

# St. Vincent de Paul

Summer/Fall 2017

Volume 11, Issue 2



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## Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Rogue Valley District

### Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon



The Volunteers always get a real "kick" out of the Tap-A-Tooties: (L to R) Charlotte Martinson, Socorro Holloway, Charleyn Grove, Debbie Howard, Kathy Begley, Julie Cote, and Kammie Dhillon

**By Dennis Mihocko**

The 2017 annual volunteer appreciation luncheon was held February 4th at Sacred Heart Parish Hall. The luncheon was catered by our friends from El Mocajete Mexican Restaurant, with everyone enjoying the quality and quantity of the food and service.

Entertainment was provided by St Vinny's own Tap-A-Tooties i.e. Charlotte Martinson, Socorro Holloway, Charleyn Grove, Debbie Howard, Kathy Begley,

Julie Cote and Kammie Dhillon, performing an Optical Allusion Dance. Rosemary Harrington, assisted by Kathy Begley, had everyone play our favorite ice breaker of Heads and Tails. Kathy Begley presented Socorro Holloway with her Past President pin and Socorro officially installed Kathy Begley as President while giving the President's pin. Kathy Begley surprised Socorro Holloway by presenting her and her late husband Bill Holloway,

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## Letter from the President

My dear Vincentian Family,  
Sitting here by the river with the sun rising, I am overwhelmed with the many blessings God has bestowed on me...The quiet serenity and peace that nature offers can be so easily lost in the struggle for survival among the less fortunate of our human family.

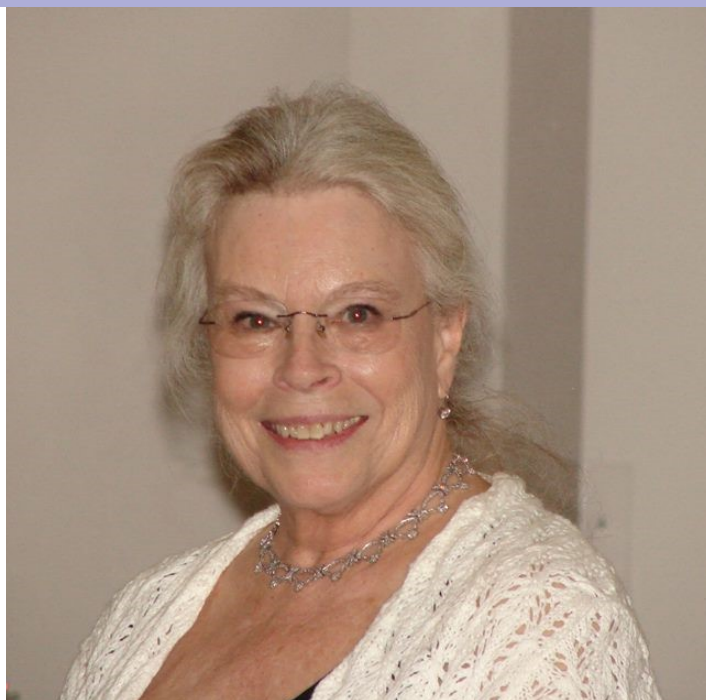
This is my first President's letter, so maybe I should introduce myself. I am Kathy Begley, native San Franciscan, attended Mercy High Burlingame then San Jose State. Married had 3 children and shortly thereafter divorced. A single Mom of three (1, 2 & 5), living very close to the edge, has given me great empathy for the many young mothers that we see.

As God has a plan for all of us, mine came together when I met Paul Begley. We were married for 22 years before he passed away in 2010.

Moving to Oregon in 2006 after Paul's diagnosis of Parkinson's began a whole new adventure. I transferred my job with Bank of America to the Medford branch, where I met Socorro Holloway, my immediate supervisor. One day while discussing churches, Socorro invited me to attend Shepherd of the Valley... it was my salvation! I felt that I had found my home at last! As time went on and I began to know some of the parishioners, Irene Vaughn approached me to volunteer at SVDP.

