

St. Vincent de Paul

Spring 2015

Volume 10, Issue 1



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Upcoming Events

Light the Winter Fires

Wednesday, September 16th

11:30 am–1pm

Inn at the Commons

School Supplies

Aug. 10th–Aug. 13th

3pm–7pm

SVDP Dining Room

Volunteers Needed!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Rogue Valley District

Appreciation Luncheon 2015



On Sunday February 15th Vincentians came together at The Inn at the Commons for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

Everyone was in a festive mood and many were dressed in their finery, a distinct difference from our usual volunteer work garb.

This was the second year the event was held at The Inn at the Commons and we all seemed to enjoy a great time, great lunch and a well-deserved opportunity to just socialize.

Kathy Begley, our Executive Assistant, welcomed us all to an afternoon of food, fun and festivities. Kathy also provided a brief history of our Council's early days and the journey that brought us all together. Socorro Holloway, our indomitable leader and Council President,

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

was absent due to the passing of her husband and our Vincentian example, Bill Holloway. Socorro's letter was read by Kathy, with an emphasis on "do I make a difference?" That set the tone for the luncheon.

Rosemary Harrington was our incomparable and joyous Emcee, breaking the ice with the ever popular Heads or Tails. Rosemary skillfully introduced the program items and facilitated the overall flow of the party. As always, Rosemary was great!

Fr Jim Clifford graciously offered the blessing of our meal, and a special blessing for all Vincentians past, present and future.

Kathy Begley did an excellent job of recapping our year. Each

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Letter from the President

Dear Vincentian Family, I feel blessed by having my Vincentian Family. I want to give you my most heartfelt thanks for all the cards, phone calls, home visits, and words of encouragement after my husband Bill's passing. Thank you for making his Memorial Service so special. I am sure he was looking down and was proud of his Military and Vincentians buddies saying goodbye.

Bill and I made many wonderful memories with our friends, our family here at St. Vincent. Four weeks after Bill's death, our granddaughter gave birth to a baby boy. She and her husband honored Bill by naming their baby boy "Luke William" which gives me much happiness.

I find peace and comfort when I am busy, as I am when working at St Vincent, keeping up my yard, and my Wednesday hikes. Thank you all very much for being with me when I needed you the most.

Just as I need all of you, St Vincent de Paul needs more volunteers. It seems most Conferences are short-handed. Social Services could use 2 -3 counselors. The Thrift store is looking for cashiers and the receiving area is short-handed. Shepherd of the Valley home visit team is looking for a couple to do home visits. (Home visits are always done in pairs) a team of husband and wife is ideal. The kitchen needs a dishwasher and servers. Talk to your friends and family and boast about the good time you have while volunteering at SVDP.

The work we do is appreciated by many, not only by the unemployed, under-employed,



mentally ill, emotionally disturbed, or substance dependent people. In the dining room often we see elderly people socializing and enjoying a meal, or lonely people not socializing at all. Please stop and say hello. Thank them for being here and make them feel welcome.

We are Vincentians and in the poor, we see the face of Christ.

Thank you and God Bless You

Socorro

William J. Holloway - In Memoriam

August 16, 1937 – February 9, 2015

A literally, larger-than- life personality graced us all for many years, especially in the Augustinian home visit conference at Shepherd of the Valley Church , the Urban Rest Stop, and as the "Donut Man" picking up donuts at 4am so clients would have something to tide them over until our 11am lunch. I am speaking of our own and be-

(Continued on page 3)

William J. Holloway... continued



Bill Holloway will be sorely missed by all

loved Bill Holloway and husband of our President, Socorro.

Bill and Socorro worked for years visiting those who could not come to us by helping them in their own homes. It was soon discovered that Bill's heart was bigger than himself. When the Urban Rest Stop was started, Bill became a guiding light for those who came in to shower and do laundry. Because of Bill, TC, Lee and so many other volunteers, those who came in, received more than just services. They received friendship and a caring place to escape the lonely streets. Bill often went the extra mile in helping others. He took part in people's lives, giving haircuts, providing rides to those in need, giving advice when asked and finding answers to many people's

dilemmas.

On Dec 7th 2014, Pearl Harbor day, as if requested by God himself, we honored Bill for his many years of service with a Marine Honor Guard and a plaque at our volunteer Christmas party.

