

St. Vincent de Paul

Summer 2019

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Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Rogue Valley District

Tedde Ridley Humanitarian of the Year



Tedde Ridley, Len Hebert Humanitarian of the Year Award recipient 2019

Written by Kathy Begley

It was with great pleasure and a little sadness that this year's award was given to Tedde Ridley, posthumously. Tedde, a long time volunteer and board member was unanimously voted to receive this year's award. Tedde was always available to help, no matter what was asked of her. Tedde was VP-Outreach and involved with the Medford Food Project from its inception. Tedde also was very involved with the Central Point Senior Center. As a longtime

parishioner of Shepherd of the Valley, Tedde provided help with the liturgy, as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector.

Tedde passed away from cancer, quietly, surrounded by her family and friends. I was blessed to be able to spend some time with Tedde and I will treasure those memories...

The award was given during our February Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon which was held at Shepherd of the Valley Hall. Tedde's Son Chris accepted the plaque on her behalf.

Letter from the President

My Dear Vincentian family,

This has been another very busy year for our volunteers. Some days it seems like change is our middle name. While we see many changes in the population we serve, it creates change in how we take care of our clients.

We are very pleased to have our newest service, Homeless locker facility, completed and nearly full. We have added 46 individual lockers for our clients to keep their important documents and belongings in. Hopefully this will allow our clients to be more mobile during the day and to sleep better at night.

In the past 5 years we have seen a great increase in the mentally ill and the addicted homeless population. We are not trained to provide the type of service that is needed for this group. We are working with other agencies to look for a solution, a sleeping bag and a grocery bag is not sufficient to help these folks.

We are constantly trying to find better ways to serve our clients. We are talking more to those who come for help, to determine what they need beside the obvious. We are looking at partnering with Consumer Credit Council to provide basic financial understanding, budgeting and how best to maintain a checking account.

We are looking to provide more referrals to other agencies that may be able to help in ways that are beyond our mission. We often see people who are in crisis and their needs are not just rental assistance or food. If we can understand how their lives became so unmanageable, if we listen with our hearts, we can help direct them to a solution.



Kathy Begley, St Vincent de Paul of Rogue Valley President

Some of our homeless are happy living without responsibility...this is a choice they have made. It is our belief that Homelessness is not meant to be comfortable, it is meant to be left behind. Our purpose is to help those that want to improve their lives. We will no longer be as supportive of the homeless by choice...until they truly desire to get off the streets! The years have flown by...but the work remains to be done. Thank you to our volunteers, our donors and the community of Medford for your continuing support our work for the poor and needy of Jackson County.

**May God continue to bless you and you families with health and happiness,
Kathy Begley**

Visit our Website at:

Stvincentdepaulmedford.info

Print and Share a Volunteer Application!

A Season of Miracles

Written by Kathy Begley

This Christmas season at St. Vincent de Paul was filled with small miracles. The Holidays are always extra busy, plans to be made, shopping and wrapping to be done, cards to be sent and lots of baking! In reality, many of our brothers and sisters have no home to decorate, or kitchen to prepare a meal. Many of our clients that have shelter are barely able to survive through the winter let alone provide Christmas for their families.

In the past our Social Service volunteers would gather Christmas toys, gifts, food and clothing to provide for the neediest of our clients. This year due to financial restraints, the money for the project was not available in our budget. Our counselors were very disappointed...they always look forward to bringing the joy of Christmas to the families we serve.

We were contacted by Brother Speed Motorcycle Club before Thanksgiving, that they were having a toy drive and St. Vincent de

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Brother Speed Motorcycle Club and Kathy Begley (2nd from right) with the mountain of toys donated by the club.



U.S. Bank officials present a check for the Ashland/Talent Home Visit Conference in January, 2019. From left to right: Aaron Hoeftling, District Manager; Vicky Weiss, Ashland/Talent SVDP volunteer; Marcy Bliss, Regional Grants Coordinator; Chris DuBose, Community Banking President

US Bank - Tradition of Giving

Written by Vicky Weiss

Long, long ago (okay, it was 1982), there was a bar on North Pacific Highway called “Freddy’s Good Times.” To most passing by, it probably looked like the last place one could imagine as a haven for those in need. But fortunately for all who have been helped by St. Vincent de Paul, an officer from U.S. Bank, Bill Howe and his wife, Lil, saw potential in this property—the possibility that this place could one day be that lifeline for those who find themselves without food, shelter, or other necessities. From the Howes’ vision and with the help of U.S. Bank, St. Vincent de Paul’s Medford campus was born.

