

St. Vincent de Paul

Spring 2014

Volume 9, Issue 2



Inside this issue:

Letter from President 2

Jasmine Christian 3

Thank You Ladies 3

Al Zon 9

Helpful Funds 10

Lil and Bill Howe 11

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

Appreciation Luncheon 2014



On February 16, 2014 St Vincent de Paul volunteers gathered at the Inn At the Commons' Banquet room (formerly The Red Lion) to receive the appreciation of each other on behalf of all our supporters. It was a welcomed change from the loud and crowded location of our own dining room. We have been talking for several years about eventually having to find a larger venue because of the increase in the number of volunteers and having to limit the number attending. This year we made that move and it seemed as if most everyone truly felt appreciated with only a modest increase in cost and a huge reduction in time and work required by our volunteers. Plus, more volunteers were able to attend because the event was a luncheon held from 1230-3pm, thereby eliminating the problem of driving at night.

Our President Socorro Holloway and

Volunteers fill the Banquet Room at the Inn At the Commons, formerly Red Lion, in Medford

Office President Kathy Begley worked for months to make this special day happen seamlessly and memorably. Socorro was our flawless emcee guiding us through an agenda that was inclusive, yet efficient in making all feel welcomed and truly appreciated.

Kathy Begley's picture and music presentation was a production of love, and a commentary on what we do and who we are. It was very well received and provided us all with a sense of pride for what was accomplished over the past and humility for the service that Jesus Christ calls us to do.

The facility was welcoming, the service was wonderful, and the table settings were beautiful, but modest. The food solicited great reviews, and overall, comments were very positive.

continued on page 8

Letter from the President

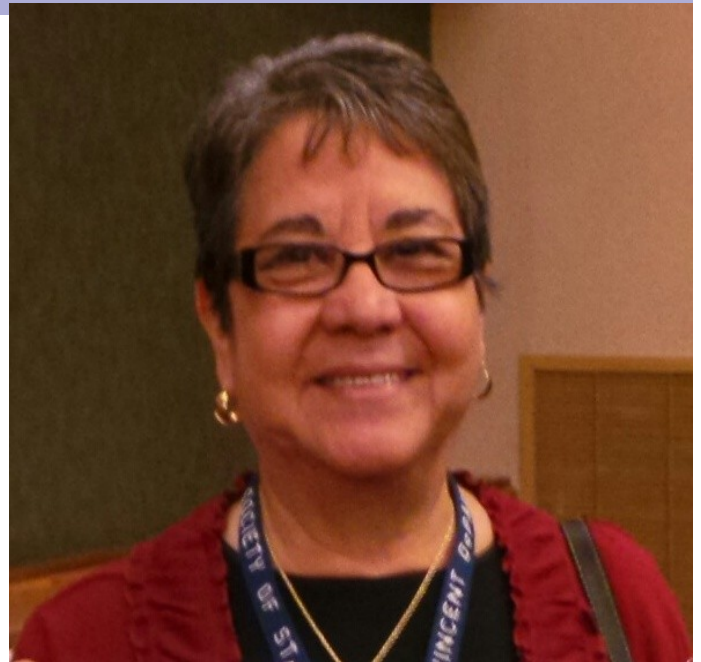
Dear Vincentian family, I am blessed and honored to have been appointed President of this great St. Vincent de Paul, Rogue Valley District Council. My trepidations have vanished since I have found all of you willing to help me when I have asked for your assistance. My most sincere **Thank you**.

We are a great organization; we should be so proud. As I visit your place of work (the store, kitchen, pantry, rest stop, social services etc.), I am amazed at the care and love with which you perform your job. I hear your laughter and teasing, and I am glad I belong too.

The Urban Rest Stop and Dining Room is "heaven" for our homeless clients. I see them arriving at 7:30 in the morning with the thought of a hot shower, dry clean clothes, and a hot cup of coffee. Most times a donut or sweet roll is so appreciated, especially the past months when we have had such cold and wet weather.

Recently I had company visiting, and we came to St. Vincent de Paul on a Saturday. I gave my friend a little tour around our premises. We entered the dining room, where I was greeted by name by some of our regulars. I stopped, said "hi," to them, and commented to my friend that Saturday's meal is prepared by The Mormons; the "regulars" said, "yes, they are a pretty good bunch too." My friend was impressed that not only the Mormons, but The First Presbyterian Church of Central Point also use our dining room facilities for special dinner service. She asked me if we charge a fee. I said, "Oh, my goodness no." Vincentian's calling is to help the forgotten, cold or hungry; they are the people we are here to serve.