Sounded like a promising idea...I knew Socorro and her husband Bill were long time volunteers at St. Vincent's, so I said "yes". That was the beginning. I took to Vinny's like a duck to water.

I have been blessed with purposeful work and a wonderful "family" here at St. Vincent de Paul. I am so proud of my volunteer family and their



Kathy Begley, St Vincent de Paul of Rogue Valley President

tireless commitment to our ministry. While I often feel unworthy of my position, I will do my best for all of God's family. Please keep me in your prayers.

May God continue to bless you with health and happiness,

Kathy

## Spring/Summer Fund Raising

*By Rich Hansen*

St. Vincent's has been fortunate to receive nearly \$255,000 in donations through July of the year. Social Services received about \$160,000, School Supplies \$15,000, Ashland Home Visits nearly \$50,000 and the Council about \$30,000.

Social Services received \$75,000 from the Oregon Community Foundation's Walker Fund, \$20,000 from the City of Medford's Community Development Block Grant and \$8,333 from Medford's General Fund. The OCF's Ames-Fluhrer Fund donated \$14,400.

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(L to R) Brad Russell, Don Krolak, Mary Krolak, Kathy Begley, Len Hebert, Mike Naumes, and Bob Hyer at the Christian Charity Golf Invitational Fundraiser

**St. Vincent's received \$15,000 from the Carpenter Foundation for utilities and \$10,000 from the Coleman Fund for Housing. Rogue Community Health supplied \$4,500 for prescription drugs. Rental assistance grants included Cow Creek Indian Foundation \$10,000, Templeton Foundation \$7,500, Pacific Power \$2,000, Washington Federal \$1,000 and Horton Family Foundation, \$1,000.**

**Our Summer School Supply program received \$5,000 from the West Foundation, \$4,000 from the Autzen Foundation, \$3,500 from Anna May and \$2,500 from the Chaney Foundation. The Pantry received \$1,700 from the Dwyer Foundation. It is the first of a three-year pledge of \$5,000.**

**The Ashland Home Visit Conference re-**

**ceived nearly \$32,000 from the City of Ashland's Social Service grant program, \$16,126 from the City's Community Development Block Grants and \$1,000 from the Ashland Food Coop.**

**The Council received \$1,000 from Rogue Credit Union, \$872 from Century Link, \$17,646 from the Christian Charities Golf Tournament and \$10,000 from Robert Heffernan.**

## **Christian Charity Golf Invitational**

*By Dennis Mihocko*

**The Third Annual Christian Charity Golf Invitational was held on Wednesday May 24, 2017 at Eagle Point Golf Club to rave reviews and wonderful comments from golfers. The**

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Charity Golf Invitational continued...

annual tournament is the brain child of Mike Naumes from Naumes Inc. and Len Hebert from St Vincent de Paul, to help local charities with the funding demands they face. This year's community service beneficiaries are Maslow Project and St Vincent de Paul.

The Maslow Project's mission is to offer every homeless child and youth the probability of success and the opportunity for a better life. They do this by providing resources for basic needs, removing barriers to education and employment, and fostering self-sufficiency in a collaborative and empowering environment.

The St Vincent de Paul Society is committed to ensuring that the poor and needy of Jackson County have a safety net of support and encouragement. We provide food, clothing, rent relief, utility relief, shelter for families, showers and laundry services, dental help and home visits, among other services, while striving to provide a 'hand up, not a hand out'.

With help from Brad Russell of YMCA, Serina Quast and Mary Ferrell from the Maslow Project, Denise James from Habitat for Humanity, Monte Mendenhall from Pacific Power, Mike Mastroni from Brown&Brown Insurance, Bob Hyer, Patrick Oropallo and Chris Daggett from Eagle Point Golf Club, along with Don & Mary Krolak, Mike Benke, Kathy Begley, Socorro Holloway, and Dennis Mihocko, all from St Vincent de Paul, the great effort came to fruition again this year.

