

St. Vincent de Paul

Summer 2014

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Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Rogue Valley District

Visitation by Archbishop Alexander Sample



Archbishop Alexander Sample converses with volunteers and diners at St Vincent de Paul, during his May 20th visit to the Rogue Valley for the annual Archbishop's Invitational Golf Tournament

On Tuesday May 20th, St Vincent de Paul was graced by a visit from Portland Archbishop Alexander Sample, who was in the Medford area for the annual Archbishop's Invitational Golf Tournament at Eagle Point Golf Course. The Archbishop was given an in depth tour of our wonderful campus of service by our own Executive Assistant Kathy Begley. The Archbishop's first stop was appearing at the Thrift store meeting hosted by Store manager Karen McNeilly and Store conference President John Hoffman. He praised the dedication and hard work of all

the store volunteers for raising almost half our annual budget through the sale of donated items and providing clothing and housewares to those in need. With an all-volunteer work force and no payroll, the Archbishop was impressed with the 32 years of phenomenal service provided by such a remarkable community of caring Vincentians. Following the store meeting, he visited our Social Service conference where he was told how our counselors help the needy with rent and utility relief, IDs, medicine, clothing and housewares vouchers; among many other services. *continues page 4...*

Letter from the President

Dear Vincentian Family,

It is said: "Time flies when you are having fun". I can't believe half of the year is gone.

Several good things have happened here at St. Vincent de Paul: We had our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic thanks to Di Johnson and her Thrift store crew. "A huge success"

We moved the smoking area to the rear of the buildings, we patrol our premises regularly and it seems to be working well. We are asking our clients to help us **keep their place clean.**

Our dining room has new acoustical ceiling tile, the noise level has decreased considerably and it looks so nice and clean.

Our Urban Rest Stop got a new coat of paint. The door looks just grand.

School is out, we are blessed with our volunteer's children and grand children spending some of their free time with us, please say hello and thank them. I see them at the Thrift Store, the Kitchen and the Urban Rest Stop. How refreshing.

I am pleased to be of service to our clients here at St. Vincent de Paul; yes we have the few who test our patience.

Then I remember a poem my husband keeps: What would **Jesus do** today if He were here with me? Would He find time to help someone, or act indifferently? What would **Jesus do** today if He were in my chair? Would He need to speak His mind or quietly sit there? What would **Jesus do** today? I need to clearly see, so people who may cross my path will know He's here in me.

Those of you, who were lucky to meet Archbishop Alexander K Sample when he paid us a visit, clearly saw the love and patience he showed everyone. I am trying to follow his example.

The demand for services continues and thanks to you



and our donors we are able to keep up. Please know that you, our volunteers, make this happen.

We are St. Vincent de Paul because of you.

Sincerely,

Socorro

Christina Wernecke Office President

If you have been in our offices during the last year, you have probably heard the contagious laughter of a young bubbly blonde named Christina Wernecke. She is always smiling, whether greeting clients, talking to another volunteer or talking on the phone. This remarkable young lady came to St Vincent about one year ago, when invited by an ad for volunteers on our marque sign.

Christina is in her third year at the University of Phoenix with a degree in Psychology working toward a Bachelor's degree in Human Services to be a mental health counselor. She has volunteered at women's shelters but was looking to expand her experience by working with a more inclusive community of those in need. She says that "I didn't **continues on page 4...**

Kathy Begley First Executive Assistant



The ever-smiling Kathy Begley steps down as Office Conference President to step up as our first Executive Assistant.

A great number of you know Kathy Begley. She is the always smiling, effervescent, irrepressible, can-do lady that most clients and volunteers meet or seek out in the main office. She was very busy as Office Conference President, worked many days in the office as well as being an Urban Rest Stop Tuesday volunteer. Christina Wernecke has taken over her duties as Office Conference President so that she can be our first Executive Assistant to the Council and especially to our Council President Socorro Holloway. Kathy will still be a member of the District Council Board as well as active on the Light the Winter Fire annual fundraiser committee, and many other standing and temporary committees and projects. She and her Tap-A-Tooties dance group (which includes Maureen Henderson, Pat Dumas, Tedde Ridley and Socorro Holloway), have entertained hundreds for the last couple of years at the Light the Winter Fire fundraiser and St Vincent's

Volunteer Appreciation dinner. She is also our photo and videographer extraordinaire. All this is just what she does at St Vincent de Paul. She is also very active at Shepherd of the Valley Catholic Church as a Eucharistic minister and volunteer, as well as, her involvement with the Medford Parkinson Support Group. It seemed it was about time to let you all know a little more about Kathy Begley.