My friend cried. She said she had heard of organizations like ours, but never had the opportunity to experience the camaraderie among the people. She



was also proud of Saturday's service since she is Mormon. Too bad I could not recruit her as she lives in California.

Vincentians, Thank you for your service. God's eyes are upon you. *Socorro Holloway*

Lil and Bill Howe

In the Fall 2013 issue of the newsletter, we highlighted a visit by Mary Jane Howe Webber, the youngest daughter of Lil and Bill Howe, our Rogue Valley District Council founders. In July, Mary Jane and her husband Rick, brought a group of teens from their church north of Portland to help serve the needy for a few days. Their help was greatly appreciated.

The article about their visit reminded me that we had not done an article about Lil and Bill before and that we did not have any pictures of Bill. Being a good husband and father, Bill was always on the backside of the camera. So we will share some pictures of Lil and Bill along with some memories of who they are and what they did.

Over thirty years ago, in 1982, Lil and Bill had a ***continued on page 11***

Long time Vincentian Jasmine Christian honored



Jasmine Christian honored by Soroptimists of Medford for her long standing volunteerism

Jasmine Christian, daughter of Shepherd of the Valley Food Pantry conference President Debbie Christian and Vice President Bob Christian, received The Violet Richardson Award from the Soroptimists of Medford for volunteering over eight years at St Vincent de Paul. Jasmine was awarded a check for \$200 and a certificate as the Soroptimists' third place recipient honoring young women for their charity actions.

Jasmine started volunteering at the age of seven, working with her parents in our thrift store, pantry and school supply programs, serving the thousands of needy in

Jackson County. She also volunteers with the Medford Food Project, as a Program Assistant for the past two years for the Girl Scouts summer day camp, and has served at various church dinners held throughout the year.

Pride, in Jasmine's heart of giving and service, is an understatement to how Debbie and Bob feel about their loving daughter. Jasmine has wonderful Christian examples in her parents, and all live up to their namesake.

Thank you, Jasmine for being a Christian example to us and others, especially young women. Congratulations on your well deserved recognition. We are all proud of the young lady you have become.

Written by Dennis Mihocko

Thank You Ladies

We have new Presidents of two conferences. Our Lady of the Mountain Home Visit Conference, Chici Cutting, has stepped down and Beth Hill is the new President. We thank you Beth for coming forward to serve. We owe a big thank you to Chici for her years of service in providing aid to the needy of Jackson County and especially Ashland and Talent. Chici is retired from the Jackson County Recorder's office and so serving others is part of who she is. Chici is facing health issues and so please do what we do so well as Vincentians, pray and care for each other. Thank you Chici for being a true Vincentian.

continued on page 11



Above: Socorro Holloway presents Frank Billovits with a plaque for his hardwork in Social Services.

Below: Karen McNeilly receives a plaque for her hard work at St Vincent de Paul store for over 25 years while John Hoffman and Socorro Holloway look on





Above: Two past Presidents and our new Leading Lady, Len Hebert, Socorro Holloway, and Dennis Mihocko

Below: Lots of good food for Good People





Rosemay and Garth Harrington prompt people to buy 50-50 tickets before the start of "Heads or Tails". Later they received a plaque for their hardwork and dedication.

With two long buffet tables, everyone was able to have their fill, or they just had extra dessert.





Good food, Good company, and room to Grow,
Inn At the Commons did a wonderful job hosting our Appreciation Luncheon.



Len Hebert, Dennis Mihocko, Al Zon, and Socorro Holloway.
The Three Amigos and our Leading Lady!

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Appreciation Luncheon... continued

Rosemary and Garth Harrington did what they do so well by running the icebreaker "Heads or Tails" with the three winners each receiving a lovely basket made by retired volunteer Betty Burgess.

Special recognition was given to Al Zon for receiving the Jackson County Volunteer of the Month for February 2014. He has been a hard working asset at St Vincent de Paul for over seventeen years and is the Council's Vice President of Operations, as well as, Past President, Vice President and Current Treasurer of St Anthony's family shelter. His twin brother, Len Hebert (not actually, though many think so) was flowing with praise and appreciation for Al's continuing and faithful diligence in insuring that St Vincent is a safe place where thousands may come to receive the help they need.

Karen McNeilly was acknowledged for her decades of service, hard work, and expertise, especially in managing the monumental activities of our fund-raising thrift store, with a plaque presented by Thrift Store Conference President John Hoffman. She later received her remarkable St Vincent de Paul twenty-five year pin from Socorro and Kathy.

