

St. Vincent de Paul

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



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SVDP Hours Full Color Newsletter

Bringing the Holidays to the Poor of Jackson County

Thankfully, the holiday season finally wound down at SVDP. November and December were certainly the busiest months of the

year for many of our volunteers as they worked feverishly to bring joy and comfort to so many people who have so little. Activity actually began well before Thanksgiving as many individuals in the community

started thinking about how they could make life better for others. Throughout the next two months hardly a day went by that somebody didn't wander into the facility with a significant donation. It's not uncommon for lots of checks, large and small, to arrive over the last two months of the year, easily totaling over \$25,000 some years. As we get closer to Christmas, we also receive lots of cold weather gear... wool socks, knitted scarfs and gloves and one or more shipments of blankets from women who provide special support to our efforts during the holiday. We also receive 60 to 80 large turkeys from various individuals and families and these certainly are central to the several major meals that are provided for those we serve, like the Thanksgiving day meal hosted by the Central Point First Presbyterian church on Sunday, November 20th. This little church, with less than 200 families, has

provided a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for the past nine years plus an Easter dinner in more recent years and

now are considering some kind of summer event. If you came into our dining room during their Thanksgiving Dinner you were greeted by entertainment by the Old Time Fiddlers playing for the over 400 guests who



The Old Time Fiddlers play at Thanksgiving dinner

relished the music, good food and warm companionship. And the event really hummed along with the help of over seventy adult and children volunteers. It would have been difficult to determine which group was more immersed in the festivities.

The kitchen was barely put back together before we had to prepare for our December dinner/auction. Out came more of those turkeys and the needed trimmings. In spite of the fact we struggled to get candy and other treats for this event, we still made \$6,000 that was divided between the Home Visit Conferences and the Kitchen. Several weeks earlier our Store volunteers began bringing out pallets loaded with all the holiday decorations and novelties donated over the past twelve months. Between

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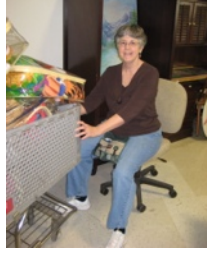


Letter from the President

Thank you all for your tremendous work of charity to all the needy of Jackson County, especially over the busy and often hectic Thanksgiving and Christmas season. The numbers served in all conferences, tells a tale of increased need, often by those who have never had to come to us before. The Kitchen continued to provide great meals for an increased number of guests, while the dinner served on Christmas day was especially well received thanks to the efforts of Len and Mary Anne Hebert and their large troop of volunteers. The gift giving, not only to the guests on Christmas day but also to other needy people especially children in the community, was very well organized by John Hoffman and sons over too many hours. The store realized a large increase in revenue which makes it possible to do what we do, thanks to the long hours and hard work of all the wonderful store volunteers, especially those who labored on Sundays.

All the Social Service conferences' volunteers made Christmas a little better thanks to their patience and caring nature. The Pantry gave emergency food to those in need, even on weekdays, thanks to their daily hard work. The Urban Rest Stop provided their ongoing sense of community while providing showers and laundry assistance. The Shelter made Christmas a little more homey, for those it helped and also provided much needed care through the Dental Program. It was a blessed and wonderful Christmas despite the hard economic times faced by all. Thank you to all who volunteer and who donate to St Vincent de Paul for making this happen. May Christ's peace be with us in all we think, say and do, especially with each other.

God Bless You Always.
Dennis T. Mihocko



Left: Jean Hammer, manager for toys, made certain we had many stuffed animals for the holiday baskets delivered to NSWA.

Right: Mary Curtis Gramley, Executive Director of the Family Nurturing Center, chats with Sacred Heart students delivering Shoebox gifts.



Northwest Seasonal Worker's Association Supports Worker's Needs

The Northwest Seasonal Worker's Association (NSWA) was started in 1976 when the local community recognized the urgency of creating an organization to address the needs of farmworkers and other low income workers. Today the Association has 30,000 members with 60% of these members being Hispanic. Like St. Vincent de Paul, NSWA also holds the distinction of being an all-volunteer organization with forty-some trained members sharing their time and support. In addition to these volunteers, the Association is aided by numerous local attorneys, doctors, and other professionals.

NSWA is open 9 am to 9 pm daily, seven days a week and offers a wide range of services to it's members. They have an emergency food pantry, a clothing closet, non-emergency dental care, legal advice and assistance, an alcohol referral program, assistance with child care, job information, referral support for other community services, financial planning assistance, and classes on a number of critical member interests. Between 60 and 100 members or more visit the Association each week for information, services, counsel and support.

