

St. Vincent de Paul

Summer 2013

Volume 8, Issue 3



Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Rogue Valley District

SAVE THE DATE!
SEPTEMBER 15, 2013

St. Vincent de Paul
LUAU at Bybee's Historic Inn

Light the Winter Fires 2013 is St Vincent de Paul of Medford's key fundraising event for the year. The event is at the critical time just before the cold months of winter and allows SVDP to best aid those who need it most, when it is most needed. Watch this space and our website for more details in the future.

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September 15th, 2013

The Miracle of Spring

In this garden land we call southern Oregon is St. Vincent De Paul's Thrift Store on North Pacific Highway. There is probably no other store in the valley that sees such a mix of society. Property from estates, from the many retirement homes and senior condos arrives daily, as well as items of more ordinary quality. Perhaps six hundred individuals of all social classes, incomes, and states of mind and body, shop here each day. The parking lot is seldom empty. All this makes the store a country garden, where the roses, the foxgloves, the weeds, and forget-me-nots of our human community converge.

I volunteer as a cashier in this microcosm, but when the season is spring and the weather fine, the normally friendly atmosphere of the thrift store clarifies and hearts brighten. An elderly woman with gray hair, thrilled by the change in weather, exults: "Its like we've been let out of prison."

A young man, with orange hair and goggle glasses comments: "It's a good day!"

A matron, with matching earrings and necklace chirps: "Its so beautiful. I am loving it. It makes you feel good compared with the cold and dreary days."

Outside in the parking lot, I can see grass. The trees are popping buds, and early flowers are blooming. The broken, the homeless, the seniors raising their children's child, those with coughs and wheezes, the hollow-eyed artists, the homeless needing shoes: In our shared appreciation of the day, we celebrate something more profound than a few gradations on the Fahrenheit scale.

"How is it going?" I ask.

"Good, " the mother with a young infant replies. "How are you?"

"Thank you. God bless!," an elderly man with cane exclaims.

Others continue the refrain.

"I am fine, its nice and sunny."

Miracle of Spring... Continued



"Que tenga buen dia!"

A middle-aged woman in a wheelchair, comments: "Everybody is in a good mood. It's the weather and the flowers. Keep the mood going."

On a spring day, we are joined with others in recognizing a super-plus of meaning of everything around us that is somehow greater than all of its parts. It is the presence of God, it is love, it is the gift of life. And for this we pause in wonder and give thanks. *Written by Larry Mullaly*

Dave Moosman

Dave Moosman always knew he had a calling to help people. At the ripe old age of seven, he decided to become a doctor; and nothing could stop him. But there was a slight delay.

He was enrolled at Cal Berkley when World War II broke out. So he ended up in the service as a medical corpsman at Walter Reed Hospital. When the war ended, Dave wanted to head back to California. But it was too late to start the semester there. Not to be deterred, he waltzed in to Columbia University with transcript in hand. "I started the next day," he says. Then it was on to

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Letter from the President

I am always humbled and awed by the thought of what you all did, do and will do to serve those in need day after day. Though the faces of volunteers and clients change over time, the same Vincentian spirit we share remains

constant as God's love that inspires it. Change is always inevitable, as we all know too well.

Such a change has occurred with the departure of Financial Vice President Mario La Prova and Treasurer Jim Van Orsow stepping down to become an associate treasurer. Though we will never be able to replace either of them, they have established an excellent treasurer's office and procedures and a budget policy to serve us for years to come. I thank them for their diligence and constant hard work to put us in such a secure position. We will remain financially responsible thanks to the dedicated treasurers who continue this legacy.

Another inevitable change will be the end of my presidency. The term of the president is for three years for up to two terms. I have some health problems that persist and so I have discerned through prayer that it is wise to find a new president elect. My first term will be completed at year's end, so a search committee has been established to find that new president. I will remain as past president for up to one year and even then I will remain as involved as I can be in some capacity. I think the Vincentian spirit is in my DNA by now. I will always be a Vincentian. God Bless You Always. And he always does.

Dennis Mihocko



Dave Moosman... continued

New York Medical College where he earned his MD.

Folks at St. Vincent de Paul should not be surprised by his success. Dave has done scores of projects for the Society, but now he has to put on the brakes. Because of health issues and diminished capacity, Dave is stepping down and becoming an inactive member of SVDP.

He may be down, but everyone knows he isn't out.

And if you talk to him, he really isn't even inactive. Right now he is working with the Haven Project, helping to facilitate and organize the community. "We want to provide a vehicle to influence county government," he says "To help them see it is futile to conduct campground raids and let them know the homeless have rights."

Dave, who has been on the Rogue Valley District Council since 1995, sees himself coming back and doing *something*. "

"Last week he was in almost every day," laughs Al Zon, Vice President of Operations. "It's hard to imagine him slowing down."