Though we cannot name all the different



Tom Eaton, Dennis Mihocko, Joe Martin and Jim Brick golfed well.

donors who gave so much to create this successful event, we would like to acknowledge just some of them: Airport Chevrolet, J B Steel, Pacific Power, Cow Creek, Naumes Inc, Ashland Partners, Southern Oregon Subaru, Human Bean, Rogue YMCA, Habitat for Humanity, RNN Properties LLC, Rick Jackson, KDP CPA, St Mary's School, Natt and Karen McDougall, Papa John's Pizza, Curtis Huntley Plumbing, River City Glass, Curtis Restaurant Equipment, Cutler Investments, Dr David Savage DDS, Dr Dan Tomlinson, Harry and David, Aqua Dulce Guides LLC, Rothfus Family Dental, and Neuman Hotel Group.

Because of everyone's generosity the Maslow Project and St Vincent de Paul each received \$17, 870.98 with a net proceed totaling \$35,741.96.

Thank you to all who sponsored, donated, volunteered and in some way made this event what it is. Successful. All of us can appreciate the tremendous community we live in and the generosity shown by all.

## Appreciation Luncheon continued...

with the 2017 St Vincent de Paul Len Hebert Humanitarian Award for their faithful service to the needy of Jackson County for over fifteen years. The city of Medford Mayor Gary Wheeler proclaimed February 4th 2017 Bill and Socorro Holloway Day along with the acknowledgment of the service they provided and included here. I quote, "WHEREAS, Bill and Socorro over time have been very special, important supporters of the less fortunate members of our community, and WHEREAS, their support has been instrumental toward helping the less fortunate of our community with assistance toward Living Costs, Free Meals, Free Emergency Dental services, and Free Emergency Shelter, volunteering with Junior Achievement, and WHEREAS, they have been instrumental in our community by being advocates and representatives for the less fortunate, and WHEREAS, they have tirelessly donated their time, expertise and dedication toward making our community a better place to live, and WHEREAS, they have successfully and uniquely provided management oversight to the such organizations as St. Vincent de Paul and Northwest Seasonal Workers, and WHEREAS, Bill and Socorro have served as an upstanding members and advisors to our community, The City of Medford and Jackson County appreciates all their efforts in making the greater Medford Area a healthier and a quality place to live: **NOW THEREFORE, I Gary Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Medford, do hereby proclaim February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as Bill and Socorro Holloway Day.**"

The service pins awards were next on the



The wonderful El Molcajete crew at the Appreciation Luncheon

agenda with many receiving their 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and even a few receiving their 30<sup>th</sup> year pins. As we are told God will say on our final day "Well done good and faithful servant" . Thank you all for making what we do day in and day out happen. Without you, nothing would be done.

The prize raffles were given away, the 50/50 winners were announced and the beautiful centerpieces, made by our own Social Service Counselor, Ann Close, were given away. It seemed that the 200 plus volunteers in attendance were well feed, entertained, acknowledged and especially appreciated. The Annual Appreciation Picnic was held July 23 and planned by Diane Johnson and pulled off by Bob Hammer and Ralph Browning. The food was hot and so was the weather, but the games and camaraderie still made for another valued event .

Thank you all for all you do to make the difference that is St Vincent de Paul.

## Lee and TC Meyers Awarded

*By Dennis Mihocko*

The Jackson County March 2017

Volunteers of the Month were Lee and TC Meyers, whom I call the Tremendous Twosome. We nominated them last year for their hard work for so many years to make the Urban Rest Stop what it is today. They oversaw the 2015 remodeling of the original URS which went

from two showers, a rest room, 2 washers and 4 dryers to 3 showers, a restroom, 3 washers and 6 dryers along with the increase demand of services and finding the volunteers to make that happen.

The remodeled URS was barely re-opened, when Lee and TC expressed the idea of expanding the URS to over twice its size. With a 2012 quote of \$113,000 for such an expansion to start from, it became apparent that what was a starting point was truly only a starting point. TC and Lee's input and constant oversight brought us to the 60% expansion with the wonderful URS we have today. The staffing for all the services provided is a miracle of Jesus at work in the hearts and souls of all those who make things happen at St Vincent de Paul in Jackson County every day, every week year round. Lee and TC are an excellent examples of what can be done if we look for the yes instead of accepting a no. Thank you Lee and TC for saying yes.



