

St. Vincent de Paul

Spring/Summer 2016

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Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Rogue Valley District

St. Vincent's Working to Establish Tiny House Village



Written by Rich Hansen

St. Vincent's has been working to establish a "tiny house" village as transitional housing for the homeless. We are teaming with Rogue Retreat, a local non-profit that specializes in housing. The team visited Eugene to tour several similar villages and learn "best practices." The people in Eugene recommended we go to various cities in Jackson County and ask to lease surplus City-owned land. After more than a year's efforts, the City of Medford has offered a one third of an acre lot at Front and Third. Despite heated opposition from local business owners, we are moving forward with the paperwork, permitting and contract

Tiny house example for future Hope Village

language.

Hope Village will provide a safe place to be for some 15-20 homeless currently living on the streets or along Bear Creek. It will provide the stability that is necessary for them to address the barriers that have contributed to their homelessness.

In the long run, such a village will save the community money by reducing the impact of social services like jails, the court system and hospitals. Tiny house villages should decrease crime within the homeless population as the residents are able to take care of their basic needs and are no longer in "survival mode" every day to find

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Letter from the President

Dear Vincentian Family,

I recently took time off from our hectic St. Vincent De Paul schedule and went to Chihuahua, Mexico to visit my family. I have three sisters and one brother. Two of my sisters live in Chihuahua and one lives in Fort Worth Texas. My brother lives in Milwaukee, WI.

My two older sisters were able to come and visit. They fell in love with Oregon. We visited Crater Lake, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, the Oregon Coast, the local wineries and Cantrall Buckley County Park. The State of Chihuahua is mostly desert, and the mountains there are unfortunately not as green as our Oregon mountains. Still, Chihuahua is proud of "The Sierra Tarahumara Mountains" where the famous Copper Canyon is located which is comparable to Arizona's Grand Canyon, both great monuments created by God.

My sisters visited St. Vincent de Paul and were pleased to see all we do for the needy. When they went back home, they started looking for ways to help their community. Both have great talents, one as a seamstress and the other is a great cook.

I enjoyed my sisters visit tremendously. It was fun to watch them work in the kitchen and the garden, discussing the best way to get things done. I did not get involved or put in my two cents worth since they are my elders and I just do as they tell me, almost.

When they left, my older sister cried. She is concerned for me and told me I should move to Texas where she lives with eight of her eleven daughters. She thinks I am here all alone, (my only daughter lives in California, and my only granddaughter lives in Missouri).



Socorro Holloway readies herself to smack the piñata during Shepherd of the Valley's annual picnic in July

It is hard for her to understand that I am totally happy here, I have my hiking friends and my SVDP family. I truly enjoy my volunteer work. Thank you for your friendship and hard work. I appreciate you more than I can put in to words.

Blessings,

Socorro

Spring Fund Raising

Written by Rich Hansen

Spring fund raising generated about \$125,000 for St. Vincent's. Most of this came from the Reed and Carolee Walker Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF). Those funds will be split equally between rent and utility relief and our new housing program.

Social Services also received \$10,000 in support from OCF's Coleman Family Foundation for rent and utilities. We received \$7,500 from the Templeton Foundation, \$5,000 from Pacific Power and \$900 from Washington Elementary Community 101 program, all for rent. The Carpenter Foundation gave St. Vincent's \$15,000 for utility payments.

The Autzen Foundation gave us \$5,000 and Anna May \$4,000 for school supplies. The Dwyer Charitable Trust donated \$1,000 and Kohl's \$1,500 for the pantry. The Knights of Columbus gave \$1,000 to the Council.

Jimmy Hoitink

Written by Kathy Morgan

Most Vincentians do not know who Jimmy Hoitink is or what he does. And that's the way he likes it.

Jimmy, known as Tink to his friends, cleans the parking lot of St. Vincent de Paul every Sunday, taking away trash, picking up cigarette butts and other litter left the previous week. It's a 5-hour job. "I don't do it for a slap-on-the-back or for recognition," he says. "I'm paying back for things I've done in my past. If you need to be patted on the back, well, that's your reward."

