

St. Vincent de Paul

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Rogue Valley District

Light the Winter Fires 2014

Fall 2014

Volume 9, Issue 3



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Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Dinner	
November 23rd	
Volunteers needed November	
20th - 23rd	
Call First Pres. Church	
541-664-1828	
Christmas Day Dinner	
December 25th	
Volunteers call SVDP office	
541-772-3828	
Volunteer Appreciation	
Dinner	
February or March 2015	



Beautifully created program for the Light the Winter Fires Direct Appeal Luncheon held at the Inn at the Commons in Medford.

The 6th Annual Light the Winter Fires St Vincent de Paul Direct Appeal Luncheon Fundraiser was a real success, not only as acknowledged by those in attendance, but also in the funds we were able to raise. The event was held at The Inn at the Commons in Medford, with those in attendance enjoying a nice lunch, while being informed about what St Vincent de Paul Rogue Valley Council does for the needy of Jackson County.

Our own volunteer counselor and Emcee Rosemary Harrington greeted everyone. Rosemary explained the

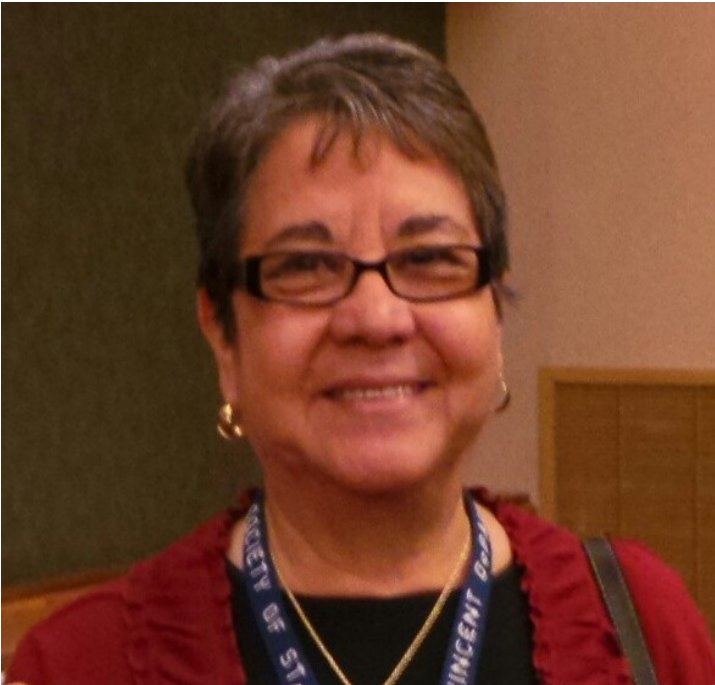
purpose for the luncheon and shared from her personal experience as a volunteer at SVDP, and what she likes about her volunteer work.

She introduced Fr Jim Clifford, who blessed our lunch and the event. The blessing was very effective because it kept flowing all afternoon.

Council President Socorro Holloway shared with us all what St Vincent de Paul means to the needy of Jackson County. How we are called to serve those who we see through the eyes of Jesus Christ?

Kathy Begley provided a slide show of *continued on page 4...*

Letter from the President



Dear Vincentian Family.

The weather is changing, nights are getting cold and we are receiving some of the much needed rain. This is good for most of us but a misery for our homeless people. To make their life a little warmer we are opening our dining room for coffee and donuts at 8:00 AM every morning. This service started October 1 and will end on March 31st when the weather starts to warm up.

Our dining room will be busier once the word gets out that they can come in out of the cold. Most clients will stay for lunch. This will increase the demand for kitchen volunteers to provide them the warm meals, the Thrift Store to provide warm clothes and the Urban Rest Stop to provide the warm showers and laundry service.

To be able to continue these services, I ask that you encourage others to volunteer at SVDP. All our conferences will welcome new volunteers.

Thank you for all you do, I cannot say it often enough,

your dedication to SVDP is awe-inspiring.

I want to share a reading from SVDP Serving in Hope book, Module VI page 39: Frederic Ozanam tell us: Helping becomes honorable, because it may become mutual, because every man/woman who gives a kind word, a good advice, a consolation today, may tomorrow stand themselves in need of a kind word, a good advice or a consolation; because the hand that you clasp clasps yours in return; because that indigent family whom you love loves you in return, and will have largely acquitted themselves towards you when the old man/ woman, the mother, the little children shall have prayed for you.

Blessing to you my friends, and my most heartfelt
Thank you,

Socorro

Roy Marlia remembered

We recently lost a long time Vincentian and Shelter conference member, with the passing of Roy Marlia. He and his wife Betty Ann were original Shelter conference members when it was started in 1994 in a converted truck repair shop where our Thrift store now stands. Betty Ann passed away in 2005, but Roy continued to serve the needy until he left us July 26 2014 at the age of 90. Roy was a Marine during World War II and though he had thoughts of becoming a Trappist monk that all changed when he met Betty Ann his wife of 60 years. He convinced her to spread God's love as lay Franciscans instead of her joining a convent. They married In June of 1946 and lead a life of simplicity following the inspiration of Saint
continued on page 6 ...

