

St. Vincent de Paul

Spring 2013

Volume 8, Issue 2



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Upcoming Events

Visit our website
for the latest on
upcoming events around
St Vincent de Paul in Medford

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Rogue Valley District

The Shelter - St. Anthony Conference



Shelter Manager, Nick Koutsouros, relaxes in the shelter living room.

Spanish Jesuit Baltasar Gracian's word's "*Know or listen to those who know,*" inspired the St. Anthony Conference to begin a journey of change.

The first step was a visit to the Women's Gospel Mission. After a tour, a talk and the beginnings of a friendship, Nick Koutsouros, shelter manager, and Kathy Morgan, conference president, made a another visit. This time it was a stop at the Salvation Army Hope House.

Both organizations offered support, suggestions and more than 45 years of combined experience on what makes a successful shelter.

Nick and Kathy listened, and were even able to dispel some rumors (the Hope House does take single men and single women and keeps families together). All three organizations realize we face the same challenges and goals, and agree that cooperation is essential.

Hope House and the

Women's Gospel Mission are places that offer a warm and loving environment. There are pictures on the walls and areas for socialization that make one feel at home. Both have reminders that Christ is to be seen in the poor. Each location insists that residents must **know** they are safe.

But the visitations did not stop there. Shelter members listened to Our Lady of Mountain, Sacred Heart and Shepherd of the Valley conferences. And actually heard what they had to say: A decision was made to make the St. Anthony Shelter a warmer and friendlier place.

And then the hard part -- **change.**

The shelter transformed its huge conference room into a new living room. It also created a bedroom for the handicapped, an improved dining room with a play area for younger kids, added new carpeting to the hallways (thanks to a generous discount from

The Shelter... Continued

Lippert's), did a thorough cleaning of all the bedrooms, added towel racks to the bathrooms and most importantly found a new philosophy.

Pastor Tom Sabens and his wife Jane, of Table Rock Christian Fellowship donated much of the estate from Tom's mother, Nadine. Beautiful framed paintings (16 of them to be exact), crystal lamps, chairs, throw pillows, a gaming table, a TV and entertainment center and other furniture grace the large new living room. Mr. and Mrs. Icenhower of Central Point added a luxurious leather recliner, love seat and chair.

Next up: the change in philosophy. This means expanding the hours for intake, reducing the amount of time for re-admission from six months to 30 days during the cold weather and having a conference president on-site plus two evenings a week. Add to that more understanding and love, and things begin to happen.

"Everyone is so much happier," Nick says. "They didn't change; we did. And it now seems like a home."

Written by Kathy Morgan

2013 Appreciation Dinner

The 2013 Appreciation Dinner was very well attended by over 230 wonderful volunteers on the evening of February 9. Irene Vaughn graced us by praying the Rosary with the early arrivals. The always popular social time followed with beverages and appetizers. Our own St Vinny's Tap-a-Tooties were received enthusiastically when they danced to the Broadway hit song "One", led by Kathy Begley along with dancers, Pat Dumas and Socorro Holloway. They also led us in singing "Lean on Me" while a video of volunteer pictures played. The dinner was catered by, well known, Donna Patella who was applauded for her excellent chicken parmesan and

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Letter from the President

Hello all you amazing volunteers. It was great seeing you all at the annual appreciation dinner if you were able to make it. It seemed everyone had a good time. I sure hope so. Being around you is the best part of being council President.



Caring for each other while caring for others, really brings home what a family of Vincentians we are. Praying for each other and giving heart-felt support when someone is struggling, is what we are called to do as Christians but so great to hear when it happens. Everyday at St Vinny's, please know that you are a part of something bigger than all of us - the work of Jesus in the world. He blesses each of us for the littlest thing we do for others, whether client, customer or volunteers. Even if we don't feel especially giving on any certain day, He makes it all work together for good. Thank you for caring about others especially each other. You make it happen.

In Memoriam - Tadashi "T" Hirenzaki

Kitchen volunteer for over three years, Tadashi Hirenzaki (T), passed away Dec 15, 2012 after a long illness. Many Vincentians attended a memorial for him Feb 2, 2013 at the Phoenix Library with the Japanese community.