Jimmy spent his formative years in Alaska

where his parents owned the Husky House, a bar and restaurant. When he was 8-years-old, the family moved to Portland. He says he was always getting into trouble and his parents were more than happy to sign the papers to allow him to join the US Army at age 17. Soon he was shipped to Vietnam. He worked as a mechanic but ended up being a grunt. And then: "I was in Vietnam, I got blown up. It was another life." He is considered 100 percent disabled by the Veterans Administration. And that's the end of the story... but not quite. Tink has had his share of troubles, but he also has 14 years of being clean and sober. Six years ago he discovered that he was a father. In his younger life his girlfriend got pregnant. "Back then girls that got pregnant moved away," he

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Jimmy Hoitink, one of St Vincent de Paul's modest super heroes.

Jimmy Hoitink... continued

says. "She never told me she had a baby." By chance his sister discovered his son's Facebook page. "He was the spitting image of Tink," says Scott Gustatson, who is a security volunteer for St. Vincent's and one of Tink's best friends.

Tink met his son, Marty, who is a successful businessman in Iowa. The two clicked. "He owns nine houses," says Tink. "He's done well for himself." And the father and son who never knew each other meet every year for a campout with the Dog on the Roof (DOTR) group at Howard Prairie. He is joined by Scott and other members of the organization.

For the last 13 years, he and Scott spend at least one day a week helping out the Parallel House, a half-way home for former prisoners and addicts. The two bring food from ACCESS to the facility run by OnTrack. "He even came up with a washer and dryer for them," says Wayne Trefren, fellow security volunteer at SVDP.

Tink helps a lot of other people as well. He owns a house with a big garage/shop and keeps many items on hand to give away to the needy. "If you ever need anything, Jimmy has it," Wayne says. "From a 5-foot water main shut-off wrench to turn the water off in Medford to a small table."

The shop is used for welding and repair work for those who cannot afford to pay what shops charge. Not too long ago, the shop blew up. Tink was safe but he did manage to save two babies from the blaze. **THAT IS SAVE TWO BABIES** from the blaze, which

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Tiny House Village... continued

shelter, food, and protect their resources. The start-up budget for Hope Village is about \$200,000. We have already received funding from ACCESS, and we are sending grant applications to Providence, Asante, CareOregon, The Oregon Community Foundation, and The Collins Foundation. Rogue Retreat will be the lead non-profit sponsoring Hope Village. They will provide case management services (counseling) to help this vulnerable population identify their strengths and address their barriers to obtaining traditional housing. This is one thing that was lacking in Eugene and should help village residents transition through the project.



Tiny House of Hope

Shepherd of the Valley Pantry

Written by Kathy Begley

The day starts early in the Pantry, deliveries coming in, sorting, organizing and stocking shelves. It is a daily necessity to keep the Pantry functioning in preparation for our twice monthly food giveaway.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was

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founded by Fredric Ozanam in Paris France, 1833. A group of young Catholic college students banded together to help feed the poor and neglected of Paris. It was the start of many decades of providing food to the needy. Our pantry follows in the steps of Blessed Fredric Ozanam in assuring that those we serve always have a food available. Our Pantry is very well staffed with caring and committed people from all backgrounds and religious denominations. Beth Hunter our Pantry Manager lives in Central Point and has been packing bags for 9 years. I asked Beth “what is it about your job that keeps you coming back to SVDP”? “It makes me feel good and blessed that I can do something for others and give back with my time and it also helps me make new friendships”. Beth enjoys her staff and the Vincentian spirit shared by all volunteers.

On Beth’s staff are Jim Betschart, retired

Monday's in the Pantry with Glen Cote and Jim Betschart

from Airport Chevrolet and a resident of Central Point. Glen Cote, of Medford, a retired Physical Therapist serves as Spiritual Adviser of the Conference. Paul Adams and his wife Mary Jo, Eagle Point residents provide support in picking up donations and Mary Jo has accepted being the conference Secretary. Many local stores and restaurants donate food to our pantry, which means many trips around town to Taco Bell, Starbucks, Olive Garden, Safeway, Red Lobster and Rogue Valley Manor...and we have the crew that can do it! Ken Bonsi, Medford, Ray Nougier of Medford and Mike Neimeyer never miss a pickup and help keep our shelves stocked. With the help of Gwen Matocha, who serves as treasurer for the Conference, the Shepherd of the Valley Pantry successfully provided 8100 bags of groceries last year to the poor and needy of Jackson County.

