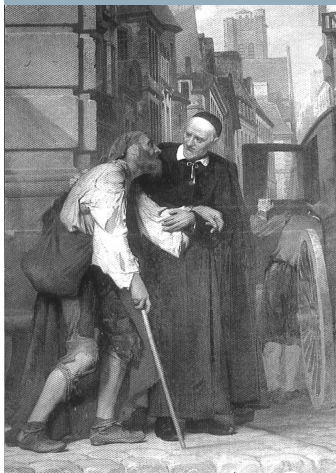


St. Vincent de Paul

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



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St. Vincent de Paul Collaboration

During the past several years St. Vincent de Paul has demonstrated the ability to provide valuable service to an increasing number of the disadvantaged, while at the same time expanding the services offered. One logical next step is to begin working more closely with other valley agencies whose mission supplements and builds on the work we do. This kind of collaboration strengthens the support we provide to the disadvantaged in our area and improves our image as a partner in the community.

Currently, 80% of the children who attend the full four year program never need social service intervention again.

We recently began working with the Family Nurturing Center (FNC) an agency located in east Medford (212 N. Oakdale), that serves many of the same families we serve but with a very different mission. The FNC helps families with small children, ages 0 to 4, who are "at risk" (the environment in their homes is characterized by the use of drugs, alcohol, violence and/or crime) to create a positive and nurturing family environment so these children can remain with their families and, hopefully, not need additional social service intervention in the future. Currently, 80% of the children who attend the full four year program never need social service assistance again. Children in the program attend classes during the week, often with their parents, and also are supported through periodic home visits by the professional staff.



St. Vincent de Paul has committed to assisting the Family Nurturing Center in the following ways:

- Share some of the excess food goods our pantry secures with the small kitchen at the FNC that provides daily lunches and snacks for the children attending classes there.
- Promote the availability of our daily noon meal to the families supported by the FNC.
- Welcome the families supported by the FNC to use our voucher system to supplemented their clothing and household needs. *Note: Our Social Services counselors might be able to identify other support services that these families can access.*
- Share some of the excess baby clothing donated to us with the FNC clothing closet.
- Share our supply of diapers and wet naps with the youngest children using the FNC.

We are confident we can offer this support without any decrease in the support to the needy who come to us directly for assistance and that the assistance provided will help build stronger and healthier families in our community. •



Letter from the President

I thank all of our volunteers for all your hard work and dedication in serving the poor and needy of Jackson County. You truly are an inspiration to me.

The warehouse we purchased has been a very timely addition to our campus. We have trained and certified fifteen volunteers to operate our forklift and are seeking funding to purchase another needed forklift.

We have added volunteers this year in many needed areas, because of the hard work of Dee Stormberg and Donna Reinman. One such area was in the dental program, which Kathy Morgan started four years ago. The program is now managed by Cindy Christian with the help of Pat Dumas, Lori Spaniol and Gloria Schudawa who does the filing. I thank them for their hard work and dedication in keeping this very necessary program going.

I encourage all of us to pray for not only the people we serve but especially for each other. Many of our volunteers have experienced the loss of spouses, family and friends. Many are having health problems requiring treatment, surgery and time away from St. Vincent de Paul. We miss not only their hard work but their companionship. Please make contact with them if possible to give them words of encouragement as well as informing conference Presidents of their difficulties. I have always heard how we are a Vincentian family and I see evidence of that every day.

Thank you and God bless you always,

Dennis T. Mihocko



Committed to Serving

Hannah Morley started volunteering at SVDP several years ago because her dad, Rich Morley, worked in our kitchen and urged her to do likewise. "I was impressed that dad volunteered, in spite of the fact he was already leading a pretty busy life...raising and providing for a family. He stressed to me and my siblings to look at how we could serve others versus focusing only on meeting our needs." Today Hannah is pursuing a degree in Urban Ministry at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Ultimately she is planning a career working in poor neighborhoods with people much less fortunate than herself.