Al Zon read the plaque which stated "To Bill Holloway. For your many years of tireless service in providing basic services to the needy in their homes as well as in the Urban Rest Stop. You are a guiding star to what we are called to be. With love from all the Vincentians. Haze gray and under way"

"Haze gray and under way" is a navy greeting that Bill graced us with, when you saw him in the URS or in the office. The color of Navy ships is called haze gray and under way meant you were leaving port on another tour at sea. Bill was able to share a few words of thanks for honoring him and the Honor Guard concluded by leading us all in the pledge of allegiance.

Here is Bill's obituary:

William "Bill" Holloway was born on August 16, 1937 to Pascal C. Holloway and Ruby Zoe Brow in Douglas, Wyoming.

At the age of 17, Bill joined the U.S. Navy and served for 30 years, retiring in 1984. His Navy career included serving during the Vietnam Conflict and aboard the USS Yorktown, USS Blue Ridge, and the USS

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Above: (L to R) Al Zon, Dennis Mihocko, and Len Hebert. Al Zon received the St Vincent de Paul Len Hebert Humanitarian Award.

Below: Kathy Begley (top), Len Hebert (L), and Mary Anne Hebert (R) look over the various prizes for the Volunteers





Above: Sacred Heart's Deacon Ron and his wife

Below: Lots of good food for Good People





Len Hebert (center) talks with kitchen volunteers Jose and Norma Sanchez

(L-R) Robert Lent, Martha Lent, Mioko Hirata, and Danshiro Hirata wait for the festivities to begin.





Kitchen volunteers (L to R) Mike and Susie Jones, Kathy Joseph and her mother, with office/store/treasurer volunteer Maureen Henderson and other volunteers.



Executive Assistant Kathy Begley graciously hosted the appreciation luncheon

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Appreciation Luncheon... continued

conference was acknowledged and a brief description of each was given. It takes all the different conferences to make things happen and to provide all the services that we are proudly known for.

A video presentation showcasing “Sean and Joanne”, clients that were helped by St. Vincent de Paul, answered the question, “do I make a difference?” We all made a difference in their lives. Each and every one of us who make up the Rogue Valley District Council of St Vincent de Paul, make that difference happen. We are definitely an amazing collection of diverse, eclectic, and talented people, united in the purpose for which God created us -- to serve others.

Though everyone deserves kudos and praise for their ongoing, long term hard work, Al Zon was recognized for his almost twenty years of service. Len Hebert presented Al with the St. Vincent de Paul Len Hebert Humanitarian Award. Al shared his thank you for the acknowledgement and I believe shed a few tears of joy for the well-earned praise.

Many of us bought tickets for a 50/50 raffle and two lucky people went home with a few hundred dollars. The excitement generated by the raffle was followed by drawings for lucky door prize winners who received baskets by Linda Holland or bottles of “fermented grape beverage” for their imbibing at a later time.

All in all, everyone had a wonderful time. Thank you to all who donate their Talent, Time, or Treasure! You are Greatly Appreciated!

Bill Holloway... continued

Midway. He was stationed in Japan for much of his career. He reached the rank of Signalman Master Chief, the highest enlisted rank in the Navy.

Bill and Socorro married in 1990 and moved to Medford, Oregon where he enjoyed golf, racquetball, and gardening. While attending church at Shepherd of the Valley, he answered a plea for volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP). He was involved with SVDP’s Urban Rest Stop, Needy Med’s Program, and Shepherd of the Valley’s Home Visit Team. For fifteen years, Bill was instrumental in helping Medford’s homeless with social service resources, advice, haircuts and donuts.

He is survived by his wife, Socorro; brother James O. Holloway of Moore, Oklahoma, and sister Vickie Griswold of Warren, Michigan, daughter Linda Beam, granddaughter Stephanie (Lorenzo) Valdivia, and great-grandson Jared Valdivia. He leaves behind many loving nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers: James A. Holloway, Cloyd T. “Mike” Hall, and sisters: Jackie Donovan, Marie Adams, and Debbie Acuna.

Memorial services were held on Monday, February 16th, 2015, in the St. Vincent de Paul’s Dining Room. In lieu of flowers, Socorro and family asked that a donation be sent to St. Vincent de Paul in Bill’s memory.”