Plaques were also presented to Richard Morley for his above and beyond dedication to serving others through the kitchen dining room, Rosemary and Garth Harrington for their years of community service and hard work as emcees and auctioneers for our fundraiser, Light the Winter Fires, as well as, Rosemary's continuing service counselling those who need rent and utility relief, clothing vouchers, ID's, camping gear, or just a reassuring referral to a helping hand. Frank Billovits received a plaque for his dedication in helping provide these social services, for supervising other counselors, and for sharing of himself to make a difference in the lives

of those in need. Dennis Mihocko received a plaque for his work as past president over the last three years and he acknowledged that Socorro Holloway's agreement to become our new President was an exciting step into the future of the Rogue Valley District Council.

The Pantry conference President Debbie Christian and the determined pantry crew were asked to stand for recognition, as was John Hoffman Store President and all the resilient store volunteers, Len Hebert and Stan Miller along with the "get it done" kitchen crews, Office conference President Kathy Begley and the lovely office volunteers, the caring and patient social service counselors representing Sacred Heart conference, Jim Van Orsow and Mario La Prova with the wonderful people of the treasurer's office, Al Zon representing, President Kathy Morgan and the compassionate and remarkable Shelter conference, Bill Holloway and Chris Forsythe along with the "go the extra mile" St Augustine Home Visitation conference, Our Lady of the Mountain home visitation conference President Beth Hill and the Vincentians whose motto is "no is not an answer", TC and Lee Meyers with the irrepressible volunteers of the Urban Rest Stop, Lynn Masterson and Pat Dumas of the ever vigilant Dental program, Gerry Basilicato our amazing computer guru, Michael Morgan our webmaster, newsletter editor and graphics expert, Laura Grosz for helping make school supplies an ongoing program, Dianne Mihocko as volunteer coordinator, the beautiful ladies who cut almost everyone's hair and the scores of others who help make such a difference in so many lives.

The presentation of service pins was made to Vincentians with 1-5 years of dedicated service, 5-10 years, 10-15 years, 15-20 years, 20-25 years, and *continued on page 9*

Appreciation Luncheon... continued

finally, 25 years, which was presented to our hard working and reliable store volunteer Margie Curry, and which Karen McNeilly received, as mentioned previously. It seems like such a little token of esteem for all our volunteers do, but a blend of the humility of a servant and the pride of being part of something so much greater than ourselves, inspires us to keep coming back day after day. The much awaited 50-50 raffle had 2 winners and one was so gracious as to donate half her winnings back to St Vincent de Paul, which made it a very special raffle.

It was a wonderful act of generosity amid a truly loving event. Also, one person at each table won a bottle of wine.

Thank you is so inadequate to express the sentiment for all the love shown by all the Vincentian volunteers' day after day and year after year, but it will have to do. **THANK YOU!**

Written by Dennis Mihocko

Check out our Profiles, Volunteers page!



Thank You Al Zon

Al Zon was honored as February 2014 volunteer of the month by Jackson County Commissioners John Rachor, Don Skundrick and Doug Breidenthal on January 29 in the Commissioners' Chamber. He was recognized for his seventeen years of service at St Vincent de Paul helping the needy of our county. Al is Council Vice President of Operations as well as

Al Zon, with plaque, and his fan club, outside the Jackson County Commissioners building.

Past-President, Vice President and Current Treasurer of St Anthony's family shelter. He has been the "man in charge" for most of those years every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and "Go ask Al" is heard several times a day because of his expertise in dealing with all the challenges that
continued on page 10

Al Zon... continued

come with providing all the daily services provided by all our wonderful volunteers.

Al Zon is the youngest of nine children born in 1933 and raised in the small French Catholic community of Oakwood, North Dakota near the borders of Minnesota and Manitoba, Canada. His amazing mother raised all nine children on her own when his father became ill.

Al worked for the railroad for many years, got married to Fran and started raising eight children. He was in the Army for two years and received his degree in business education from Mayville College in North Dakota, almost simultaneously. After teaching for three years in Elko, Nevada, he and his family moved to Phoenix, Oregon where he taught business at the Phoenix High School for twenty-seven years until he retired.

Besides volunteering at St Vincent de Paul, he volunteers as office manager at AA Hotline where he has helped so many for years.

On top of all this, Al was very instrumental, along with Dave Moosman, in making the Urban Rest Stop, a place for anyone to shower and do laundry, a reality and a vital part of who we are. Plaques recognizing their efforts hang on the wall in the Urban Rest Stop as a reminder of what can be done when Christ inspires us to go the extra distance.

