

# St. Vincent de Paul

Fall 2018

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## Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Rogue Valley District

### Ozanam Training



Kathy and Tom Iberle, Ozanam Trainers

**By Dennis Mihocko**

On September 16, Tom and Kathy Iberle led St Vincent de Paul volunteers from Jackson County as well as Grants Pass and Roseburg, in a 6 hour seminar on Vincentian history and tradition. The training is called Ozanam Orientation and Tom and Kathy's trip was funded by the Western Region of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and planned in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Council of Portland.

The training was designed to tell

us more about our history, traditions and the Rule that helps us do the good we do. It also engaged us in small group table discussions about the love and compassion that Fredric Ozanam and our patron Saint Vincent de Paul showed to the "least of these".

Opening with prayer is always a great way to start any event especially a Vincentian one. The inspiring stories of St Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac told of great love for the disenfranchised and abandoned in society. That

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## Letter from the President

Dear Vincentians and friends,  
I often reflect on how privileged I am to be of service to our brothers and sisters in need, and also, to work with our incredible, caring volunteers. As a Society, we have heard many “cries of the poor,” and through the generosity and kindness of our community we have been able to provide for the emergency needs of so many.

So just what is “The Society of St. Vincent de Paul?” Are we a “soup kitchen,” a thrift store, a place to get help? Yes, we are those things and more, but first we are a Ministry. We can help in many ways, first by being a caring listener to the client who is so desperately looking for help. Many of our homeless clients often feel faceless in our society. There are only a few people that will listen to them, mostly agency workers who are already overburdened. We have found that everyone has a story that needs to be acknowledged, and we are here to do that.

Our Social Service volunteers spend 4 hours a day listening and validating the stories that often tear at our heartstrings. We provide the help that we can and look for help outside of SVDP when necessary. If a client is willing, we will offer suggestions and make referrals. As St. Vincent said, “You are the servant of the poor. They are your masters.”

In our Dining room our volunteers prepare a three-course HOT meal daily for over 200 people. The meals are prepared with much love and served always with a smile. Our dining room also serves as a resource center: DHS mans a table weekly to help our clients with Food cards and other issues; a veteran’s representative will also visit the dining room



Kathy Begley, St Vincent de Paul of Rogue Valley President

weekly; haircuts are provided once a month, at no cost to the client, by volunteer beauticians.

Our Pantry volunteers are always busy when I arrive for the day. Trucks are out early making pickups of food donations from local restaurants and stores. Everything that comes in the back door needs to be sorted and shelved. Some items will be given to the kitchen for lunch that day. In the background, behind a long table, our Pantry manager is busy filling grocery bags with a 4-day supply of nonperishable items to be given away the last two Fridays of each month. The Pantry also provides NO-COOK Bags, for our homeless clients that don’t have access to a kitchen. No-cook bags are available through our Social Service office. “If we don’t feed them today, they won’t be here tomorrow.” Mother Teresa  
Our Urban Rest Stop volunteers get an early start to make sure that our Shower

*(Continued on page 3)*

## **Letter from the President continued...**

and Laundry facility is ready for the morning clients, who are often cold and wet through the winter. If you have ever driven past St. Vinny's in the morning and noticed someone wandering around in an orange, jail style, jumpsuit with "St. Vincent de Paul" on the back...well, that client is waiting for his clothes to finish drying.

Since the idea for the Urban Rest Stop first came to us, we have expanded our facility from 2 showers, 2 washers and 3 dryers, to 5 showers, 6 washers and 12 dryers, which more than doubled the number of clients that we can serve.

A small number of volunteers manage our Family Shelter, with the goal of providing as normal a routine as possible. We have 8 rooms with a capacity of 46 beds. A recent renovation in the Shelter brought our kitchen and bathrooms up to ADA standards.

We have a couple of special volunteers who man the Metal Shed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The store makes some of their furniture donations available to those too poor to shop in the store. Don, our Metal Shed Manager, keeps the Office updated with an inventory of furniture available for distribution at no cost to our clients. Don and Loren keep a table covered with free clothing for our homeless population. If you walk by the Metal Shed when the guys are there, you are in for a treat...they play great Jazz!