For Tadashi from Helen Smith

When I came to St. Vincent's, I'd never cooked for 200 people and I was a bit overwhelmed. Tadashi showed me how to do the basics—lighting the ovens & pilot lights,

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Appreciation Dinner... continued

assisted by her great serving staff. Her husband, Pat, was our busy and appreciated beverage host. Dessert was various kinds of pies by Jim Potter of Rooster's Restaurant and he also cooks in our kitchen on Thursdays. Al Zon drew the winning names for numerous door prizes which were gift cards to various restaurants and Costco.

The St Vincent de Paul Len Hebert Humanitarian Award was presented by Len to Dr. Dave Moosman, this year's recipient. With over 20 years of dedicated volunteerism by Dave to St Vincent de Paul and the needy of Jackson County, his life has been one of continued service and compassion. He also has been our inspiring Spiritual Leader for many years. The award plaque hangs in our office lobby for all to see.

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St Vinny's Tap-a-Tooties, Socorro Holloway, Kathy Begley, and Pat Dumas



Left: Dave Moosman receives Humanitarian Award from Len Hebert and Dennis Mihocko.



Above: Dave Moosman receives 20 year pin from Dianne and Dennis Mihocko



Left: L to R - Dennis Mihocko, Terry Grogan, Lorna Zeitler and Len Hebert. Terry and Lorna receiving a Recognition Certificate from SVDP

Right: L to R - Dennis Mihocko, "Boogie" Robert Silva and Len Hebert. "Boogie" receiving a Recognition Certificate from SVDP





Above: Jose and Norma Sanchez receiving a Recognition Certificate from Dennis Mihocko

Below: Dianne and Dennis Mihocko congratulate Vincent Silis on his 25 year pin





10 year pin recipients. Thank you for a decade of helping others!



5 year pin recipients. Thank you for all you do!



**1 year pin recipients.
Even in one year, you have touched the lives of so many in need. Thank you!**



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Appreciation Dinner... continued

Continued from page 3

Certificates of Recognition were given to Jose and Norma Sanchez for their dedicated and continued service in the kitchen despite having a young family. One of Jose's two jobs is as an insurance agent where he has obtained Safeco Insurance Community Hero Awards for both Len Hebert and Dave Moosman the past two years. St Vincent has received \$5000 each of those years from Safeco.

Robert "Boogie" Silva also was presented with a Certificate of Recognition. He was discovered by Len Hebert over 5 years ago, cleaning our parking lots every week without being asked. When asked why he was doing it, he said it was the right thing to do. When he received the award he was heard to say that he quit twice over the years but still keeps coming back. His service is very much needed as is that of all.

The finale to the annual appreciation dinner was the presentation of service pins to those who have served the needy for over 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years. It was my pleasure again this year, to acknowledge in a very small way, the continued service of so many for so long. No one would ever be served if not for all the volunteers who keep coming to St Vincent to do their part in making a difference. Because of the faithfulness of all our volunteers over all these 30 plus years, the needy of Jackson County are fed, sheltered, clothed, consoled, counseled and served in so many ways. I thank all of them, true Vincentians, for making a difference every day.

To see more pictures from the Dinner.

Visit our website:

www.stvincentdepaulmedford.info

SVDP - 2012 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 141,000 members in 4360 conferences in the United States. We serve all who come regardless of race, creed or ethnic origin. The Rogue Valley District 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-almost 100,000 volunteer hours in 2012. We have no paid employees. Funding is derived from church donation, fundraising, direct cash donations, grants from Foundations, non-cash donations of food, 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, our Urban Rest Stop, our Food Pantry, our Kitchen Dining facility, our Social Services offices and our Administration offices. Our Thrift store is across the parking lot.

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

Social Services. With nineteen trained volunteers, almost 13,000 families and individuals were carefully screened and counseled last year, to provide 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

Annual Report... continued

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 110 volunteers operate the Thrift Store and served 9,500 people with voucher items at no charge. The store generated almost \$700,000 in revenue in 2012 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 11am to 1pm. Approximately 42 volunteers prepared and served almost 60,000 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 especially Christmas day dinner thanks to many 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, almost 22 volunteers provide bagged groceries on the last two Fridays of each month to qualified low-income families and individuals. The pantry served over 20,500 adults and

children last year with almost 11,000 sacks of groceries with a four-day supply in each sack. 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.

Shelter. Emphasis is on the emergency needs of parents with children. The shelter provided 4700 bed nights for families and single women. During their stay, each family is counseled and a plan is developed to get them back on their feet. Our partnership with LaClinica provides free Health Screening and free Dental services every Thursday working from our adjacent warehouse and neighboring property.

