

# St. Vincent de Paul Rogue Valley Council Newsletter



## "The Five Living Presidents"

**President John Vinatieri**

**Past Presidents**

**Kathleen Begley, Socorro Holloway,  
Dennis Mihocko and Len Hebert**



**Serving the poor and needy of Jackson County  
with a hand up, not a handout**



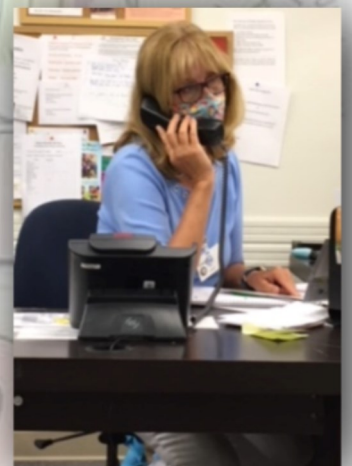
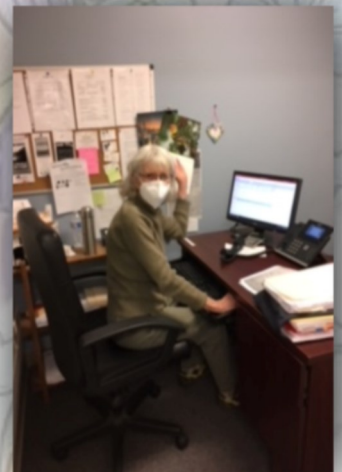
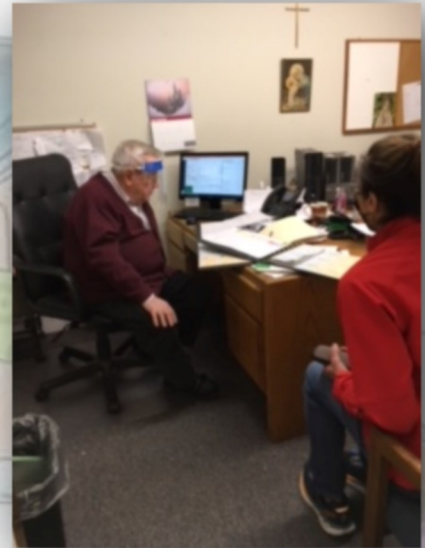
# From the President's Desk



To all my Vincentian brothers and sisters:

In this busy “got to get things done” world we sometimes forget to thank all those who make St. Vincent de Paul possible. I would like to say thank you to all of you now. Many of our volunteers have added extra days to their schedules. We have done an incredible job of serving our clients. Unfortunately, we have not been able to have our volunteer appreciation days due to the COVID pandemic. Hopefully we will be able to reinstate these celebrations soon. As of now, we are serving an excess of 100 hot meals 5 days a week to our clients. The pantry has been extremely helpful, particularly in the beginning stages of the pandemic. The kitchen staff is so thankful for the extra help that was given without having to ask for it. Thank you to all of the hard working kitchen staff and management. The store is doing an incredible job of serving the public. Thank you! Donations are coming in extremely well. Our grant writers, along with the store, are doing a great job keeping us in the black financially. Our shelter is up and running and caring for families in need. Hopefully we will be able to continue this and expand. The urban rest stop is now operating 2 days a week and searching for more volunteers so we can go back to 5 days running. Our warehouses are full and we are looking for new projects. The latest of these projects include low income housing to help those suffering from poverty. Thanks to our office workers who have worked continuously throughout the last 2 years. We are able to distribute mail and bags of groceries on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Special thanks for Marilyn and Fr. Jim for taking over social services after our beloved Joe Schudawa passed away. Once again I would like to thank everyone who has worked tirelessly for making St. Vincent De Paul such a success in Medford. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone. Each and every one of you are important to the running of our organization. Thank you again and may God be with you and bless you.





Len Hebert

# Humanitarian of the Year

## 2020



**Nancy and Bill Hunt** were presented with the 2020 St. Vincent de Paul "Len Hebert Humanitarian of the Year" award at the November 2020 council meeting. Though the recognition and celebration were minimized due to COVID-19, it was still a great honor for Bill Hunt to receive the award on behalf of him and Nancy, who passed away in 2019.

Nancy was council Secretary for over 15 years, worked in the Thrift store and the office, plus managed to keep us on our toes with reporting our volunteer hours, computer data entry, Roberts Rules of Order for council meetings and in general kept us on an even keel.