An initial loan from U.S. Bank was the spark that allowed Bill and Lil Howe’s vision to take shape. Beginning in 2003, a \$3 million capital campaign and construction effort began, and U.S. Bank provided a \$500,000 loan along with an equally sized construction line of credit.

From this investment eventually grew the extensive campus of St. Vincent de Paul in Medford. Six-figure gifts from the likes of the Naumes Family Foundation, Providence Hospital, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Meyer Memorial Trust, the Taylor Family, and others made the capital campaign a success.

But it all began with U.S. Bank. And since then, U.S. Bank, along with other community businesses and individuals, has steadily supported the efforts of St. Vincent de Paul to improve the lives of those most in need in our community.

With the campaign complete and the facility debt-free, U.S. Bank has continued its support for the many outreach activities of St. Vincent de Paul. In recent years, grants from U.S. Bank have supported the home visit conferences in Ashland and Central Point as a part of their Foundation’s “Work, Home, and

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Season of Miracles continued...

Paul would be the recipient of their effort. The plan was to end the ride here at St. Vinny's and present us with the toys. Unfortunately, our dining room was being used by the First Presbyterian Church for their community Thanksgiving meal. Due to the conflict, we declined...

Late in November, Wil, from Brother Speed called to setup a time to receive the toys they had collected. We were so surprised that they were still going to give us all they collected on their run. That afternoon six members arrived with several pickups and...56 Turkeys, 1 ham, 5 grocery baskets full of toys and three large black plastic bags full of stuffed animals...I was overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of Brother Speed.

But, that was not the end...Brother Speed also provided \$1600 to help with our Christmas projects. The wonderful contribution to St. Vincent de Paul allowed us to provide our Christmas Family Project that means a great deal to us. It is our Christmas treat to be able to visit our families and share in their joy. Thanks to Brother Speed, we were able to provide Christmas for 17 families that would have gone without. This is a letter we received from one of the families:

Words cannot fully express how grateful our family is for blessing us with such a perfect Christmas. Thank you so much for the food for our Christmas dinner, for putting amazing presents under the tree for our 3 children, and for the Fred Meyer gift card that bought us a heater to warm our house (our furnace broke 2 years ago), food for a delicious break-

fast, and a few other "necessities" that we have been living without due to a rough year financially. Our Christmas was perfect because of you. We hope that someday soon we will be in a better place financially so that we can pay forward the kindness you have shown us this year. God bless and thank you...

Our home visit team from Shepherd of the Valley also delivered Christmas presents and joy to some of their most needy clients, those who are home bound or disabled. We received this thank you:

Dear caring people of St Augustine's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul,

Thank you so much in helping me to attain my apartment. I would not have been able to live here without your generosity and I am ever so grateful and happy knowing there are people who truly care and are willing to help those in need has once again given me renewed strength in my faith in God, and I hope someday to be in a position to assist someone else in the same need. A special thank you to Cathy, Tim and Ralph, who helped me with the actual move. Being disabled, I really needed help. And, my help did not show up...so it was all left to Tim and Ralph. God bless them for doing so much and in the hottest part of the day. God bless you all! I will keep you all in my prayers

And that was just the beginning! One afternoon a young man came to our office with a cashier's check for \$3300. More Christmas funds...but, who was Thomas, the remitter? Emails went back and forth, who was the gentleman who donated the funds? One morning while doing the client mail, I noticed a piece of mail addressed to Thomas. I looked for him in our da-

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El Molcajete Restaurant of Medford serves Christmas dinner at St Vincent de Paul



Volunteer Christmas Party serving crew



Boy Scout Troop 5 from Eastwood Baptist Church serves Christmas Eve brunch



Jennie and Kaylee Morgan with Santa at the Volunteer Christmas Party

Season of Miracles continued...

ta base and found that he was a client. That information made it even more confusing... how does a homeless person donate funds to SVDP?

Then, one afternoon Thomas came to pickup his mail and I asked if he was the person that made the donation. Thomas told me that his mother had passed away and left him a small amount of money. Thomas stated that he was Christian and that the Bible says that we should tithe. St. Vincent was chosen because we had been helping him through a difficult period. Thomas had been diagnosed with a rare disease that required expensive medicine. Thomas lost his job, had no insurance and eventually lost his home and he is living in his car. It is very humbling to think of someone with so little, who is yet so compelled to share with others. It was a small

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US Bank continued...