Collectibles Sale 2014



Many hands make light work, and many hands are definitely needed to help pull off the Collectibles Sale each year. Thank You All!

The annual St Vincent de Paul Thrift Store Collectible sale came to fruition again this year on October 5th. The array of choice items for sale, were lovingly saved all year for this special event and priced to sell by all the numerous department heads and helpers. In addition, over 75 percent of the stores 100 plus volunteers, worked Oct 3rd and 4th, to make Sunday's memorable happening, a reality.

None of this would have occurred if not for the tenacity of Karen McNeilly, Dorothy Walterick, John Hoffman, Jackie Cavanaugh and all the hundred volunteers who spent their time and energy creating an experience of nostalgia which is anticipated by our wonderful customers who come every year to explore the treasures that have been secreted away for their benefit and dollars.

Other St Vincent de Paul conference volunteers assisted Friday, Saturday and Sunday to pull off this incredible transformation of our thriving thrift store into a veritable treasure trove.

Our President, Socorro Holloway says, "I am amazed at the work the Thrift Store volunteers do throughout the year to get ready for this sale. The planning that is year round includes special sales in the weeks prior to empty the store of the regular inventory, collectible

items in good shape being sorted by groups and priced when they bring them from the warehouse for floor display and the set up of the displays on the Friday and Saturday before the sale. The day of the sale, volunteers help our customers with a smile on their faces and they make the cash registers sing with activity. The camaraderie, the volunteers helping one another, the food and contagious happiness are what make each collectible sale memorable.

I love seeing our volunteers be so devoted to SVDP.

Special thanks to John Hoffman, who returned to Medford just to be of assistance when his mother passed away just a week earlier.

Karen McNeilly is always in control of everything that has to be done. What a lady!"

I will add that our President Socorro had hands on experience in helping with the set up and in Sunday's sale. A special thanks to her, but mainly to all those involved in making this once again a huge success.

Written by Dennis Mihocko

Check out more pictures on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stvincentdepaulmedford>

Light the Winter Fires... continued

the volunteers who serve the thousands of people who come to us. The slide show played with meaningful music so that those in attendance could visualize what goes on at St Vincent de Paul and see some of those who provide the services.

Socorro introduced a video that was used to tell the story of a loving couple who were helped by St Vincent de Paul counselors. The husband was recovering from a broken hip which resulted from a mishap when learning to use his prosthetic leg following an amputation due to diabetes. His adoring



Jose and Norma Sanchez enjoying themselves during the Light the Winter Fires Luncheon



Newsletter and SVDP Website Editor-in-Training, Julia Morgan, monitors LTWF proceedings perched on past President Dennis Mihocko's knee, while enjoying one of the delicious cookies served at the luncheon.

wife and caregiver was requiring care of her own due to a serious intestinal problem. She had surgery in Portland and her husband had to remain in Medford without a caregiver. Unable to work as they had for many years as restaurateurs, they were facing eviction. St Vincent de Paul was able to assist them by coordinating services from several conferences and help get them past the hard times they had to face.

Though the road ahead is not easy, they have been able to stay in their residence, Shawn has a job now and they are dealing with the issues they have to face. Socorro introduced Shawn and JoAnne who were sitting at a front table where they rose to loud and warm applause. (pictured opposite, on page 5)

Rosemary explained how to use the donation envelopes to help us serve those with greater needs during the upcoming cold, winter months and she graciously thanked everyone for attending.

The commitment of all our volunteers is our greatest asset. We would accomplish nothing without them, nor without the donations we rely on. A special thanks to the LTWF committee: Socorro, Len, Fran, Tedde, Susan and Kathy. You made this fundraising event possible. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Written by Dennis Mihocko



JoAnne and Shawn at the Light the Winter Fires Direct Appeal Luncheon.
One of St Vincent de Paul's many successes

Summer Fundraising Successful

St. Vincent's summer grants fundraising totaled over \$100,000 with the majority coming from the Cities of Medford and Ashland.

First, Social Services received \$22,741 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) from the City of Medford. They also received a General Fund grant of \$6,146 from Medford. In addition, Social Services received \$13,776 from the Oregon Community Foundation's Ames-Fluhrer Fund and \$5,000 from the Anna May Family Foundation.

The Ashland Home Visit Conference received \$18,000 in CDBG grants from the City of Ashland. They also received \$16,320 from the City's Social Service fund. US Bank contributed \$3,000 to be split between the Ashland and Central Point Home Visit Conferences.

The Pantry received \$5,000 from the Raymond Family Foundation and \$750 from the WalMart Foundation. They also received \$5,000 from FEMA. At the same time, the Kitchen received \$1,700 in FEMA funding.

Finally, the Greater Medford Rotary gave St. Vincent's \$3,500 to help with dental van visits.