Hannah, while still in high school, went on several mission trips sponsored by First Church of the Nazarene. One of the trips was out of the country, to an island in the South Pacific, and another was to the inner city of Los Angeles. "In Los Angeles I worked in lots of different settings... food banks, soup kitchens, and with after school programs. This gave me an opportunity to work with minorities who lived and thought very differently than me. I liked working with the people I interacted with, particularly at SVDP and in Los Angeles. People who have so little but are still willing to share, often show a deep love of Christ and give so much back to me when I interact with them."

"My dad has been a model for me. I was impressed by how he went beyond just volunteering. He formed friendships with the people he

assisted and sometimes carried that friendship outside of Saint Vincent de Paul. Another important role model was my director at the Lydia Home, where I volunteered last semester. She showed me that you can lead and still be loving. While she is extremely productive, she still has time to personally attend to the individuals around her."

In talking to Hannah it was obvious she has had some great role models, but even more importantly, she has a passion for learning. Says Hannah, "I understand that my foremost role is to share Christ. I might not always see the fruits of my labor and the work can be hard, but the effort is worthwhile."

People who have so little but are still willing to share, often show a deep love of Christ and give so much back to me when I interact with them.

"My early volunteer experiences helped prepare me for the direction I'm pursuing. I first went overseas when I was twelve. That experience took me out of my comfort zone. I had to deal with very different situations and people unlike those I grew up with. It taught me to reach beyond myself. Even if I didn't always see myself as capable, my trust in God spurred me on. When I went to Los Angeles nine months later, God helped me to see that it's important for me to live my life for those who have had far fewer chances than me and often suffer from a lack of hope. It was pretty compelling to be around so many

Hannah, continued on page 7



Bill and Socorro
Holloway plan a
home visit.



Do You Have a Calling?

The central focus of the early Vincentians was on home visits, meeting with the poor and needy where they lived to provide comfort and support. Both Our Lady of the Mountain Conference in Ashland and the Saint Anthony Conference in Medford share that mission in Jackson County. Because we are constantly in need of volunteers, we want everybody to understand what home visits are about so you can determine if this is a calling for you. As far as the personal traits needed... volunteers need to be sensitive to the needs of others, non judgemental, humble and caring. Having a sense of humor and being able to adjust to different situations also certainly helps.

Potential volunteers are taken through a thoughtful and well planned process to ensure they will be comfortable performing home visits. Initially they have discussions with experienced volunteers and are provided home reading on the history of St. Vincent de Paul and the nature of the work they are considering. After reflecting on the information provided, they accompany seasoned volunteers on several visits. Being able to just watch and ask questions later is a safe and proven way of learning. Before every visit the volunteers discuss the needs of the family or individuals they will meet. It's important to have a rough plan even though information gained in the visit will further shape the plan. During the next several weeks the novice will have ample time to ask

follow-up questions after each visit. In addition, they sit in on the discussion between the trained volunteers as they review how well each visit went and how it might have been improved. Home visit teams are dedicated to on-going learning. At the end of this process all parties are prepared to answer the question: "Does this volunteer have a calling for home visits?"

Home visits are always done in teams. This increases the confidence and comfort of the team and the quality of the planning and problem solving. In dealing with a variety of situations, the blend of two personalities and backgrounds allows for a much richer visit. While it is seldom a concern, the partnership also provides for enhanced security and safety, and two witnesses to what occurs.

Prior to each visit the team prays together for the success of the visit and for guidance. Upon entering the home, introductions are made and a period of casual conversation is used to increase everybody's comfort level. One of the partners observes while the other takes a brief history: who is living in the home, the current sources of income, and current expenses that need to be met. With this information our Vincentians are prepared to develop a plan for addressing the issue at hand. Most often the plan involves providing rental or utility assistance. Does the energy company or the landlord need to be brought into the planning? Once all commitments are met, we send a check to cover the support we have pledged.