(L to R) Kathy Begley, Commissioner Colleen Roberts, TC and Lee Meyers, Commissioner Rick Dyer, and Commissioner Bob Strosser

## New Store Electronic Sign

*By Dennis Mihocko*

You may have noticed a change at the entrance to St Vincent de Paul over the past year. The sign that has welcomed Thrift Store customers, as well as clients and volunteers, for many years, has a new electronic sign incorporated into it to announce sales, holiday greetings, request for volunteers, and other useful information. We have received many complements about its appearance and its usefulness in keeping everyone informed about some of the things that are happening at our diverse campus. It also is a modern pairing with our wonderful thrift store which was completed in 2006, highlighting the large windows and front entrance. The store donation area was also improved last year with the addition of double 8 foot doors and a large, tall awning to provide protection from the sun and rain. Our store manager, Karen McNeilly, who has been skillfully operating the thrift store for

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## New Store Sign continued...

over twenty years, has wanted an electronic sign addition for many years and was finally able to convince the district council, with the help of Store conference President Ralph Browning. Their determination to obtain the new sign is commendable, and the results speak volumes for their wisdom and forward thinking idea.

Karen was quoted as saying, "I am very grateful that the council as gotten together with the store and finally put in an electronic reading board which was complete in late 2016. We know that it has increased sales and advertised happenings in the store, but as we use it as a vehicle for the council as a whole, we will get better feedback from the community. We very much appreciate it being up."

Ralph Browning says, "The sign has expanded our presence on Highway 99. It allows us to talk to the public and our customers."

The sign also advertised the school supply give away the last week of August to let parents and students know that we were providing backpacks full of items to help students off to a good start in the new school year.

More than six years ago, when an electronic sign was first suggested, the council's collective thought was that it would be too imposing. They thought it would look too pretentious. Times change, and the abundance of electronic signs at businesses and charities has grown. Karen and Ralph are proving to be forward thinkers, and we thank God for that and for all our volunteers who make a difference every day.



The new Electronic Sign is more visible and easier to change

## Volunteerism at St Vincent de Paul

*By Bill Hunt*

Why do we volunteer? That's a good question to ask at St. Vincent de Paul, an all volunteer organization (AVO) in which we participate. We should all give that question serious thought. There are probably many reasons: empathy, the ability to identify with or understand the perspective and motivation of another individual or maybe sympathy, a feeling of sorrow for the distress of another human being. These altruistic ideas are promoted by St. Vincent de Paul, our founder Fredrick Ozanam, our churches, our communities, and sometimes our families. We all want to feel our lives have meaning. When our volunteerism makes a difference, it simply makes us feel we matter in life.

There are many volunteers across the country. Jan Masaoka, CEO, California Association Of Non Profits, states:

"Through all-volunteer organizations,

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## **Bill and Nancy Hunt Volunteer Award**

*By Dennis Mihocko*

Our own Bill and Nancy Hunt received the Jackson County Volunteer for the month of June. It prompted an article in the Mail Tribune and here is an excerpt from that article.

**“Medford couple Bill and Nancy Hunt have been honored with Jackson County’s Community Service Award after together logging more than 1,700 hours of volunteer work with Rogue Valley Habitat for Humanity.**

**“It’s very worthwhile and enjoyable,” Bill said of the time he and Nancy spend volunteering. The pair have been volunteering with Habitat for Humanity since 2005.**

**Bill organizes and arranges merchandise at the organization’s ReStore Home Improvement store in Medford. It carries new and used donations of furniture, household goods, decor and home improvement and building supplies.**

**“I arrange merchandise in a way that people can move comfortably and shop and buy supplies,” Bill said.**

**Nancy works in the store and also does data entry. “It all adds up to better housing for people,” Bill said.**

**In addition to helping Habitat for Humanity, the couple volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul and help care for city gardens and landscaping, including at the historic Medford I.O.O.F. cemetery, also known as the Eastwood Cemetery.**