Jimmy Hoitink... continued

the modest man mentions as an aside. The shop/garage was rebuilt and Tink is back in the business of making up for his past. Part of his past includes losing his Oregon Driver's License forever. Tink had 14 DUILs and was told he would never drive again. After being clean and sober for an extended period, Tink went before the judge to try to get his license back. "There were about 20 people in the courtroom supporting him," says Scott. The group included a deputy sheriff, some attorneys and other prominent local people. Tink was the first person in Oregon to ever get his license back after a lifetime suspension. So, naturally, he can drive to his job of cleaning the parking lot.

When Al Zon asked him to do it he just said, yes. "Al forgot to mention that the parking lot is the size of an airport," he says with a grin. Tink believes strongly in God and says he loves volunteering. "When I come down here and do this, I get out of myself. I don't have to think. It gives me a good feeling that I'm not taking. I'm giving.

"Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Matthew 25:23

Eagle Scout Project

Our Council is so pleased to have received two cabinets made by Brady Eiler as part of his Eagle Scout Project for St. Vincent de Paul and delivered to us on June 11, 2016.

One of the cabinets is located in our dining room and will allow us to properly store free give away clothes, printed material, and toys, which will help enhance the lives of those we



Scouts help deliver part of Brady Eiler's Eagle Project.

serve.

The second cabinet is located in our Thrift Store. It is being used to assist us in protecting the backpacks and other items carried into the store by our customers. These items are secured for everyone's safety, while shopping in our wonderful, all volunteer thrift store.

We sincerely thank Brady, his fellow Scouts and family members for their efforts to make the new St. Vincent de Paul cabinets a needed reality.

Construction

Written by Dennis Mihocko

Recent months have seen some significant changes at St Vincent de Paul in the form of remodeling, upgrading and additions. With any organization, changes are inevitable and usually beneficial. Last year we remod-

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Construction... continued

eled the Urban Rest Stop so that one additional shower, one more washer and two dryers could be added. The impact was beyond expectations and it pointed to the need for even more space and capacity as demand has increased exponentially.

We were up for the task of providing more space, more showers which will include an ADA shower and restroom, as well as additional washers and dryers that will help meet the increased demand. This change will also require additional volunteers and Lee and TC Meyer, Urban Rest Stop President and Treasurer, along with our volunteer coordinator, Ginger Vanek, are working on trying to get those much needed staff people.

With tremendous help from Rich Hansen and Phyllis Douglas and their extraordinary grant writing skills, they were able to raise over \$150,000 for this project from Providence Health and Services, Oregon Community Foundation, Ben B. Cheney Foundation and Collins Foundation. Thank you to these community minded organizations.

The Urban Rest Stop expansion finally started June 8, after numerous delays and necessary upgrades to our already taxed infrastructure. If all goes according to plan, the expansion should be completed by late September. Another significant change has been the remodeling of the kitchen cook line, serving line and prep island. The cook line nearest the stoves and ovens, was replaced this past winter, with a wonderful stainless steel unit that incorporated our handy and quick coffee maker. It also inspired kitchen manager, Charlotte Martinson, to add a much needed baking oven with stand and to obtain a stand

with casters for the heavy slicer. Though the kitchen was closed for one week, the pantry graciously allowed the kitchen crews to serve sandwich meals so clients could still get the lunch they count on.

The next phase of the kitchen project will involve replacing the serving line and middle prep island with clean and easier to maintain stainless steel as well as replacement of the decades old flooring. This probably will require that the kitchen be closed for two weeks but the kitchen crews will still be able to provide sandwich meals again so no one goes without lunch.

All these changes are necessary but the inconvenience is never nice. I want to thank all of our Vincentians for their admirable patience and “getter done” attitude. Everyone has been very cooperative and generous in their willingness to make things happen. God bless You All.



Coffee, Coffee, and more Coffee!

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

2424 N Pacific Highway
Medford, OR 97501

Phone: 541-772-3828
E-mail: vincent@mind.net
Website: www.stvincentdepaulmedford.info



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Dining Room

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Pantry

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At the Urban Rest Stop**
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Call store to schedule, first floor only

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