We did gather on February 16th, volunteers and clients alike, to say farewell to Bill with a

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Bill Holloway... continued

funeral mass by Fr Jim Clifford and Fr Mike Walker in the St. Vincent de Paul's Dining Room. A Naval officer and a Chief Petty officer were present to provide full honors to Bill, and Don Krolak assisted. Loving words were shared by several people including Kathy Begley, Len Hebert, Lee Meyers, Gale Tepper and Dennis Mihocko.

As Bill started his eternal tour of heaven, we all wished him a "Haze Gray and Under Way." farewell.

Peace to you Bill. You are a good and faithful servant.



Al Zon, Just Ask Al!

Thank You Al Zon

Al Zon was honored at the February 15th Volunteer Appreciation luncheon with the revered St Vincent de Paul Len Hebert Humanitarian Award. Len presented Al with a plaque, but time did not allow him to elaborate on Al's accomplishments. Therefore I will take some space to enumerate some of Al's well known acts of compassion and some more of his life's history.

Al Zon was honored as February 2014 volunteer of the month by Jackson County Commissioners John Rachor, Don Skundrick, and Doug Breidenthal on January 29th 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 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 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, Neva-

(Continued on page 10)

Al Zon... continued

da, 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 the **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 reality and a vital part of who we are, where anyone can shower and do laundry. 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 always. I will continue to "ask **Al**".

Spring Fund Raising Generous

Spring fund raising has been very generous to **St. Vincent's**.

Most of the funds were ear-marked for **Social Services**. These included \$75,000 from the **Oregon Community Foundation's Walker Fund**. We also received \$15,000 from **Medford's Carpenter Foundation**.

The **Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation** gave us \$10,000, as did **OCF's Coleman Fund**.

We received \$5,000 each from the **Medford Water Commission** and **Pacific Power**. **Washington Elementary** and the **St. Martin de Porres Trust** both gave us \$500.

The **Pantry** will receive \$10,000 from the **Providence Foundation** and \$1,000 from the **Dwyer Charitable Trust**.

We are also scheduled to receive **Community Development Block Grants** through the **Cities of Ashland and Medford**. **Ashland** will receive \$17,432 and **Medford** \$7,000.

The **Urban Rest Stop** has been a major focus of our fund raising efforts. The **Meyer Memorial Trust** awarded **St. Vincent's** nearly \$20,000 for the current remodeling. In addition, the **Council** has chosen to undertake a major \$125,000 expansion of the **URS** next summer.

To finance this, we are working closely with the **Ben B. Chaney Foundation**, **Collins Foundation**, **Providence Foundation**, **Oregon Community Foundation** and the new **Jackson County Christian Charities Golf Invitational**.

Store Windows

All the people who have come to **St Vincent's** amazing **Thrift Store** in the last six months, were greeted by windows painted with seasonal themes, thanks to the vision of store manager, **Karen McNeilly**. Christmas obviously

(Continued on page 11)

Store Windows... continued



One of the many beautiful pieces of artwork to adorn the store windows

provided the most cheerful and festive scenes, inviting shoppers, clients, and volunteers to come on in and join the adventure.

Easter pictures on the store windows were inspiring and uplifted us with the promise of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope of spring eternal. I cannot imagine vehicles going by without the occupants noticing the beautiful scenes on the windows and not thinking about coming in to shop or at least planning on coming in at a later date. If the eye catcher is key to advertising, then the art work on glass reminds people where we are and gives them a message of hope and joy.

Mother's Day probably elicited memories

of unconditional love and caring. The image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Holy Son Jesus seemed to capture the mother-child relationship that prompts us to honor the ladies we call mom.

Spring is the current window theme showing children chasing butterflies and flowers in bloom. It cannot help but lift the spirits of those who view our window dressing.

All this colorful painting is the creative work of a wonderful window artist, Don Blood. He seems to change the images magically without fanfare or attention. The next thing you know, the windows have a new, wonderful look. So here we can acknowledge Don and thank him for the beauty created on the reflecting canvas of our store.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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NONPROFIT ORG

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 - Monday, 9am—1pm,
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 and Michael Morgan