Dave insists he is not worried about what it will be or what is to be. "This is a natural outcome of life," he says. "I have a conviction that God is in charge, and I accept whatever it is. I'm not afraid to die tomorrow."

But it seems only fitting to talk of the many yester-days and all the impetus Dave has given to St. Vincent de Paul:



URS Team: L to R Bill Holloway, Lee and T C Meyers, Joanie Bruce, Gale Tepper, Dave Moosman, Joel Tabias and Kathy Sangar

Creating the Family Homeless Shelter and the Urban Rest Stop, serving as Spiritual Director, getting the conferences aggregated, bringing Father Pedro to us, getting computers and Wi-Fi connections for the homeless, working on the Beacon of Hope Capital Campaign and the Homeless Task Force. And the list goes on and on and on.

He has been an outstanding person; there is no doubt about it." Al says. "He is the one who got me started at SVDP. After I had cancer surgery, I said I needed something to do, and Dave showed me the way. I am truly grateful."

But if you thank Dave for his hard work and accomplishments; he bristles. "It's not me," he says with a stern doctor-like stare "It's the Holy Spirit."

Yet it wasn't always that way. Dave practiced medicine in Walnut Creek, California. He and his first wife had seven children. During that time, he attended Mass with the family and finally made the decision to become Catholic. The kids all went on to become successful, but the marriage failed.

Dave came to Medford in 1985, and began working at the White City Domiciliary. During his time in the Rogue Valley he had two life changing experiences. "I learned to *let go and let God*," he says. "And I met Pat, the love of my life."

Dave Moosman... continued

He and Pat married and share not only their lives, but the same philosophy about life. "We know perfectly that God will provide." He uses the shelter as an example.

The whole building project started when the shelter began looking around to expand, he says. "Dick Handley and Bill Schueller were instrumental in getting the whole thing started."

This humble man will not accept accolades or praise, unless he is praising God. "If God has taught me anything," he says "It's that He is in charge and He deserves the credit.

But we're going to do it anyway: Thanks, Doc, for everything you have given to St. Vincent de Paul.

Written by Kathy Morgan

Mario La Prova Retires

On April 26, St. Vincent de Paul had a reception for a lost treasure: Mario La Prova, Vice President of Finance. The well-attended farewell was a show of appreciation for the retired CPA (who spent two years as treasurer of the Sacred Heart Conference and five years as VP of Finance) for his innovative work and dedication.

The quiet, accomplished gentleman made giant strides for the financial operations of The Rogue Valley District Council. But in April he was offered a job with Consumer Credit Counseling of Southern Oregon. He is in charge of services' AARP Money Management Program. Working 15 hours a week, he oversees two programs that provide assistance to the disabled and seniors to help them pay their bills



Kathy La Prova, SVDP President Dennis Mihocko, and Mario La Prova

"I wasn't really looking for employment," Mario says. "But the opportunity came up."

Leaving St. Vincent de Paul was not easy for him.

In January, he made the difficult decision to stop being an officer. "I cried," he says. "But it was time to go." Yet he still monitors the Treasurer's offices remotely from his home. He comes in once a month to check things out; and he meets with his former crew every three months.

"Of all the people who left St. Vincent de Paul, you are the last person I wanted to see go," says Al Zon, Vice President of Operations while speaking at the reception.

"Thank you for your hard work and sacrifice in serving others as Financial Vice President all these years. You have put us on a rock solid foundation. God Bless You Always," says Dennis Mihocko, President of St. Vincent de Paul. "Thank you Mario for all you have done and will do."

Others who worked under him agree. "Mario is such a good analyst," says Elssy Kinyon, who replaced Mario for several years as treasurer of the Sacred Heart Conference. She says he remade the financial department.

Mario La Prova... continued

Mario began by creating uniform guidelines for donations, devising a system whereby the nine different conferences all began to follow the same rules and Standard Accounting Practices. He even set-up safeguards to ensure that a private CPA verifies his final reports.

He created a two-inch accounting manual; designed a new way to do the annual report (complete with manual); created new procedures to ensure that the financial reports matched the IRS reports. And even made it possible to generate up-to-date information on everything from how many people eat in the dining room each day to how much each conference spends on what and why with a stroke of the computer.

"I always said the reason we are here today at this time is to lay down a foundation for future treasurers: step-by-step," he says.

Mario gives credit to the people he worked with: nine folks who were willing to learn his system. He will still figure into the treasurer's office until a replacement is found.

"Mario was a very important person to the Financial Management functions of our Council over the years," says former Council President Len Hebert. "It was a pleasure to receive the help he gave us."

"I have a great love for St. Vincent de Paul," Mario says. "But I look forward to the challenge of my new job."

We're sure he will be a welcome addition.