Potential volunteers are taken through a thoughtful and well planned process to ensure they will be comfortable performing home visits.

Many of our readers might be surprised by the individuals and families we visit. Most are not practicing Catholics or practicing Christians although many appear to have strong personal beliefs. Their homes, in most cases, are quite well maintained and it is obvious many are actively seeking work. Seldom is the man of the house present because he is out actively looking for a job.

Bill Holloway, along with his wife Socorro, do a number of the visits in the Medford/Central Point area. They recently came across a situation that really tugged at their hearts. They visited with an older woman in her small trailer in a remote area of Gold Hill who had huge unpaid utility bills. She lives alone, has never married and has no relatives in this area. The trailer has a tiny heater and the woman is dependent on oxygen for life support. Therefore, the prospect of losing her power was life-threatening. Bill and Socorro worked with Pacific Power to get an agreement to keep the electricity on until our pledge could be met. The woman is alone most of the time and dependent on the good will of others just to get groceries. Bill and Socorro were so taken back by the woman's plight that they plan to drop in periodically to share lunch.

Would you like to be able to bring relief, warmth and friendship to others in our valley who are struggling? Contact us if you feel you might have a calling to do home visits. •



Top row, left to right: Ed Kehoe, Doug Mansur, Mario La Prova, Jim Van Orsow, Patrick Woodke

Bottom row, left to right: Rose Brooks, Mary "Fran" Davis-Cox, Carol Zippi



Note: We have a new website and website address, we added "medford" to the old one; stvincentdepaulmedford.info

Thrift Store - Collectibles Sale is Sunday, October 2nd, from 11 am to 4 pm, with all proceeds going to help fund School Supplies. Volunteers are needed Friday September 30th, starting at 3 pm, Saturday October 1st, 8 am to 5 pm, and Sunday October 2nd, 10 am to 5 pm. Sign up at the store.

Social Services/Home Visits, Talent, Ashland Conference -

There is a new direct phone line, (541-708-5650), for individuals needing assistance or support. Messages will be checked Monday through Friday in the afternoon or earlier.

School Supplies - Supplies will be handed out in the Pantry August 8-13, from 10 am until 2 pm and on Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5-7 pm for families working during the day.

School Supplies Conference -

The Dinner/Auction on July 16 raised \$4,000 to cover the cost of supplies for this year. Other major sources of financial support were Cow Creek = \$7,500, West Foundation = \$5,000, Store Collectible Sale = \$23,000 and Store Christmas Customer Appreciation Sale = \$7,500.

Understanding Our Treasury Group

In most organizations there is limited understanding of what the financial team does and a lack of appreciation for why this group is important to the success of the organization. The major responsibility of the Treasury team is to make certain that all financial transactions are promptly and accurately entered into the accounting system so the leadership team can make sound business decisions. When this does not happen, the organization can be exposed to vulnerabilities that may endanger the organization's future. Several years ago, all the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores in Portland had to close. This became necessary because that organization did not have an accurate accounting of the monies needed to be set aside to cover taxes and social security for their paid staff. By the time the extent of the obligation was understood, there was no recovery possible.

Our Treasury team consists of our VP, Mario La Prova, our treasurer, Jim Van Orsow and four or five assistant treasurers. The treasurers record the daily deposits, make deposits and pay whatever bills are presented for payment. Because this system is well managed, we recently knew, almost immediately, when a daily deposit from our Thrift Store went missing. We discovered that the deposit was actually stuck in the bank's drop shoot. While this caused some anxiety for our volunteers who handle deposits, the dilemma was quickly resolved. Another reason for requiring accurate and timely accounting is to ensure that our vendors treat us as a trusted customer. Organizations can fall behind in their payments to vendors because of sloppy record keeping. Subsequently, they can get a bad reputation and lose preferential pricing or are denied service.