Not everyone has a way to get to our office for help, so we have 2 home visit teams: one that serves the Ashland/Talent area through

Our Lady of the Mountain Church and the other team that serves the rest of Jackson County through Shepherd of the Valley Church. St. Vincent de Paul began many years ago by taking food to the poorest people in Paris. Our teams visit the needy in their homes, often bringing groceries, and assess their needs. Many a lasting friendship develops from these visits. Most of our volunteers work at the store... What an amazing place! Our Thrift Store provides gently used items at a very reasonable cost to those whose needs are great and the community at large. Donations come in through our receiving area and items are sorted and distributed to the proper area for review and pricing. Each category, books, shoes, paintings, etc. has an individual assigned to sort and prepare the items for the floor and sale. The store is the engine that provides the necessary funding to support the many services we offer.

All this and more, is done by our wonderful and caring volunteers. We are an all-volunteer organization, and without our volunteers...well let's just say "nothing would get done!"

I love what we do, and I love the many wonderful volunteers who make it happen!

Blessings,  
Kathy

Visit our Website at:

[Stvincentdepaulmedford.info](http://Stvincentdepaulmedford.info)

Print and Share a Volunteer Application!





Socorro Holloway, standing 3rd from left, Nancy Fleming, standing 4th from left, and Butte Creek Baptist Church quilters

## Summer and Fall Donations Impressive

*By Rich Hansen*

St. Vincent's received over \$155,000 in donations this summer and early fall. The largest was \$45,000 from the St. Augustine Foundation to help fund the storage locker building. Social Services received over \$30,000 from the Cities of Central Point and Medford for rent and utility payments. The Anna May, Garcia and Carrico Foundations contributed a total of about \$20,000 for rent and utilities. The Ames-Fluhrer Fund and Wells Fargo contributed \$17,000 for utilities.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) gave the Pantry and Kitchen \$16,000. The Raymond Foundation and Providence helped fund the Pantry.

Providence also gave \$10,000 to the Dental Program. The Medford Water Commission gave nearly \$4,000 to the Urban Rest Stop.

## Church Quilt

*By Dennis Mihocko*

The quilting ladies of Butte Creek Baptist Church in Eagle Point, were busy bees when they created a beautiful multicolored quilt. It must have taken months and many skillful hands to finish it. After all that work, they raffled it off and received \$1000 for their efforts. The quilters were looking for a charity to which they could donate the proceeds from the raffle. Some of their church members had received assistance from social service organizations over the years and so they thought of St Vincent de Paul as a recipient of the \$1000 to help the less fortunate. The quilters' only stipulation was that all the money be used to provide services to the needy.

Since St Vincent de Paul in Jackson County is an all-volunteer social service charity, they were well assured that the money would be

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### **Church Quilt continued...**

used to help those that need it and not spent on salaries, operations, administrative or any overhead costs. Socorro Holloway and Nancy Fleming from our council board of directors accepted their generous donation. They assured the quilting ladies that all of the donation would be going to assist those who come to us for emergency assistance. The picture of them all smiling portrays their joy at making a difference in the lives of numerous people who need a hand up. Thank you quilting ladies of Butte Creek Baptist Church for helping us help others. It is what makes our communities so compassionate and caring.

### **Ozanam Training continued...**

spirit of love was what moved Fredric Ozanam, Blessed Rosalie Rendu, and friends in going out to the poor and needy of Paris. We learned more about our founder Frederic Ozanam (1813-1853), St Vincent de Paul (1581-1660), St. Louise de Marillac (1591 - 1660) as examples of compassion who inspired Fredric and Blessed Rosalie Rendu, DC (1786 – 1856 Daughter of Charity) and the youthful friends of Emmanuel Bailly in forming the Society of St Vincent de Paul of Paris, France in 1832. We learned that there are over 800,000 Vincentians at work in the world and over 96,000 in 4400 conferences in the United States alone.