Play” initiative, a program aimed at building “thriving communities where all things are possible,” including “a safe place to call home.” As Marcy Bliss, U.S. Bank’s Regional Grants Coordinator, puts it, “We want every member of our community to find their possible.” In Ashland, recent grants from the U.S. Bank Foundation have gone straight to our Housing Committee, which locates affordable housing for the homeless and those in danger of becoming homeless. During the Ashland/Talent Home Visit Conference’s last fiscal year, the grant from U.S. Bank allowed the Housing Committee to place 70 individuals into affordable housing. What is most im-

Santa, a close friend of Don Krolak, and volunteer Mike Benke



pressive about our local U.S. Bank officials is their own commitment not just to providing financial support through their foundation but to personally volunteering. As Chris DuBose, Community Bank President for U.S. Bank, noted on a recent visit to the Medford campus, volunteers from U.S. Bank have come by to help serve meals at our community kitchen. It is part of the Bank’s commitment to creating a strong community. “We’ve partnered with St. Vincent de Paul through our employee volunteer activities and foundation giving for over fifteen years,” Chris DuBose noted. “We have strong local ties and a great appreciation for the work the organization does across the Rogue Valley through a number of outlets including sustainable housing opportunities in our communities. We’re pleased to be able to continue our support of this wonderful organization.”

As we Vincentians know, our work is impossible without steady, sustained support from our community. U.S. Bank has been with us since the beginning. It is an association worth celebrating!

Season of Miracles continued...

miracle to those of us in the office when we learned his story.

It was December 7th, the students at Sacred Heart arrived after lunch, with their Christmas shoe boxes brightly wrapped. Every year a group of students collect items for the homeless and wrap and deliver them to us. It is always a welcome sight to see the school bus pull on our property loaded with kids and gifts! We distribute the boxes to homeless adults at our annual Community Christmas Dinner.

Christmas Day we were joined by El Mocajete Restaurant who helped us prepare our community meal. The dining room was transformed with wonderful decorations, including a beautiful decorated Christmas tree from the Providence Festival of Trees. Volunteer families from the community come every year to help serve our guests. Santa was here to help pass out toys and gifts to our clients and Santa's helpers manned the Pantry and distribution of gifts.

It seemed like every day brought something special to us. We received many donations of food, clothing and cash. It is so impressive and humbling to be the recipient of so much support from our community for the work that we do.

A simple Thank You seems insufficient for all the goodness we see...

May God continue to bless you and your family. Thank you!

A Vet Helped at St Vincent

Written by Kathy Begley

In 2013 I acquired a bizarre health condition. I lost my career, my car and then my condo. In early 2014 I was at St Vincent de Paul getting a bag of food and while in line a sweet lady named Mary approached me and asked if I was a Veteran. I said yes, and she asked me to come with her to her desk. She interviewed me briefly and then called ACCESS on my behalf. The next thing I knew, I was getting called by ACCESS to come in for an assessment. I was eligible for their SSVF program and they assisted me into a one bedroom house.

I am now a Case Manager here at ACCESS facilitating the very same program that assisted me from homelessness to housing. I'll never forget Mary and St Vincent de Paul for steering me towards ACCESS that serendipitous day! - Chris

Mary's response to Vet's testimony

Hi All -

Thanks so much for forwarding this to me...I remember Chris well and it warms my heart to know he is happy, succeeding and now helping others. It helps confirm my dream/goal of becoming an LCSW and motivates me to work harder on my application to the MSW program at Boise State I hope to start in the fall. As you all know, the work we do at SVDP in Medford carries with it a heavy emotional toll. We help one person at a time, in their moment of need, doing the best we can and then we send our clients on their way, hoping we made some impact that benefits them, even if just for that one day. But we

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Storage Locker Building Dedicated

Written By Rich Hansen

After years of talking, praying, site visits, planning, fund raising and finally building, our new storage locker building was dedicated on Friday, April 26.

The homeless now have a safe, secure place to store their belongings.

The St. Augustine storage locker facility holds 46 spacious lockers. They are available free of charge through Social Services. The building is open 10 am through 4 pm, Monday through Saturday.

To obtain a free storage locker, homeless clients need to visit St. Vincent's Social Service offices between 10 am and 2 pm Monday thru Friday. Once an application is completed, a locker will be assigned an individual for a 90-day period. Users need to provide their own lock.