Bill works in the store fixing things that are donated and can be fixed as well as helping maintain the facilities when called on. He and Nancy were Master Gardeners helping with many garden projects around the valley. They were recognized as **Volunteers of the Month** by Jackson County commissioners in 2017 for all their hours spent helping in the **Restore Store** of Habitat in Medford. Bill Hunt recently said that, "Nancy and I believe in using our extra free time in activities which promoted the human welfare. SVDP's philosophy closely aligned with that aim and we have associated with the organization for 17 years. We urge others seeking to improve living conditions for those less fortunate to join us at St. Vincent's.—"

They are an amazing couple and deserve this recognition for all they do to serve others. With big hearts and warm smiles, they have made a huge impression on St Vincent de Paul and the Rogue Valley communities. God has blessed us all with you both.



Len Hebert

# Humanitarian of the Year

2021



**Sue Naumes**, a fixture in Jackson County's pear industry, is receiving some recognition after a life serving the community.

The former manager of Naumes Inc., one of the largest pear companies in Southern Oregon, received the **Len Hebert Humanitarian of the Year** award from St. Vincent de Paul on June 25 2021.

Sue Naumes, 73, said she is still surprised that she won the award, considering the significant efforts of the many volunteers at St. Vincent.

"All those older men and women, they're the real humanitarians," she said. "St. Vincent's a fabulous organization."

She praised Len Hebert, who has supported St. Vincent over the years and for whom the humanitarian award is named after starting over a decade ago.

Sue said the volunteers treat the homeless population with dignity and respect, offering them food, clothing, laundry facilities, a place to shower and other resources.

Sue has served on countless boards and committees over the years, including the Medford Irrigation District Board, Rogue Basin Water Users Council Board, Rotary Foundation, The Carpenter Foundation, The Walker Advisory Committee and The Joe and Frances Naumes Family Foundation.

Medford Mayor Randy Sparacino also recently proclaimed June 25, 2021, as **Sue Naumes Day** to recognize her legacy.

Thank you, Sue for all you do to make our community a better place for all.



**Vicky Weiss, SVDP Volunteer; Debra Ingram, Retail Bank Manager;  
John Engelhardt, OLM Conference President**

## **“Oh, it is Just What We Do”**

Okay, I am just going to say it: there is just something about our Ashland branch of First Interstate Bank. From the very first time I walked in, I was struck by the “décor” at the bank. It seemed then (and has been confirmed nearly every time since) that fun decorations are prominently in place, all of them urging customers to contribute to one fund drive or another, benefiting a local non-profit.

If you have seen the television ads for First Interstate, you are familiar with the emphasis they place on community. Of course, all banks in our area are involved in one way or another with various charitable activities. But there is something different about First Interstate in Ashland—and it isn’t just that Our Lady of the Mountain Conference recently received a check from First Interstate. It is more than that.

I have never before or since walked into a business and found the manager—in this case, Retail Bank Manager, Debra Ingram—making posters that urge customers to contribute school supplies for needy youngsters. Or find huge displays advertising the bank as the place to drop off food for the local Food Bank. When I first introduced myself to Debra and identified myself as a representative from St. Vincent de Paul, she greeted me enthusiastically with, “Oh, I was just up in Medford, dropping off a bunch of coats at St. Vincent de Paul.”

Whether it is advertising the “Feed the Neighborhood” program or supplying staff for local Junior Achievement programs, the “décor” at First Interstate is a seasonal display, alerting customers to the needs of the community and how to contribute. Debra herself is a member of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, and her team there is always involved in the city’s biggest events, such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and the Festival of Lights.

The First Interstate Foundation doesn’t just encourage its employees to volunteer; it actually grants to a non-profit \$10 an hour for every hour that a volunteer spends working for that non-profit. Walking in, one senses that volunteerism, contributing to those in need, is just part of the air these folks breathe.

Aren’t we in Ashland lucky to have them in our community!

--Vicky Weiss

St. Vincent de Paul

Our Lady of the Mountain Conference



# Jackson County Volunteer of the Month



In June **Socorro Holloway** was awarded Jackson County Volunteer of the month. Socorro Holloway is serving the needs of our community through St Vincent de Paul by being a social service counselor, helping any in need of rent and utility relief, medicine assistance, dental assistance, eyeglass assistance, ID procurement, clothing vouchers, food bags, motel stays and RV assistance during fire relief, shelter assistance, home visits to those who cannot come to us as well as being bilingual for so many in need. Socorro also assists Northwest Season Farm Workers with many of the same services and stays informed about many of the issues that impact the vulnerable and needy residents of Jackson County. Due to her prior experience as a businesswoman and banker for many years, she handles reporting on finances, volunteer recruitment and reporting, represents St Vincent de Paul to many government agencies, foundations and other non-profit entities and has done so for two decades. She is an ambassador of compassion for those who need help whether temporarily or long term. Socorro is a woman to be reckoned with in defense of those marginalized in society.