The role of our VP is to supervise the treasurers and provide them with support and guidance. Prior to Mario's arrival we had only one treasurer who had to work nearly every day, making that position almost a full time job. Now, each day has a dedicated treasurer that need only work two or three hours once a week. Because of Mario's emphasis on running a professional treasury organization and the support of his team, we can produce timely and accurate reports at any time for any purpose. Because the treasury is well run, our CPA fees are much less, because our CPA can do his job faster and more accurately. In fact, our tax return was filed without an extension for the first time just two years ago. In addition, having accurate and current financial data is integral to our getting grant requests viewed favorably as well as presenting a positive picture for potential major donors. So, while many of us can't get too excited about all those sheets of numbers, they are a vital part of our business story for people we do business with.

Our Treasury team is continuously working to make the budgetary system more user friendly. Our conferences can help by ensuring their reports are timely and accurate enabling the Board of Directors to be able to count on accurate reports at each month's board meeting. Our Treasury group is always ready to provide help. While the contribution of the Treasury team can sometime get lost, hopefully we all can remember the real-time contribution these volunteers make and show our appreciation. •



Navigating Tight Times

Without too much effort, most of us can recall the difficulties and hardships that accompanied starting a family and settling down. We were able to move through that period without a serious threat to our family's well being. Our home visit team in Ashland recently encountered a young family that had more challenge than they could manage alone.

The family had been living a fairly normal existence...dad was going to school at SOU attending the Mental Health Counseling program. Mom was raising one child and preparing for the delivery of a second. In order to manage expenses they moved in with friends. With the planning and savings they had been able to do they felt that they had a reasonable and safe existence.

Then one day their friends abruptly announced that they were going to lose their home and were being evicted. With very limited finances there was little time to react. While they were sad for their friends, they had no place to go. Would it be necessary to split up the family to make it through this perilous time? With these kinds of decisions at hand family relations became seriously strained. All semblance of order and normalcy seemed to disappear.

Fortunately, Charlotte Dorsey and Alice Nagel, from Our Lady of the Mountain Home Visits team were called to assist. Because these ladies have been involved in home visits for a long time, they realized that both

Our home visit team in Ashland recently encountered a young family that had more challenges than they could manage alone.

strong emotional support along with financial assistance would be needed to get this young family back on course. While providing reassurance and counsel these ladies set about helping to coordinate the financial resources needed to get the family into another home. The support and structure they provided gave the family the assurance to relaunch their educational and work plans.

Today things are back to normal with manageable level of stress. Positive and nurturing relationships have returned and the family can function more naturally without serious threat hanging over their head. Dad says, in retrospect, "Not only was the help that Alice and Charolette provided indispensable, we could not have made it without the sensitivity and emotional support these ladies provided along the way."

Dad continues, "Faith has played a very large and indispensable part in our lives as we faced these economically difficult times for our family. It has given us the ability to stay together as a family, weathering the storm and making it to better times. Without the Lord I do not understand how anyone can make it through normal times, let alone something as severe as what we had to go through. At the same time, St. Vincent de Paul's help through Charlotte and Alice confirmed our faith that God looks to provide for the needs in our lives on earth. Our gratitude to Him and to St. Vincent de Paul who He moved to help us is great." •

Light the Winter Fires Dinner/Auction -

Will be October 15, at the Rogue Valley Country Club. Proceeds from this event are used to fund our Conferences for the following year. Call our office (541-772- 3828) for more information.

Medford Food Drive -

This campaign to collect groceries for the needy that are distributed to nineteen food banks in the valley generated the following groceries: February= 8,500 pounds from 700 families, April= 14,800 pounds from 1150 families, and June 14,300 pounds from 1250 families. Pick ups are the 2nd Saturday of every other month... February, April, June, August and October. Google Medford Food Project for more information.

Pet Enclosure -

Consisting of five separate, covered cages has been constructed near the Storage Shed. All dogs either need to be in this shelter or on a leash controlled by the owner.

Volunteers Needed!