**“We’re busy every day of the week,” Nancy said. She urged others to volunteer with community organizations.**



Bill and Nancy Hunt Jackson County Volunteer Award recipients

**At St Vincent de Paul, Nancy is our council Secretary maintaining our council minutes, keeping the council on track at board and executive board meetings, creates and maintains council files, volunteer records, mailings lists, procedural files.....well, she does it all. On top of that, she works in the store sorting, pricing and organizing linens and fabrics along with Dee Dee Mete. Bill works in the store fix it shop and helps repair broken things in our buildings. Along with Bob Hernandez, if they can’t fix it, it must be replaced. Bill and Nancy have for years, worked to maintain our acres of landscaping. Since they are certified Master Gardeners and work to keep sites**

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## **Bill and Nancy Hunt continued...**

around Jackson County in their correct state, they are definitely Volunteers of the Month. Thank you Bill and Nancy for all you do for us and for the county as a whole. You are a blessing to us all.

## **The Man Behind the News**

*By Dennis Mihocko*

Meet our newsletter, Facebook and website publisher. If you haven't looked at the last page of the newsletter or heard his name mentioned at our appreciation dinner or Christmas party, you might not be aware of the man who makes the newsletter happen, along with our website and Facebook page. Michael Morgan is the man behind our digital face and keeps St Vincent de Paul's name and what we are doing before thousands of interested citizens, volunteers, and our supporters. Michael answered a church bulletin ad in 2012 when our own Patrick Wilson was looking for someone to take over the newsletter because he was moving to Portland along with his wife Dianne Erickson. Patrick had hit the jackpot when he found Michael to replace him as the publisher and designer of the newsletter.

Michael not only insured the continuance of the newsletter, but also agreed to take on the website for us and later added our Facebook page. Though I don't use social media much, Michael saw the value in Facebook and made it happen.

Our newsletter, website and Facebook page all help inform our supporters on what we are doing, solicit volunteers, and generate tens of thousands of dollars in donations

every year with the donation envelopes included in each issue.

Michael is the husband of Jennie Morgan and father of 5 year old daughter, Julia, and 3 year old daughter Kaylee. Jennie and Michael began dating following their graduation from Tualatin High School. After graduating from Portland State and University of St Andrews, respectively, with Bachelor degrees, they married at St Francis in Sherwood, then promptly moved to Columbus, Ohio for Jennie to get her Masters and Doctorate degrees. It took a decade in Ohio before the job market finally pulled them back to Oregon, where they now reside in Medford. I brag that Julia and Kaylee are our youngest Vincentians because Michael and Jennie have been with St Vincent since just before the Julia was born. Please think of them the next time you read our newsletter, look at our website, go to our Facebook page, or just wonder who does all that stuff. Because that stuff keeps everyone informed about who we are, and what we are doing, helping others. Thank you Michael, Jennie, Julia and Kaylee for being such young and vital Vincentians. We need you.

## **Your Article Here**

*By Michael Morgan*

If you have made it this far into the Newsletter, then I thank you. The individuals who write these articles put forth a lot of effort to use this medium to help inform on some of the happenings around our St Vincent de Paul.

That being said, we can always use more people willing to write an article for each issue of

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The Morgans

### Your Article Here... continued

the Newsletter. Do you remember when we used to put out a Newsletter on a quarterly basis? Dennis Mihocko wrote the majority of those articles, and over time, it became too much to write so many articles each quarter. If you have an idea for an article, or wish to write one, then please email it to us: [stvincentmedford@gmail.com](mailto:stvincentmedford@gmail.com) or drop it off in Dennis' mailbox in the SVDP office.

