

St. Vincent de Paul  
Rogue Valley Council  
**Newsletter**  
Summer 2023



*Serving the poor and needy  
of Jackson County  
with a hand up, not a handout  
for over 40 years*



Rogue Valley District Council  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul

**Len Hebert**  
**Humanitarian of the Year Award**

*In recognition of tireless service to  
those in need in Jackson County*

2010 Len Hebert

2011 Mike & Laura Naumes

2012 Dave Moosman

2013 Jerry & Jeanne Taylor

2014 Al Zon

2015 Fr. Jim Clifford

2016 Dennis Mihocko

2017 Bill & Socorro Holloway

2018 Rich Hansen

2019 Tedde Ridley

2020 Bill & Nancy Hunt

2021 Sue Naumes



This year's **LEN HEBERT HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR** was proudly awarded to our *Blessed Anna Maria Conference* President, Ralph Browning, during our Christmas Volunteer Luncheon. Ralph not only oversees the operation of our Store, but also is always available to help with any requests from our volunteers. Ralph is well known in our community, serving with the Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis, and a regular donor to the Red Cross. Ralph participates in numerous civic activities, the least of which is the annual Polar Plunge, a fund raiser for the Special Olympics! Ralph has been awarded the Jackson County Volunteer of the Month, and the list just goes on.



# Shepherd of the Valley Pantry

*"We have only today to make God known, loved, served, fed, clothed, sheltered.  
Do not wait for tomorrow.*

*Tomorrow, we will not have them if we do not feed them today.*

*Mother Teresa*

Feeding God's people is an especially important part of who we are as Vincentians. Daily we meet clients who do not have sufficient groceries for their families. Our Pantry volunteers work every day, securing food, stocking our shelves, packing grocery bags, and distributing those groceries to those who come to us for assistance.



It is a common site, early in the morning to see the Pantry van backing up to the building to unload the food that has been donated from various sources: Rogue Manor, Ray's, Safeway, Gleaners, and food which is ordered from local distributors; Dollar Store, WinCo, and US Foods.

Often when Pantry volunteers have any extra time, they find their way to the Kitchen to help with Lunch. Where they are always warmly welcomed.



# **St. Anthony Emergency**

## **Family Shelter**



Our ***St Anthony Emergency Family Shelter*** has been a temporary respite for many families, especially after the years impacted by COVID and the loss of so many homes from the horrific fire of 2020. Though we still had incidents of individuals and in some cases, families having to leave the shelter prematurely due to drug or alcohol use or inappropriate conduct, there were many successes as well.

We had a large family of ten and several other families of varying sizes, who were able to move on to more permanent housing or have returned to other family members. Two of those families stand out as successes in their search for housing.

One family of six secured housing after experiencing domestic violence and abuse with less than thirty days stay in our shelter, which is the stay limit without a goal assessment. The mother was motivated and relieved without the domestic abuse and violence threat no longer hanging over her and her family of five well-behaved children. They left our shelter with hopes for a better and more predictable life.

The other family, a mother and young son, was with us for quite a while longer with the mother working toward a goal of finding housing through Jackson County Housing Authority. She was finally able to get the housing she needed and was so very appreciative of the safety of our shelter and the services she received. I recently had the privilege of encountering her and her son with their extended family while shopping at Costco. She saw me before I saw her, she walked up to

me and said thank you again for her stay at our shelter. She felt confident and secure with her son in their new place as we hugged. Then the 7-year-old boy ran up to me and gave me a big hug and said, "I know you". He hugged me for a long time and then he said, "Thank you." Later, with my shopping done, I left Costco with a smile on my face and an uplifted feeling in my heart.

The ***St Anthony Emergency Family Shelter*** has been an active part of St. Vincent de Paul for over twenty years in three separate locations, thanks to founder Dr Dave Moosman and Al Zon, as well as Kathy Fisher, Kathy Begley, Nancy Morrow, Nick Koutosouros and Scott Gustafson. It is with great pride and massive humility that I thank them all for all they do to make this an oasis in life's journey for so many struggling families.



# Spring Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Our Annual Meeting / Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup> in our dining room. Volunteers began to arrive around noon and before long the room was filled with many greetings and friends catching up with each other.