Consider giving some of your time to help others. At SVDP we are an ALL VOLUNTEER organization, and depend on people like you to help. Call our volunteer coordinator at 541.772.3828, ext. 7 today!



Edin Hernandez, President
Kitchen Conference



Socorro Holloway, President
Social Services Conference

Profiles of New Conference Presidents

During the past several months we've had a number of new Conference Presidents elected so we are profiling them here for you.

Edin Hernandez, President, Kitchen Conference

Edin was pursuing a career in pharmaceuticals in southern California when he took time out to care for his ailing mother in Medford. "While here in Medford, I also decided I wanted to spend some time doing something positive for others. I was familiar with SVDP from my time in California and decided to volunteer with the Medford Council." Ed has been working in the kitchen for over a year and recently was named as President of that Conference. "I've been impressed by how well our volunteers work as a team and I want to make the kitchen more efficient and more worker friendly," says Edin. Obviously, Edin has become a valuable resource to our kitchen conference.

I've come to realize that my personal issues are pretty insignificant compared to the challenges faced by many of the people who come to us for help.

Eventually, Edin plans to resume his career in pharmaceuticals, but for the moment he is enjoying working with the volunteers here plus spending time caring for his eldest brother. When he is not at SVDP, Edin enjoys swimming and working on cars. He and his partner have

been together for nearly twenty years and have one son. "I really enjoy my relationship with my son and we are quite close."

"The people and pace here have helped me become more patient and understanding," says Edin. "I've come to realize that my personal issues are pretty insignificant compared to the challenges faced by many of the people who come to us for help. And, it's great seeing how well our volunteers cooperate with each other, much better than I've often experienced in industry." While we wish Edin well in his career, we hope he will be with us for a significant period of time.

Socorro Holloway, President, Social Services Conference

Socorro Holloway, our President of the Social Services Conference, was born and raised in Chihuahua, Mexico. She migrated to the United States (California) in 1968 unable to speak any English which was a significant challenge. "When you enter a new country unable to speak the native language, you are really cut off from that world," says Socorro. While expanding her English speaking skills, Socorro and her husband were involved in the ownership of several successful franchise stores.

Years later her husband came down with cancer and began receiving intensive treatment. While using the treatment center, Socorro and her husband met Bill Holloway,

currently President of our Medford Home Visit Conference, and his wife, who was also receiving treatment. Both couples became good friends. Unfortunately the treatments were not successful. In 1990 Socorro and Bill married and moved to Oregon which they loved because of the beautiful scenery, small town setting (then about 45,000) and great outdoor recreational opportunities. Socorro has a passion for hiking and white water rafting.

Socorro has been surprised by the number of people who need assistance, as well as the number of citizens who are willing to volunteer to help.

One Sunday while they were attending Shepherd of the Valley Catholic Church, Dave Moosman made an appeal for volunteers for SVDP. The appeal worked and Socorro, while still holding a regular job, began working as a counselor in Social Services one day a week. When Socorro retired from her job in 2009 she began volunteering full time in Social Services. And then when the role of Conference President became vacant, Socorro felt a calling to step into that role.

Socorro has been surprised by the number of people who need assistance in this area, as well as the number of citizens who are willing to volunteer to help. Besides her role as President of Social Services, Socorro works with husband Bill

Conference Presidents, continued on page 7



Chici Cutting, President
Ashland Social Services



John Hoffman, President
Thrift Store Conference

Conference Presidents, continued from page 6

doing home visits with the Saint Augustine Home Visit Conference. Socorro says she is happy to carry this load, "because of the strong environment of cooperation and support at St Vincent de Paul." She believes this environment enables a positive attitude and results in the major successes we see.