Born in San Francisco and adopted by second-generation Irish immigrants, Kathy grew up in Burlingame, California and graduated from Mercy High Burlingame. She then attended San Jose State and worked summers at First California Company, a Stock brokerage firm in the Financial District of San Francisco. She met her future husband there in the summer of 1967. She received an AA degree in Sociology from the College of San Mateo in 1968, got married and had three children. Shortly thereafter, she was divorced and raising three children. She returned to school attending De Anza College at Cupertino, and she was Parent Coordinator at the Montessori School for the Women's Reentry program. They then moved to Aptos in Santa Cruz County where she worked for the Miss California pageant in Santa Cruz as Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director. This was a dream job for her that she fondly remembers. She then worked for Bank of America as a Senior Utility Teller, and then went to work for Dean Witter Reynolds in Santa Cruz where she met Paul Begley, and they married in 1987. They moved to Watsonville, California and started a breakfast/lunch place called Beach Street Café, *continues page 6...*

Christina Wernecke... continued



Christina Wernecke, new Office conference president.

know what we do or how many we help” when she came to ask about becoming a Vincentian volunteer. She says she “ sees the homeless and all those we serve as people with problems not just addicts, mentally ill or criminals.” She sees Vincentians as “ an amazing group of caring volunteers who are concerned with what happens to people. We have a great community here.” Christina was born and raised in Pomeroy, Washington where her parents owned a large grocery store. She came to the area in 2008 by way of Grants Pass and Eastern Oregon. She not only has added a dimension of youth, humor and vitality to the office conference but this April she was elected as the President of the St Anna Office conference when Kathy Begley became Executive Assistant to the Council. She has met a nice guy locally and they are planning to get married on Maui in October of 2015.

We are so blessed that God put Christina in our lives and inspired by her agreeing to become the office conference President. Thank you Christina for saying yes and helping us do the service God calls us to do.

Dennis Mihocko

Archbishop Sample... continued

Working with the office conference, clients are assisted with diapers, person hygiene items, screening for shelter admittance, as well as social service requirements. The conferences work as one in providing a seamless experience for those who come to us for help. The offices of our marvelous treasurers, operations coordination, and our President Socorro Holloway and Executive Assistant Kathy Begley, were pointed out along with our multi-use conference room.

The tour of our dining room proved a great experience for the Archbishop as he met the Tuesday kitchen crew, and later, he greeted most of the diners who came for the wonderful free lunch served Monday through Saturday. Almost 60,000 meals provided in 2013 was a point of interest for our Archbishop, as well as, our efforts to provide a safe environment for so many people. He took time to shake hands and speak with the diners in line to be served, and he even visited tables to speak with those already eating.

The unique services we provide of showers and laundry in our Urban Rest Stop were very compelling to the Archbishop and evoked a sense of compassion and caring that we show to the less-fortunate of our community. Giving someone the opportunity to be clean, have clean clothes, and to take care of personal hygiene issues, creates a bond between volunteers and those served that builds relationships, fosters trust, and inspires hope among all.

Our family shelter was also an impressive facility to the Archbishop. The drug-free, homey setting for families and single women shows our compassion and caring to provide something so basic as a roof over their heads, a safe habitat, and a sense of belonging. While providing food, clean linens, computer access,

Archbishop Sample... continued

and information on other community services, the shelter, managed by Nick Katasoarus, is a reprieve from the harsh life of the street, but hopefully and more importantly, a new beginning toward a better life.

Our pantry conference, led by Debbie and Bob Christian, showed the Archbishop how much volunteers can do to help alleviate hunger and provide nutritious food for individuals and families in need. He was quite taken by the organization,



Archbishop Sample pets a dog
while greeting a patron at St Vincent de Paul

hard work, and efficiency exhibited by caring community residents trying to make a difference. Food bags are distributed two Fridays per month, emergency food bags are given when needed, and produce, milk, bread, and other items are made available to those who might go without. All this is done by our amazing pantry volunteers.

Archbishop Alexander was informed about our home visitation conferences, Our Lady of the Mountain, serving Ashland, led by Beth Hill, and St Augustine, led by Bill Holloway and Chris Forsythe, serving Medford, Central Point, and

northern Jackson County. Since this was how St Vincent de Paul Society started in 1831 in Paris, by visiting people where they are, there was an acknowledgement by him that we were truly a full service council to Jackson County.

Archbishop Alexander was also informed of our twice monthly Free Dental Program which provides basic dental care by local volunteer dentists and assistants at no charge to those who have been unable to acquire much needed care. Our annual School Supply Giving away every August also impressed him. The 4100 grade-specific school bags for K-12 age children in need, was a number that brought home the significance of what we do in Jackson County. The twice monthly haircuts provided by local stylists was another point of interest to him, and all the services that are given by our community conscious volunteers.

We thank Archbishop Sample for taking the time to visit and share himself with us and those we help. He made a difference in what we do as do all who serve at St Vincent de Paul.

