided over 9,015 showers and almost 5,895 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.
- ³⁵₁₇ **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 \$78,900 of dental care to 137 patients.
- ³⁵₁₇ **School Supplies.** This is a major project during the summer. In the past we supplied needy families with the necessary supplies by grade. This year we contacted Title 1 schools (over 90% of students participate in the free lunch program) and purchased the specific items requested by each school.
- ³⁵₁₇ **Special Services.** Hair stylists/barbers cut hair one Monday per month. Almost 225 individuals were served in 2018. Other volunteers pick up food

for our kitchen and our pantry, as well as furniture and other items for voucher users for our store.

³⁵₁₇ **Grant Writing.** In 2018, our grant writers were successful in rising over \$420,000 through 42 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 federal grants.

³⁵₁₇ **Church collections, Direct donations and Fund Raising.** Area churches in Jackson County, direct donations and Fund Raising accounted for over \$95,433.

³⁵₁₇ **Treasurer's Office.** The handling of our money including overhead bill payments, conference allocations, facility and property improvements and maintenance planning is managed by our dedicated treasurer's team.

³⁵₁₇ **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.