Though most people are served by us at our main campus on North Pacific Hwy, Our Lady of the Mountain in Ashland and our St Augustine group at Shepherd of the Valley serve many people at their homes. Whether that place is a house, mobile home, travel trailer,

car, a tent, under a bridge or a railroad car or even under a bush, our Vincentian volunteers go to them to help anyway they can, just like Fredric and friends did when they first started in Paris. Contacting people in their own homes, wherever that is, usually takes more time to assess their situation and figure out how they can be helped but also it creates a more personal relationship with our volunteers. It requires more patience, compassion and Christian love. It often can require multiple visits to help them try to overcome the obstacles that caused them to contact us in the first place.

Because home visitations was where the Society of St Vincent de Paul started in Paris and most conferences start there as well, the presentations and discussions were geared more toward the situations encountered by home visitation teams. Meeting with the needy in their own space, creates a closeness that is often missing when we help literally hundreds of needy in our dining room, Urban Rest Stop, Social Services, Office, Shelter or Thrift Store. In a home visitation, personal stories and situations can be discussed and possible resolutions or plans can be made to help improve circumstances. More importantly, the person or family in need can be seen through the eyes of compassion and love but also through the start of a trusting relationship. Just as the people in need become more than a name and face, our Vincentian volunteers become more than a bureaucrat behind a government desk. We are Jesus to them. The training brought home to us all the ne-

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**Ozanam training in the dining hall**



**Ralph Browning at the Ozanam training**





**One of two Hope Village benches donated by family in memory of Dr Dave Moosman, 20 year Vincentian and Humanitarian award winner for 2012**



**Some of the Hope Village 7 duplexes for the homeless who are working to find permanent housing.**

## Ozanam Training continued...

cessity of coming together to be Vincentians to each other as well as to those we serve. Over a nice lunch, we discussed a renewed sense of who we are and what we are called to do. It reminded us, as was mentioned in the training, to avoid letting “hardness of heart to creep in”.

Our new “Mission Statement”, which was changed in April 2018 to reflect more concisely and accurately who we are and what we do, seems to put it better than any other words, “A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.” Let us remember that when we serve the needy and serve with other Vincentian volunteers, we should look for the face of Jesus in everyone. God Bless Us All and Those We Serve.

## AED and Opioid Antidote installed

By Dennis Mihocko

More than six years ago St Vincent de Paul in Jackson County, installed its first AED (automatic external defibrillator) in the event of someone having a cardiac arrest incident. Many organizations such as libraries, airports, malls, churches, schools, government building, etc. have had AEDs for decades because they can help reverse certain heart failure events and save lives.

The three different times St Vincent de Paul has added an AED unit, we had a CPR/AED certified instructors, who provided training on how and when to do CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) and how to use the AED.



AED with Naloxone nasal spray

The most recent training was July 14 when we added the third AED in the Urban Rest and 22 volunteers were trained in CPR and use of the AED.

We also had Julia Pinsky of Max's Mission come to present information and training on giving an unresponsive person the opioid antidote nasal spray naloxone (Narcan). Julia unfortunately lost her son, Max, to an opioid overdose which started with pain killers he was prescribed. She and her husband along with volunteers, have been training anybody and everyone willing to learn, how to use naloxone (Narcan) nasal spray which comes in easy to use packaging. Max's Mission and HIV Alliance were able to secure a grant to provide one dose of Narcan to each individual who attends the training which has been held throughout the county for about a year now.

St Vincent de Paul, has a dual dose package of Narcan (naloxone) for each of the AED units which are in the store, dining room and the Urban Rest Stop. Knowledge of CPR, how an AED is used and how to administer Narcan, can save

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AED in dining room

## AED and Opiod Antidote continued...

a life and it has many documented times. If someone is unresponsive, please call 911, spray Narcan up their nostril in case they have overdosed on opioids and start CPR if they are not breathing. You are protected by the Good Samaritan Act so please do not fail to act. CPR and an AED can help save a cardiac victim but not if they have overdosed on opioids. Narcan will not cause death but the opioids will.

Please learn CPR, how to use an AED and Narcan nasal spray. It can make a difference between life and death. It might be a family member or friend who needs your help. The victim is someone's relative and friend. You can find a local instructor through the American Heart Association 4380 SW Macadam Avenue #480 Portland, OR 97239 ph (503) 820-5300. You can go to Max's Mission website: <https://www.maxsmmission.org/>. If you have questions, you can also contact us by email at [vincent@mind.net](mailto:vincent@mind.net) or call the office at 541-772-3828 and ask for Dennis. We will respond to your message as soon as we can. You can make a difference. Thank you.