Dennis Mihocko

In Memoriam of Gloria Schudwa

On June 6 many Vincentians participated in the funeral mass for Gloria Schudawa at Shepherd of the Valley Church. Gloria was the bubbly, smiling, always smiling, fashionable, petite lady who worked the desk in our office assisting people to get the help they needed, answering the phone and doing all those things that make the office a beehive of activity and a hub for getting it done. She was the wife of Joe Schudawa, Social Services Sacred Heart conference President and counselor. Both of them were very active, not only at St Vincent de Paul, but at *continues page 7...*

Kathy Begley... continued

which they owned for 18 years. Kathy also worked in the Note Department of Pajaro Valley Bank in Watsonville, until the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake which shook San Francisco and Oakland as most of us remember. Also during this time, she volunteered in the office at St. Patrick's Catholic Church Watsonville, was a member of the Young Lady's Institute, and she still had time for her tap dancing groups. She danced all over Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Santa Clara Counties, predominately at senior facilities. Thankfully for St Vincent's she still dances and inspires others to do the same. She and Paul were forced to sell their restaurant business due to the Paul's diagnosis of Parkinson's disease July 2005. They moved to Eagle Point, Oregon in October 2006 where she worked at Bank of America with Socorro Holloway. She remembers many of her customers from the bank who she now sees as clients here at St Vincent's. Kathy and Paul started attending Shepherd of the Valley Catholic Church where she still serves as Eucharistic Minister and a volunteer. Paul passed away in January 2010 and Kathy still facilitates the Medford Parkinson's Disease Support group. Kathy retired from Bank of America in August 2011, and then answered a call to volunteer as a greeter at St Vincent de Paul in April 2011. She also started volunteering in the Urban Rest Stop where she was very active even after becoming Office Conference President in April 2012. She is tireless in her dedication to her volunteer duties and is an invaluable asset to all of us especially Socorro, in her willingness and ability to help in so many and diverse ways. The next time you talk to or see Kathy, please thank her, as I find myself doing, for all she does for others, especially here at St Vincent de Paul. Thank you Kathy for making a big difference. *Dennis Mihocko*

Outstanding Spring Fundraising

St. Vincent's fund raising results were outstanding in the second quarter of 2014, totaling \$150,000. Social Services received \$137,000; School Supplies \$8,000; Home Visits \$4,000 and Pantry \$1,000. Nearly half the Spring amount came from the Oregon Community Foundation's (OCF) Reed and



Left to Right: Carma Mornarich, Executive Director, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, our own Socorro Holloway, and Kathie Olsen, Board member.

Carolee Walker Fund, totaling \$65,000 for rent and utility assistance. Two other long-time supporters helped with utility assistance -- the Carpenter Foundation with \$15,000 and Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation with \$10,000.

A brand new Medford charity, the Carrico Family Foundation, awarded St. Vincent's with \$20,000 for our utility disconnect program. The Coleman Family Fund, another OCF-managed fund, gave us \$10,000 for rent and utilities.

Two new contributors came from the Portland area to help with rent and utility expenses; the Herbert Templeton Foundation pledged \$7,500 and the Autzen Foundation donated \$5,000.

The Avista Foundation gave Social Services \$4,500 to increase office efficiency by helping us purchase a new copier/printer/image producer.

Spring Fundraising... continued

School Supplies received three grants. The West Family Foundation gave us \$5,000. Another new group, the Harrington Family Foundation, pledged \$2,000 and St. Mary's School provided \$1,000. The Home Visit Conferences received \$3,000 from the U.S. Bank Foundation and \$1,000 was received from the Ashland Food Coop.

Finally, and perhaps most interestingly, the Dwyer Charitable Trust of Portland gave the Pantry \$1,000 a year for three years. Long-time St. Vincent volunteers may remember Dwyer trustee Claire Dougherty. She and her late husband John were friends of founders Bill and Lil Howe and volunteered at St. Vincent's when they lived in Medford in the 1980s.

Rich Hansen

Gloria Schudwa... continued

Shepherd of the Valley Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus.

For the last several years you were greeted on Thursday's by the slight Philippino accent of one of the sweetest, most refined and stylish ladies I have ever met. Gloria was soft spoken, but commanded your attention like a beautiful butterfly in an often grey world. I brag on how enduring, persevering and compassionate all our volunteers are, especially in the office, but Gloria brought grace wherever she went and a calming influence. On top of all her wonderful traits, she was a fantastic cook and baker. She would usually bring delicious treats to the St Vincent office, especially her marvelous cookies. Mmmm, those cookies.

Gloria loved to share the story of how Joe and she met over 55 years ago. While on a late night flight, flying over the North Pole, en route to Zurich, for a vacation from her job as a flight attendant, Gloria



Gloria Schudwa's unique style will be sorely missed.

met Joe, who was traveling on leave after a year-long tour of duty in Korea, to visit his parents at their home in Austria. She told their adult children how she spent the night with Joe when they first met. Their brief meeting led to a year of communication and courtship by mail. Joe and Gloria were married on a chilly November 29, 1958 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, where Joe was stationed while in the Air Force. They have created a legacy of service to others through their faith in God and each other, that is an example to their family and to us all. Thank you Gloria and Joe for all you do to help build the kingdom of God here in Medford. We are looking forward to Joe's return to Social Services. Though we miss Gloria greatly, Joe will bring the spirit of Gloria with him.

Dennis Mihocko

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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,
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