Written by Rich Hansen

Diane Johnson

There is a wonderful lady, among our many wonderful ladies, who volunteers in our thrift store as a cashier, but she also takes on additional responsibilities, such as, being head cashier for years, helping sort for special sales, and many other jobs as you will hear. It seems more than about time to highlight Diane Johnson and her beautiful and constant smile.

Diane Johnson was born in Newport Beach, CA and raised in the Santa Ana area for most of her young life. She was raised Catholic and remembers fondly going to church regularly with her Dad. After High School, she drifted away from the church and attended Golden West College for 4 years,



Diane Johnson with her son, Josh

graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Marketing. She spent many years in Southern California working for Hughes Aircraft. In 1985, she married her husband, Steven.

Diane started volunteering at SVDP in the summer of 2005. What brought her here? After noticing so many hurting and homeless kids out on the street, she asked the Lord, "Why?" The Lord answered her, saying "You can Help", and she's been helping ever since. She says: "I continually thank the Lord-
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Roy Marlia... continued



Roy and Betty Anne Marlia

Francis of Assisi “Gospel to Life and Life to Gospel”. Roy worked as an aeronautical design engineer in San Diego and later as a firefighter at the then VA Domiciliary in White City while building their home for themselves and their thirteen children. Their home grew over the years to accommodate all of them as well as numerous children’s friends who called Roy and Betty Ann their second parents. Besides volunteering at St Vincent, they traveled to Baja California during the winter months to help two orphanages, as well as, Holy Trinity Monastery in St David, Arizona. Roy will be missed by us all, as is Betty Ann, but especially by their 13 children, 37 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren. To both Betty Ann and Roy we say, “well done good and faithful servants”.

Written by Dennis Mihocko

Our messages about Free School Supplies reached over 1000 people, at no cost to SVDP!

Check out our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/stvincentdepaulmedford

Help share our message!

Diane Johnson... continued

for the opportunity to serve him in this ministry that I absolutely Love! It amazes me that I get Blessed by working hard to help feed and clothe those in need, and get to work with other likeminded volunteers with the same heart. We are Blessed!”

In addition to all the work Diane does at, and for, the Thrift Store, she enjoys planning the all-volunteers SVDP annual picnic. In fact, the annual picnic had been discontinued for several years when Diane asked, then President Dennis Mihocko, if we might start up that event again. Dennis gave Diane his blessing, and for the last 4 years we have had many a great time with volunteers and guests, with Diane hosting food, fun, games and prizes for everyone. Her first picnic was a real family effort – with only her son Josh to help set up the festivities. Now, along with Josh, she has about a dozen other volunteers who help set up this popular event.

Diane Johnson is one of many dedicated volunteers who help out at SVDP. Dennis Mihocko says, “She is a marvelous lady and an excellent example of a loving and dedicated Vincentian volunteer.”

Come meet some of the other great Volunteers by stopping by and filling out a volunteer Application. We’ve got a spot just for YOU!

Written by John Hoffman.



Saturday crew getting the Thrift Store ready for the Sunday rush!



Gaile Schmidt, Diane Johnson, and Julie pose for a picture while setting out collectibles



Debbie and Bob Christian, a pair of the many volunteers whom are also gracious donors, at the Light the Winter Fires Luncheon



Jan Gardner with dolls. Sometimes you want to keep the things you are putting out on the tables for the Collectibles Sale



Father Ken Sampson (left) and Father Jim Clifford (center) get ready to head into the luncheon held at the Inn at the Commons



Jean and Don Zimmerer, center and right, discuss the merits of volunteering and donating with another supporter during the LTWF Luncheon.



The grand unveiling of the Thrift Store before the throngs of shoppers are allowed into the Collectibles Sale. With lines like these, you would think we were selling the latest Apple iPhones.



An excellent turnout! Thank you All!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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SVDP Hours

Office & Social Services

541-772-3828

Monday—Friday, 10 - 2

Thrift Store

541-779-3648

Monday—Saturday, 10 - 4

Dining Room

Monday—Saturday, 11 - 1

Pantry

Last two Fridays of each month, 10 - 1

La Clinica

Medical - 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 1-6pm,
warehouse in rear parking lot

Dental - Every Thursday, 1-6pm,
warehouse in rear parking lot

Dental Van

Call office for hours, 541-772-3828, ext 6

Large furniture pickup

Call store to schedule, first floor only

Full Color Newsletter

See the newsletter in full color at
stvincentdepaulmedford.info

Email stvincentmedford@gmail.com for full color newsletter as a pdf file in your email instead of being sent by snail mail. Please put "SVDP newsletter" in the email subject line and include your full name(s). You'll receive it days before it arrives by mail, and save printing and shipping costs to SVDP.

Newsletter Editors/Design:

Dennis Mihocko, Kathy Begley, Rich Hansen, Socorro Holloway, John Hoffman, and Michael Morgan