## Hope Village Working Well

*By Rich Hansen*

Hope Village opened Oct. 31, 2017, and is working even better than we dreamed it might. Rogue Retreat operates the transitional living facility with close help from St. Vincent's.

As of Oct. 1, after 11 months, we have 14 living units occupied with 16 occupants. Ten of these are working and one is receiving addiction treatment.

Earlier this summer the Medford City Council approved the expansion of Hope Village, allowing us to grow from 14 living units to 30. Two have already been occupied and we will add two units monthly. Volunteers are needed to finish the insides – caulk, paint, etc. In the first 11 months, Hope Village has served 51 people. Impressively, 17 have already moved on successfully to more permanent housing. Another 14 dropped out, learning that a group living situation like this was not for them.

At the beginning we estimated it would take 12-18 months to successfully move residents on to better living conditions. We are thrilled to have 17 successes in so short a period.

Have a suggestion for an Article or wish to write one?

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## Shelter Success

*By Kathy Morgan*

Sasha Stanson stands at the door to the shelter office. She is upset and close to tears.

"Come in," I say, my mind reeling as I wonder what has gone wrong now..

Sasha and her family have overcome so many obstacles while living here. Her husband Brett's brother died suddenly in Chicago. Along with the sadness and mourning, they had to pay for an expensive flight from Medford to Illinois. They have had so many apartment applications turned down it is impossible to count. Yet, they keep on without complaint, saving money and trying to find a home.

Brett has a full-time job and Sasha works as well. Their 4-year-old son, Evan, is a joy to be around. And despite the setbacks, the family does well in the shelter. They are always upbeat and willing to help out.

The Stansons moved to Oregon from an unsafe situation in LA. They are determined to make it in Medford. Yet as a mixed couple, they face racial slurs on a regular basis and other barriers.

Two other shelter families applied for the same apartments as the Stansons and were given the units. The Stansons were stuck living in the shelter.

Sasha walks in and takes a seat. "What's up?" I say with much trepidation. They have been in the shelter for more than six months, but the conference wants them to succeed so the extensions keep coming.

"We got an apartment," Sasha says. "And I just want to say thank you. You made it possible." Now my job is to listen, but in this case I have to make a correction. "No YOU



Shelter President Kathy Morgan, Bishop Liam, and Lori Harmon

did it with your hard work and perseverance.' Then the tears start to flow. Sasha says there were times when their marriage was strained. "We'd start arguing and then stop and look at each other and say: What are we doing?" Having to leave the shelter every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. was a pain. But there were good times as well.

"This is going to sound stupid," she says. "But I'm going to miss this place. I made so many friends. Miss a homeless shelter! Go figure." Yet the friendships are real. James and Hannah Ellison lived in the shelter for four months. Jams works at a local mill and the family saved enough to get a home. They have a 3-year-old son and a baby due any day. The Ellisons helped Brett and Sasha get an apartment. Now the two families are neighbors.

"It's not Trump Tower," shelter manager, Nick Koutsouros, says after a visit. "But there are pictures on the wall, nice furniture and a real feeling of home."

Shortly after the visit, Hannah gives birth to another boy. There is no question who the god-

*(Continued on page 11)*



**Shelter Success continued...**

parents will be: **Brett and Sasha.**

"I guess **WE** did do it," Sasha says. "But if I can't thank you, I will thank **God.**"

**Writer's note:** The names were changed to protect privacy of the families.



**Shelter manager Nick Koutsouros checking out the donated furniture in the shelter living room**



**Al Zon retiring after more than 20 years as shelter President, Treasurer, Vice President and as Council Vice President of Operations**

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## **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 - Monday, 8am—1pm,  
At the Urban Rest Stop**

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

#### **Dental Van**

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

#### **Large furniture pickup**

**Call store to schedule, first floor only**

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### **Newsletter Editors/Design:**

**Dennis Mihocko, Kathy Begley, Rich Hansen, Kathy Morgan, and Michael Morgan**