Socorro has been with St Vincent de Paul for over twenty years starting as a counselor doing home visits, with her husband Bill, while she was still working, by going to the needy in their homes in the evenings and on weekends. Once she retired, she also started counseling those who come to St Vincent for social services and soon became President of that conference until she became President of the entire Jackson County Rogue Council of St. Vincent de Paul. She led our council through many turbulent times requiring deep conviction of her Christian faith to guide this organization to where it is today.

She lost her husband Bill a few years ago and together they were awarded the **Len Hebert Humanitarian Award** for 2017. An honor that is recognized throughout our community by those who serve it. Socorro is a true Vincentian model of compassion and caring to those who need a hand up even if it is daily. God has blessed us all with Socorro for all these many years. Her friendship with Marty has helped aid those in need with problems that fall outside the scope of what we normally can provide, i.e. car troubles, items we cannot provide etc.

Socorro is an avid hiker with a local group that is active in Oregon but also has climbed Machu Picchu in Peru and has individually climbed Mt Fuji and hiked the Camino de Santiago in France and Spain. Snowshoeing in Oregon is her favorite thing to do. Ha ha. Socorro is a great lady and an inspiration to others. Thank you Socorro for being you.

# Jackson County Volunteer of the Month

Last year, **Joe Schudawa**, was nominated for the Jackson County Volunteer of the Month. In January 2021, he became the Volunteer of the Month in a zoom session of the Jackson County Commissioners meeting.

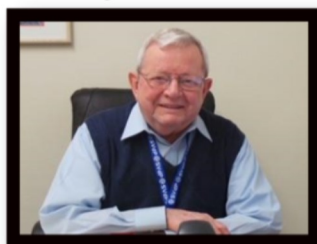
Known for his compassion toward the most vulnerable, Joe Schudawa of St. Vincent de Paul was honored Wednesday with the county's Community Service Award for January by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. The leader of social services at the all-volunteer organization, Schudawa was nominated by Father Jim Clifford.

"It is such a joy, and I'm humbled to work with Joe. Joe is an example to me of all the things that I'm supposed to preach about — and he lives and exemplifies day in and day out," Clifford said. "Schudawa is dedicated to the poor and vulnerable, never judges anyone and is always there to go an extra step to help one more person. He really encourages us as volunteers to grow in our vision and our mission toward the poor and the vulnerable and all the people that we truly have a privilege to serve," Clifford said. Schudawa said he couldn't do his work without the teamwork of everyone who helps at St. Vincent de Paul. "This whole thing isn't about me. It's about the crew we have. We have just an amazing group of people," he said.

With Jackson County hit by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and September wildfires, the organization is doing more than ever to help those in need. Among other tasks, St. Vincent has taken on distribution of government funded COVID-19 rent and utility aid and helped shelter and feed fire survivors whose homes were destroyed. Its regular work includes providing food and running a fundraising thrift store, an urban rest stop with showers and laundry facilities, emergency shelter and social services.

Schudawa said it's very gratifying to see how the community came together in unprecedented ways to help starting in 2020. "It's something we by ourselves couldn't have ever done. It took the whole community to get together and to do these things. And it's still going on, by the way. We're not done. Well, we're never done. The last year was exceptional," he said.