Administration. Fifteen volunteers answer telephones, greet and direct all visitors, track income and expenditures, pay bills, stay current on filing and computer input, and ensure we are organized and effective in serving our needy neighbors.

Ashland-Talent area. Through a referral system, twelve Ashland volunteers make home visits and provide Social Services to almost 1,300 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. Another group of volunteers make home visits to provide Social Services to almost 900 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 medicines from pharmaceutical companies.

Special work - Urban Rest Stop. This facility provided over 5400 showers and almost 1400 laundry loads to the needy in our area. *Continued page 11*

In Memoriam... continued

Continued from page 2

find leftovers and how to pinch hit from the freezer!

Tadashi was very generous: he let us all use his sharp knives for food prep. He kept a keen eye on the perishables in the fridge that might go bad and would ask me to use it or cook it for the serving line. Although English seemed to be a difficult language for him, he never let it become a barrier. But, most of all, Tadashi took good care of the clients—putting out produce for them to take. I would imagine that Tadashi was in considerable pain, especially toward the end, yet he came in and worked with each day's team without complaint. He would help out wherever the team needed help—food prep, washing pots & pans, moving perishables around so the oldest would be used first. I know our Tuesday team misses him and we try to continue to live out his Vincentian spirit of giving.

From Len Hebert. Speaking for the majority of the volunteers serving in St. Vincent's kitchen. Mr. "T" as we addressed him, was a special person with a kind heart and a desire to help all of us in his unique way and as well as to be interested in serving those in need. Because of his own health problems, there were times when he was in more need than the people he was serving, but he would be the last person to let that be known. We will all miss him for who he was and for all his help to those less fortunate.

Volunteer Highlight - Bob Petit

There is a wonderful, quiet man, Bob Petit, who has been washing the trays in our kitchen every Monday and Tuesday for over 12 years. He and his wife Margaret (Peggy) lived in Salem, Massachusetts where Bob was an optician and they raised their four sons and two daughters. They moved to Medford in 1995, when he and one of his four sons, opened an eyeglass store in Medford called "For Your Eyes Only". Being the good Catholics they are, they became parishioners of Our Lady of the Mountain. A few years later, his son moved to Long Island, New York, they sold the business and Bob retired. He came to St Vincent's in 2000, shortly after his wife Margaret (Peggy) passed away. He says he "enjoys coming here and doing the work. I need something to do. A body in motion tends to stay in motion."

He remembers the old kitchen, before the remodeling, when the old dishwasher was in the pantry and he had to haul the trays back to the kitchen. When the remodeling was complete, the old dishwasher was moved to where the new one is now, and everything was finally where it needed to be.

When asked how things have changed over his 12 years here, he said there are a lot more people coming here to eat. He also said he gets a lot of compliments from diners because he is often the last person they see before leaving the dining room. He lost a son in recent years and our concern for him and his family, I think, was a comfort to him. He seems to still enjoy spending time with other Vincentians serving the needy and being the hands of Christ, even though they may be dish panned hands. By the way, Bob turned 89 in January 2013. God Bless Bob and all of us for making St Vincent what it is to so many.



Bob Petit - 89 year old volunteer. Thank You!

Annual Report... continued

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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.

Special work -Free Emergency Dental.

Services are provided by twelve dentists, numerous 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 over \$100,000 in dental care to over 150 patients.

Special work - School Supplies. This project provided bags of grade-specific basic school supplies to over 4100 needy children in 2012. Sixteen volunteers enable this service with ongoing pantry help.

Special Services – Hair stylists/barbers cut hair one Monday per month. 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 2012, our grant writers were successful in raising about \$200,000 through 18 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 Estate Giving – Churches in Jackson County and direct donations accounted for over \$200,000 and Estate Giving for almost \$90,000.

Treasurers Office – The handling of our money including overhead bill payments, conference allocations, facility and property improvements and maintenance planning and especially our multiple year budget planning, is run by our dedicated daily treasurers lead by our Council Treasurer and inspired by our Financial Vice President.

Council Officers. Each of the operations (8 Conferences but excluding special works) described above is headed by a Council Board Member (Conference President). These members along with Executive Committee members, functional vice presidents, and the Council President make up the Board of Directors for the Council. Generally, the Executive Committee makes recommendations to the Council Board. The Council Board meets monthly, to approve recommendations, review recent activities, plan seasonal changes and develop future programs.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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US POSTAGE

PAID

MEDFORD, OR

PERMIT 348

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.

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