Chici Cutting, President,
Social Services/Home Visits,
Ashland, Talent

Chici had been interested in SVDP for some time but a full time job precluded her acting on her interest. After retiring she was finally ready to join SVDP until her husband became seriously ill and later passed away. Initially, she was overcome with the grief of his loss but after a time, with the help of her support group, she realized that working with SVDP could give her new purpose. She joined two years ago and hasn't looked back. "Focusing on others has certainly helped with my recovery. Being able to help others has helped me overcome not having a partner. Helping others provides its own rewards," says Chici. After a time she saw the added promise of becoming President of the Conference. "I liked the feeling of making a commitment. And I wanted to rekindle the self awareness I had before I lost my husband."

"Before joining SVDP I never realized how many other people were out there ready to help the less fortunate. Especially after becoming President, I realized how many groups in Ashland were dedicated to

helping the less fortunate and how well networked these groups are to support each other." Likewise, Chici has been delighted with the support provided by the rest of the Council and amazed at how many ways the Thrift Store supports the work of the other Conferences.

Helping others has it's own rewards.

Chici, like others from the Ashland Conference, sings the praise of Charlotte Dorsey and Alice Nagel. "Their knowledge of how to make things happen and their understanding of people is beautiful. And, while we have a small Conference, I'm certain their influence has prompted four of our volunteers to also volunteer with Conferences in Medford. Everybody in our group is highly motivated and always willing to pitch in and to support each other. Volunteers never feel like they are out there alone. At our meetings our volunteers jump in with ideas and willingly take on responsibility."

"Being in this Conference adds new vigor to my life," says Chici.

John Hoffman, President,
Thrift Store Conference

John began volunteering in the Store about two and a half years ago and was elected to President of the Conference in January, 2011. John has lived in the area for the last fifteen years with his wife, Stephanie, and sons Chris & Evan, who also volunteer when home from college.

John, besides being President of our largest conference, can be found almost any day of the week helping take up the slack in the Store and keeping the operation running smoothly. •

The Southern Oregon

Historical Society will have a Scarecrow Festival, October 15th, at Hanley Farm near Jacksonville, allowing children and families to make scarecrows and votes on favorites. The event will be preceded by a scarecrow building workshop on September 11. St. Vincent DePaul is generously providing discarded clothing items to help with the project. •

Hannah, continued from on page 2

people who had no home or were crowded into a single room but were still joyous about life."

"My experiences have taught me that rather than try to blend in, even though I'm often the minority, it's important for me to be authentic. By just being myself, I will have a greater impact. While I'm a white kid from suburbia, I can still reach out and touch lots of other people even though they come from very different worlds." •

Donating funds to St. Vincent de Paul is easy with our [Donate](#) button on our website using PayPal or a credit card. Go to our NEW website: stvincentdepaulmedford.info and click on "How to Help."



COMING EVENTS

School Supply Handout in the Pantry - August 8-13.

Thrift Store:

1/2 Off Sale - Sept. 26.

\$2 Bag sale - Sept. 30 - Oct 2.

Collectibles Sale - October 2.

Light the Winter Fires
Dinner/Auction - Oct. 15 at
Rogue Valley Country Club

Scarecrow Festival - Oct. 15.
Hanley Farms, sponsored by the
Southern Oregon Historical
Society

SVDP Hours

Office & Social Services:

541-772-3828

Monday-Friday, 10 - 2

Thrift Store: 779-3648

Mon-Sat, 10 - 4

Dining Room: Mon-Sat, 11 - 1

Pantry: Last two Fridays of each
month, 10 am - 1pm

Medical Clinica: Every Second
Thursday, 10:30 - 1:30

Dental Van: Jan 21, Feb 11, Mar 25

Large furniture pickup available, call
store to schedule, first floor only.

Full Color Newsletter

See the newsletter in full color at
stvincentdepaulmedford.info.

Email del37e@q.com to receive
the full color newsletter as a pdf
file in your email instead of being
sent 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:

Patrick Wilson and Dianne Erickson

New website: [More information, more news.](http://stvincentdepaulmedford.info)

NEW Address: stvincentdepaulmedford.info



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

2424 N. Pacific Highway

Medford, Oregon 97501

541.772.3828

New Website: stvincentdepaulmedford.info

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