*In Loving Memory*





# *In Loving Memory*

Paul Begley - Kitchen

Joann Berggren - Office

Brendalee Carpenter - Store

Chici Cuddy - OLM President

Leo Dull - Kitchen

Pam Dunlap - Office

Myrt Foster - Store

Al Geran - Store

Florence Grimes - Store

Glenn Grimes - Store

Mary Gulrich - Office

Mary Lou Hanke – Office

James “Tink” Hoitink - Office

Bill Holloway - URS, St Augustine

Bill & Lil Howe - Founders of Rogue Council

Nancy Hunt - Council Secretary, Office, Store

John Hunter - Pantry

Virgil & Edwina Jenkins - Store

Perri Johnson - Office

Louise Kelli - Office

Pat Kelli - Store

Ed “Lumpy” Keogh - Treasury

Rita Layton - Kitchen

Clay & Marge Mares - Pantry

Rita Matthias - Pantry

John Mete - Store

Dr. Dave Moosman - Shelter,  
Homeless taskforce & Spiritual Advisor

Cliff Moran - Office

Ray Nougier - Pantry, Kitchen

Arnold & Kathy Paradis - Kitchen

Lou Paxton - Kitchen

Bob Pettit - Kitchen

Margaret Reed - Kitchen

Tedde Ridley – Council, Medford Food Project

Fr. Bill Ryan - Spiritual Advisor

Gladys Schibusch - Store

Gloria Schudawa - Office

Joe Schudawa - Social Service President

Bill Schuyler - President

Vincent Silis - Store, Soc Serv, Office

Kathleen Sommer - Kitchen

Dee St.Martin - Office

Jean Stewart - Kitchen

Dee Stormberg - Volunteer Coordinator

“T” Tedashii – Kitchen

Felice Van Domelen - URS

Judy Virzi - Store

Robert “Hungry” Webster - Store

Bob Wickman – Store

Carl Wieland - Store

Patrick Wilson - Store President, Newsletter



# God's Essential Workers

We have learned a new term, "Essential Workers"! For the past 18 months, our volunteers have been our "Essential Workers." While our volunteer base has diminished, our desire to help the poor and needy of Jackson County has only increased.

March of 2020 was the start of the Pandemic here in Jackson County. At our Board meeting that month, we nominated and approved the nomination of John Vinatieri as President of our Rogue Valley Council. That very same week we began closing our services to protect our Volunteer base.

It didn't take long to see the need in our community and under the leadership of our President John Vinatieri, we revised our procedures and began to open our services in a protected way. Our Kitchen began preparing Meals to GO! Under the guidance of our Kitchen Manager Charlotte Martinson, our bag lunches soon came with a different entrée every day!

Our Store reopened slowly, due to the need for volunteers. Currently the store is open Tuesday thru Saturday from 10 -4. The store has been a tremendous help in getting people back on their feet.

Our Social Service volunteers quickly gathered to develop a safe way to provide services. Our entire facility was closed to the public. Within the first weeks, a plan was developed to assist clients by phone. New guidelines were in place and funds were arriving daily. The limits of financial assistance were adjusted to accommodate the increasing needs of our clients.

Come September, our community was devastated by the Almeda fires in Phoenix, Talent and Medford. This caused the loss of a large block of housing stock. Thousands of people were left homeless. Once again, we reviewed our policies in order to help as many as possible. Many agencies in Medford joined together to help provide for the needs, beyond what FEMA and the Red Cross could provide.

As the days passed, we were able to open our Homeless Locker Facility, followed by the reopening of our Metal Shed, which provides large household items (furniture, beds etc.) to the poor and needy. Our Shed became a vital necessity as people tried to reestablish their lives.

The fires not only impacted our community, but on a more personal note...several of our volunteers also lost their homes. The fires caused us to step up and help the thousands that were displaced. We started to help the displaced by providing motel stays. Just about every Hotel/Motel in Medford was housing our clients. Armed with debit cards, we insured that no one would be living on the streets due to the fire.

A very special service we provide is our Urban Rest Stop, which provides shower and laundry services to our homeless clients. Many of our URS volunteers are from our homeless population and were also very impacted by COVID and the fires. The URS has struggled to be able to staff more than 2 days a week but continue to be of service to those in need.

Our Shelter was closed when our shelter Manager tested positive for Covid. After a lengthy quarantine, we were able to clean and sanitize the shelter. We developed special protocols for the Shelter and began to take in families in need. Unfortunately, we currently are not accepting any more families, until the spike in COVID diminishes.

Our work in the community continues to bless each and every one of God's" Essential Workers..."





# ST. VINCENT'S CHALLENGE

"The streets will be long and unfriendly.  
The stairs will be steep and the poor often ungrateful.  
You will find that charity is a heavy burden to carry.  
Heavier than a bowl of soup. Heavier than the full basket.  
But you will keep your gentleness and your smile.  
It is not enough to give bread and soup;  
this the rest can do.

You are the servant of the poor. You are always  
smiling, always good-humored. They are your  
masters. You will find them terribly exacting.  
So, the more unattractive they are and the  
more dirty they are, the more unjust and  
insulting they are, the more Love  
you must give them. It is for your love alone  
that the poor will forgive you  
the crust of bread you will give them"

*St. Vincent de Paul*

St. Vincent de Paul  
P.O. Box 1663  
Medford, OR 97501



# St. Vincent de Paul

So much more  
than just a

## THRIFT STORE



*Join our Vincentian Family*  
**Volunteer**