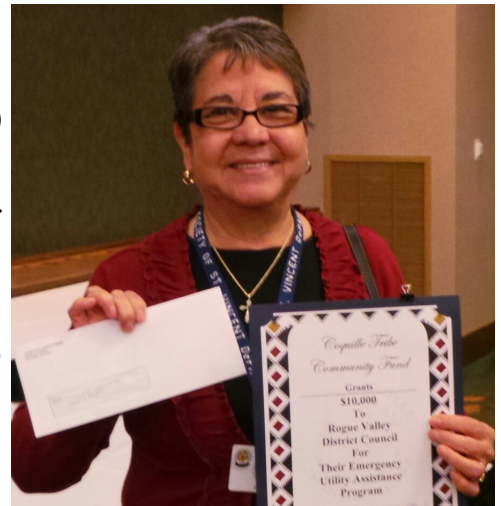
Al's continuing and faithful diligence in insuring that St Vincent is a safe place where thousands come to receive the help they need, is a shining example and a beacon of caring. Thank you for all you do.

Written by Dennis Mihocko

Helpful Funds for Our Programs

Early in the year is usually pretty slow for receiving grants at St. Vincent's, but usually pretty heavy for drafting grant applications which we hope to receive in the summer months.

Nevertheless, we received several very generous donations in recent weeks. First was \$10,000 from the Coquille Tribal Community Fund for emergency utility assistance. We also received \$1,000 from Larry and Ann Horton for utility relief. The entire St. Vincent's volunteer family says "thanks!"



Socorro Holloway receives Coquille Tribal Community Fund grant

In December we received a flurry of year-end donations. Included were \$1,500 from Avista and \$1,000 from the Medford Congregational Church of Christ for Social Services. Community Health gave us a very welcome \$7,500 check to continue our prescription drug program.

An unsolicited donation of \$5,700 worth of winter clothing came from the Zumiez Foundation and \$5,000 from the Old Bolfie Foundation which was used for rent relief.

Finally in December, the Coleman Family Fund donated \$5,000 for school supplies, the Raymond Family Foundation gave \$5,000 for the Pantry, the Naumes Family Foundation donated \$1,500 for the Kitchen and the Greater Medford Rotary gave us \$3,500 for the dental program.

Written by Rich Hansen



Lil and Bill Howe

Lil and Bill Howe... continued

vision, along with other big hearted parishioners of Sacred Heart Church. They saw a place for a St Vincent de Paul conference that would serve the needy of the Medford area. The Holy Spirit was definitely working in 1982, for that vision spread quickly to Our Lady of the Mountain and Shepherd of the Valley churches. All in one year the three church conferences formed the Rogue Valley District Council. From a soup kitchen, pantry, free clothing, and cold weather shelter at Sacred Heart Church and the old Rectory, to a thrift store on Central Ave and capped by the acquisition of Eddie's Good Times on N Pacific Hwy in the 1990's, St Vincent in Jackson County has grown into an eight conference, three special works service campus located on over 4 acres.

About 300 volunteers help provide lunches served six days a week, food bags given out twice per month, along with emergency food on week days, rent and utility relief, medication assistance, home visitations, family shelter, shower and laundry facilities, office assistants helping the needs of all, twice monthly emergency dental clinics, school supplies every August to students K-12, furniture, housewares, clothing and camping gear, haircuts

twice monthly, a treasurer's office to manage our finances, grant writers to help with funding, and our amazing Thrift store which brings in almost half of our annual budget. 100% all volunteers make this happen.

The legacy started by our founders, Lil and Bill Howe and friends and family, has grown into something that continues to serve the increasing needy of Jackson County. What started as a vision is a reality that we all can take joyful pride in whenever we reflect on the sacrifice of our Vincentians both past and present. We are family. We are the hands, feet, backs, minds, and hearts of Christ serving Christ in all those we meet. Thank you all and thank you to the Howe family for sharing Lil and Bill with us. God Bless us all always.

Written by Dennis Mihocko

Thank You Ladies... continued

St Augustine Home Visit Conference, serving Central Point, Medford, Phoenix and northern Jackson County, has been led by Chris Forsythe for six years. Last year, Bill Holloway became President after Chris had served for six years. Chris is a case worker for Jackson County Mental Health where she has served those in need of care for many years. Though raising a family with husband Tom, she is still active as treasurer of the conference. Thank you, Chris, for giving your life for family, community and friends. You show the Heart of Jesus.

Written by Dennis Mihocko

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SVDP Hours

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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

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Call store to schedule, first floor only

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