Written by Kathy Morgan

Artwork for Shelter donated by Quakers



Elsie Williams and Roy Marlia admire some of the new artwork

Walk down the hallways of the refurbished shelter, and you may think you just entered an art gallery. Original paintings, reproductions, oils, acrylics, prints, watercolors and even a photo from Ansel Adams fill the facility. There is even art in the laundry room and bathroom.

The majority was donated with a little help from some Friends: The South Mountain Friends Meeting in Ashland.

"It's a project our small group really got behind," says Linda Spencer, former Volunteer Coordinator and dental clinic director, who spearheaded the art drive. The Friends (Quakers) were generous with their donations; giving 38 pieces to SVDP.

"Many people who take a tour of the shelter comment that it looks like a high-class hotel," says Kathy Morgan, shelter president.

The St. Anthony Conference and the residents of the shelter enjoy the gifts from our neighbors to the south every day of the week.

Thank- you kind Friends.

Written by Kathy Morgan

Remembering Those Who Serve

On Saturday May 25, our local Red Lobster celebrated Memorial day and its recent remodeling, by honoring all our nation's military personnel, past and present, during a flag raising ceremony outside the entrance. Veterans Bill Holloway and Gale Tepper, who are very active St Vincent de Paul volunteers, were honored and



Bill and Gale raise the flags at Red Lobster

privileged to raise our nation's symbol of freedom while Red Lobster employees and others participated in the festivities. Red Lobster has been a wonderful community partner with St Vincent in service to the needy of Jackson County.

Written by Dennis Mihocko



Stan Miller

It's Monday morning and Stan Miller, the new Vice President of the Kitchen Conference, is up to his ears in corn. Never one to shuck responsibility, Stan joins several other volunteers as they get the vegetables ready for cooking. Dressed in shorts, a t-shirt, work boots and a plastic apron, he works with the ease and speed of one from a former mid-western farmer. But Stan is a product of California.

After owning five restaurants in the Rogue Valley, he also is a man at home in the kitchen. Feeding 250 people a day is an easy job for him. But it didn't start out that way

Stan spent most of his young life working in the juvenile justice system in California. Eventually, he became disenchanted. "I was given a 17-year-old boy to work with," he says. "The young man had 48 arrests between the age of 11 and 17." He shrugs and sighs." It was futile."

But the new Vice President, who started working at age 10 and was paying rent at the young age of 14, was not deterred. He decided to try his hand at real estate. "I was looking for a piece of property where I could open my own version of Boy's Town," he says. "But progress got in the way." Real estate was booming, prices were high and he did manage to be very successful, but never founded his Boy's Town.

Yet the desire to help teens never died.

Twenty-seven years ago, he was looking for a change of scenery. He and Shirley, his wife of 48 ½ years, moved to the Rogue Valley to buy a restaurant.

The first Bruno's Pizza opened in November 1987. Six months later he opened another. Eventually he had five restaurants in his inventory. "I only hired teens," he said. "I know Bruno's made a huge difference in people's lives; helping teens get ready for the next level." He still gets cards from former employees.

Stan Miller... continued

As the pots boil on the stove, the oven heats up, and a crew of eager cooks get ready for the day's lunch, Stan is obviously at home in the kitchen. He answers questions, gives directions, cracks a corny joke or two and keeps the place running efficiently.

"After I retired, I wanted to work with Right to Life," say the father of a son in his forties. "Then Len (Hebert) pressed me in to service. See? I'm a complete failure," he adds with a husky laugh and another shrug. "Len intruded on my Sunday morning Mass appealing for help, and here I am."

As the new Vice President, Stan comes into the job with his eyes wide open: "Momma didn't raise any fools," he says. "Being Vice President can lead to activities other people don't want to do."

"Stan is a good guy," Len says. "He has a lot of resources." His fellow volunteers are quick to point that out. "Look at the tiles," says Bob Christian, of the food pantry, "Stan donated them and put them all in." The kitchen also sports new stainless steel counters, and a more organized feel.

How does Stan feel about St. Vincent's? He's only been on board since October of last year, but he already has some lasting impressions. "I'm amazed that it is all- volunteer," he says. "And the food we get donated from Red Lobster, the Manor, Olive Garden, Donut Country, Pizza Hut, and Dominoes and others."

He enjoys working with people, being able to joke around and applying some of what he has learned in his 69 years on this earth. He says he has always believed that you have to do something other than self.

"I do battle the feeling that sometimes I am helping and other times I may be enabling. I don't know how many people who come here to eat could be



Stan Miller shucking corn

contributing to society instead. But it is uplifting to help those in real need."

Yet he says he has never had a moment of regret. "I don't know how long I'll be here, but when I start something I finish the job."

And this just may be his "Field of Dreams."

Written by Kathy Morgan



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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

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