During the dedication ceremony, Father Jim Clifford read a moving prayer on the plight of the homeless. Kathy Begley described the new facility. Medford Mayor Gary Wheeler

and Rich Hansen cut the red ribbon to mark the opening. Several dozen attendees then toured the lockers.

"All too frequently clients come to us reporting they have been robbed, losing their valuables, medications, clothes and/or tents," said Kathy Begley. "We visited a similar locker facility at St. Vincent's in Eugene and knew we needed such a facility."

Major funding for the project came from the St. Augustine Foundation of San Diego, CA and the Oregon Community Foundation of Medford. The OCF grant was from the Schneider and Casey Woodard Family Funds.

Key to bringing this project together was Bill Thorndike, Jr., president of Medford Fabrication. He introduced St. Vincent's to Dennis Becklin of ECS Case of Grants Pass. ECS provided the actual storage lockers. Medford Fabrication built the steel grid to which the lockers are secured. J. B. Steel erected the building, Precision Electric installed the lighting and Cook Security provided the security cameras. Major news coverage included the Medford

Mail-Tribune and KTVL Channel 10.



Medford Mayor Gary Wheeler (left) and Rich Hansen cut the red ribbon, while Fr Jim Clifford looks on (right).

A Vet Helped continued...

never know, do we? Struggling through difficult times alone is an awful thing, as I personally know. I have a similar story to Chris's, having lost everything due to mental illness which took me 8 years to recover from and learn to manage. So if Chris can do it, so can I!

I dearly miss volunteering at SVDP and am grateful for the time I was able to help there. Please know that the environment and mission there at SVDP in Medford, OR is unique and although I've sought out similar volunteer opportunities here in CO, I have yet to find an organization like SVDP in Medford that empowers volunteers to help in whatever creative manner will yield the best help for clients. That trust and freedom to utilize our own life experiences to help others is unique and a true gift to us as volunteers. And that freedom is, I believe, greatly due to Joe Schudawa's pure heart and generosity, as well as his practical and realistic nature. He is a gift to have as a friend and mentor. I frequently reminisce about my time at SVDP in Medford, and I'm grateful for the friendship and support of my fellow volunteers. I learned something from each of you that I've taken and use in my personal life and will incorporate into how I will help others as I become an actual professional in the field of Social Work.

Thanks again for passing this along to me - knowing that I helped one person overcome their personal struggle and reach a point of self-sufficiency and stability means every minute, every second I worked with a full heart to help others was totally worth it.

Take good care, miss you all! - Mary

Christmas at St Vinny's

Written by Dennis Mihocko

Christmas at St Vinny's is always a busy and blessed time. A beautiful Christmas tree was donated by Providence from their Festival of Trees party. The annual Christmas Day Dinner was provided by our faith friends at El Molcajete Restaurant with hundreds served a wonderful Mexican dinner to everyone's delight. Presents were given to all by Santa Claus, a personal friend of Don Krolak, with the help of Elves Wayne and Trish Trefren, Scott and Brenda Gustaveson and Marta Wilson. Everyone was served thanks to our volunteer coordinator Fran Cox Davis and pictures were taken by Past President Socorro as she greeted and chatted with the guests. A good time was had by all. Earlier in December the St Vincent volunteer party was held with great food provided by Charlotte Martinson and her fabulous kitchen volunteers. It was delicious, abundant and greatly appreciated. President Kathy Begley was our emcee and she deftly kept the party moving along. Raffle prizes were given away as well as the singing of Len Hebert's Twelve Hundred Days of Christmas which Len actually wrote (Well maybe not actually though it is his favorite song). There were other games and fun things to do especially the socializing which we do so well. It was a Merry Christmas.

On Christmas Eve Boy Scout troop 5 from Eastwood Baptist Church, served a wonderful brunch to more than one hundred people to their delight and festive surroundings. It added a feel of "home for the holidays" when so many have neither a home nor a family. Another wonderful Christmas season made possible by all the volunteers who follow the Lord's command to serve one another. Amen.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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Thrift Store

541-779-3648

Monday–Saturday, 10 - 4

Dining Room

Monday–Friday, 11 - 1

Pantry

Last two Fridays of each month, 10 - 1

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At the Urban Rest Stop

Dental - Monday, 8am–1pm,
At the Urban Rest Stop

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Call store to schedule, first floor only

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