That being said, Thank You all for what you do. We all have our strengths and weaknesses, and there is a spot, a niche, for everyone who wishes to Volunteer with us. But I know that what all of you do, in the Store, the Kitchen, the URS, Home Visits, Shelter, Pantry, School Supplies, Social Services, the Office, and all the individual programs and aspects that make up our 9 conferences, is what makes SVDP the great place that it is. Thank You. To shift gears a little, I would like to talk

about our Facebook page. [Facebook.com/stvincentdepaulmedford](https://www.facebook.com/stvincentdepaulmedford)

If you are not on Facebook, that is fine. I know plenty of people younger than you, who are not on Facebook. If you are on Facebook, then thank you for sharing our posts. Thank you for reading our posts. For our organization, Sharing is actually better than anything else you can do on Facebook. Sharing a post puts it in front of more viewers. And don't be shy to ask others to share too. People in Germany have liked our page.

I see the numbers behind each of our posts on Facebook. More numbers than just who "liked" or "shared" our posts. I can see how many people actually take the time to click on an individual post, how many people engage with the post. I don't have other page's statistics to compare our numbers to, I just have a vague idea of how each of our posts compare against each other. Most of the time, we get about 60 - 100 people engaging with a post. Most of our posts are calls for Volunteers and updates of upcoming events, so I think those numbers are fine.

Fortunately, our all time top posts are the School Supplies posts, which each year have at least one post that hits about 1000 engagements, and cumulatively, each year the group of School Supplies posts break about 3000. This is outstanding, and, not surprisingly, means that people in our area are interested in free school supplies.

But I do wonder what can be done to help not only garner this level of engagement for

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Your Article Here... continued

each post, but how can that engagement be channeled into new Volunteering and Donations? While pondering that question, I will leave you with this recent post that, much to my surprise, has garnered over 950 views to date:

"Did you hear that so-and-so Volunteers with St Vincent de Paul?

Yes, I heard that! They seem so much happier and are doing so much better.

Maybe we should Volunteer with them?

Let's go to [http://](http://www.stvincentdepaulmedford.info/)

[www.stvincentdepaulmedford.info/](http://www.stvincentdepaulmedford.info/) and fill out the Volunteer Application today!

What a Great idea!"

## Volunteerism... continued

people conquer alcoholism, clean up beaches, care for the dying, coach basketball teams, advocate for gun control, rescue abused animals, raise their voices in song, publish literary journals, raise scholarship funds, preserve local history, serve a volunteer fire departments, organize protest marches, exchange heirloom seeds, host visitors from foreign countries, change public perception about the disabled, help adoptees and refugees and in a thousand ways make our communities work better." The most common volunteering activity in the nation is fund-raising, followed by food distribution, and then general labor. By one estimate, all those volunteer hours add up to around \$175 billion worth of services.

AVOs are a major social and economic force but are seldom given credit for their work and, alarmingly, the numbers are falling.

According to a recent report by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in 2015/16, this volunteer force numbers 62.6 million people or about 24.9% of our population. The report states that this number has declined from 29% in 2003. Locally, St. Vincent de Paul has felt this decline and has seen the number of volunteers diminish. Recent figures show a drop in volunteer hours of 1.2% in the past nine months, while at the same time, a 5% increase in the number of clients served. Some attribute this decline to economic stress, single parent households and families where both parents work full-time or hold multiple jobs and have little time for volunteering. Others posit the reduction in number of people attending church weekly. This number is directly related to volunteerism, charitable giving, and civic involvement. The fact that SVDP does more with fewer volunteers is a burden on us all and needs our help. The best spokespeople for an AVO are the volunteers themselves. The BLS survey tells us that when asked how a volunteer became involved, 41.2% said they were asked (i.e. by their church, a neighbor, a family member, etc.) and 41.6% walked on to volunteer, maybe hearing that it was recommended. We all should know our organization's mission, be able to discuss it and know the features of what we do. Did you know that we give haircuts to the homeless? Or we gave out school supplies? Find out what services we offer-- request a campus tour in the office. Also, a kind and respectful work environment helps to keep the great volunteers we already have at St. Vincent de Paul.



## **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

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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 - Monday, 8am—1pm,  
At the Urban Rest Stop**

**Dental - Monday, 8am—1pm,  
At the Urban Rest Stop**

#### **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](http://stvincentdepaulmedford.info)

Email [stvincentmedford@gmail.com](mailto: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, Bill Hunt and Michael Morgan**