The “meeting” was called to order by Kathy Begley and our Mission Statement was read.

“We are a network of friends, inspired by Gospel Values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.”

Len Hebert, Past President, Executive Board member and Kitchen Volunteer was introduced by Kathy to speak about St. Vincent de Paul Society, our past and our future.



Len also presented John Vinatieri with a plaque for his service as President of our Council for the last three years. John briefly remarked on his time as President and how much it truly meant to him.

**And that concluded our Annual Meeting!**

It was now time for fellowship, food, and fun! First on our agenda, “Heads and Tails,” a tradition at our luncheon. Dennis Mihocko, our official coin flipper, led the group in a demonstration of how it is played...” If you think it will be Heads, put your hands on your head, if you guess Tails, put your hands on...” well you get the picture! After several rounds, we were down to the final six...two more flips and there were only two left standing... The final flip was heads and Scott Perry, a Friday Kitchen volunteer was the winner. Past President Socorro Holloway, our “Vanna” presented Scott with a beautiful plant. Scott also provided us with wonderful music throughout our event.

Our meal blessing was given by Past President Dennis Mihocko. The Kitchen was ready to go and began serving a fabulous Prime Rib dinner, with all the fixings. Our volunteers were raving about the meal...” **restaurant quality food**!” The kitchen served 110 meals and offered “to go boxes” for leftovers. No one goes away hungry from our dining room!



During dessert Luisa Valentin, teacher at **Ballet Folkloric Ritmo Alegre** and her students entertained us with traditional Mexican dancing.

**Beautiful costumes and lively music!**



*After the meal, all our conferences were recognized for their incredible service to God's people. Service pins were given, and many longtime volunteers were acknowledged for their years of devoted service.*



*A special thank you to Socorro Holloway, Diane Johnson, Dennis Mihocko, Julie Cote, Rita Vinatieri, Kit Trombino, Charlotte Martinson, Diane Perreard, Jim Potter, Beth Hunter, and Scott Perry...*

*Thank you for making this event so successful!*



**VOLUNTEER**





## Upcoming Sale Dates

### Mark your Calendars

June 2 & 3

1/2 off Clothes & Shoes

July 7 & 8

1/2 off Clothes & Shoes

August 4 & 5

1/2 off Clothes & Shoes

***August 18 - 24***

***50% off Designer Purses***

September 1 & 2

1/2 off Clothes & Shoes

September 16

\$3 a Bag Clothes & Shoes

October 6 & 7

1/2 off Clothes & Shoes

November 3 & 4

1/2 off Clothes & Shoes

December 1 & 2

1/2 off Clothes & Shoes

**December 9**

**Customer Appreciation**

**50% off Store WIDE**



- ***Tuesday is Senior 25% off Clothes and Shoes***



## *Pear Blossom Parade* *Saturday April 8, 2023*

A hardy bunch of SVDP volunteers gathered early Saturday morning to participate in the annual Medford **Pear Blossom Parade**. We came prepared to walk the two mile parade route and to engage the 20,000 spectators!



Our banner was held high by Michael and Anne Meiring, Our Lady of the Mountain, Ashland volunteers, followed by the “Bike Boys”, Nick Koutasorus, Wayne Trefren, Scott Gustafson and Brian Gustafson. The Bike boys really had a good time on their electric bikes...

Behind the Bike Boys Kathy Begley in her truck with Diane Johnson provided music, “Lean on Me”, throughout the route and waved to everyone, While Diane and Dennis Mihocko rode in the back of the truck to supply our army of walkers and greet the spectators.



A group of walkers, led by Socorro Holloway, passed out swag bags with information on volunteering with us: SVDP pens, Refrigerator magnets, Annual Report and an invitation to **“Join our Vincentian Family”**...and a few sweet treats!

Bringing up the rear was our Past President, John Vinatieri, driving his 74 Corvette... a real crowd pleaser!



**Look for us at the**  
***July 4<sup>th</sup> Freedom Festival Parade - Central Point***



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

**Join our  
Vincentian Family  
VOLUNTEER**



**Help Us  
Help Others**

Society of St. Vincent De Paul

**Call (541) 772-3828 ext. 7**