The Association has seen the same dramatic increase in need SVDP has experienced over the last few years, as an example, gaining over 150 new members just in the last several months. They are also serving many formerly stable income workers now without jobs and more workers getting by with part-time work and significantly decreased earnings. Add to this population, the many small businesses who are experiencing hard times due to the reduced circumstances of so many of their regular customers. While many of these people and businesses previously provided valuable support to the Association, they must now turn to the Association for help. Another factor driving the burgeoning need is the influx of low income and unemployed workers moving from California, hoping to escape the much higher cost of living there.

Not only is the association struggling with a growing population of people in need and a decreasing base of businesses and people able to provide support, the Federal government is continually cutting back on critically needed services, e.g. utility and heating assistance, food stamps (sometimes actually denied in spite of dramatic needs) and rental assistance. Access, for example, has a catch-22 policy that requires applicants for rental assistance to provide a history of recent income plus the promise of likely income in the near future. This represents a particularly onerous challenge for individuals who are often chronically unemployed.

The good news is that other support agencies like Kids Unlimited, Toys for Tots, Head Start, United Way, Access and SVDP are providing assistance to NSWA, where possible. When NSWA was nearing the time for their own school supply give-away and realized they were significantly short of the

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Bob Hernandez and Wayne Robinson look over the work they are facing for the day in the Shop.

Bill Hunt applies his skills to bringing another TV back to life.



What's Going on With the Guys in the Back Room?

The purpose of the Thrift Store is to take the items we receive and recondition/repair those that still have value and will not require too much time or money to recover. We want to be able to provide low cost electronics, computer equipment, furniture and appliances to mid to low income families at a modest price. The Repair Shop is an excellent example of this practice, taking numerous truckloads of discarded furniture, appliances and other electronics each week and recreating desirable home and outdoor products. During the typical week the 10 to 12 men in the shop work upwards of 70 to 80 hours doing this work. Roughly 80% of the items that are delivered to the shop are made into appealing retail purchases with a significant percent of the non repairables sold to local vendors for the scrap metal they contain. While the men enjoy the work, it also provides a good insight into products in the marketplace... which products break down easily, which are more durable, which can easily be repaired and which are way too much hassle and costly for repair. While we like volunteers to have some basic skills to be a part of this team, the constant and varied use of these skills also increases their ability to take on more challenging demands. Working in the shop becomes like an on-going repair seminar.

The skills of the men in the shop vary depending on actual experience

and vocational background. We are fortunate to have a group of guys with very good skills, patience and attention to detail. Some skills develop with time, training and a preference for tackling specific problems. Some of the guys have experience with high-end electronics and furniture repair. One volunteer has actually attended a bicycle repair school. The ability to repair TVs, electronics and radios is not very common so we usually don't take on these items.

Most shop repairs only require a limited set of tools. Various different pliers and adjustable wrenches plus a set of screwdrivers and a hammer will usually meet the fundamental needs. This along with a home repair manual and a measure of patience and common sense will go a long way towards allowing most jobs to be completed successfully. Some of the easier fixes only require a few minutes of cleaning, tightening and lubrication. The guys steer clear of CD players, which can not be repaired. Really dirty items and items missing lots of parts also go on the discard list. It also doesn't make sense repairing products that are seeing lots of innovation and are turning over rapidly. When many people are attracted to the newest and coolest technology, generating rapid innovation can tend to result in limited stores of repair parts. Older TVs and computer components often fall into this category. However, if the item is

more expensive and has a good supply of local or internet parts, repair may again become practical. Conversely, if there are too many parts missing, the damage to the item is more serious and the item, even when repaired, has a low resale value; it may not warrant our repair time and cost. TVs, copy and fax machines and cameras would top this list. Many of our cameras sell for only a few dollars and even the best used TVs, unless flat screens, sell for \$25 or less. Lamps, some wood furniture, and vacuum cleaners are normally easily repaired. These items along with coffee makers, radios, and clocks are most often processed through the shop.

It is hard to determine how long different products will hold up. A major factor in this equation is the quality and construction of the original product, but how roughly an item is used and how well it is maintained can have a significant impact on its life. The same factors influence how well products that are fixed in our shop hold up later. With reasonable use and good cleaning and maintenance many products can have a long life. Of course, even with a good product, an occasional flaw can occur. If an item breaks down early in its use, even after practical use and good maintenance, try to return it even after out of warranty. Stores can tell how well products are cared for and will often cut some slack to keep a valued customer. •

John Hoffman was the informal Santa Claus this year making certain the gifts were kept flowing and were where they were needed to brighten little faces.



It is with great difficulty but complete understanding, that I share the following notice from Len and Mary Anne Hebert regarding their activities at St. Vincent De Paul.

"To all fellow volunteers at the Rogue Valley District Council,

Because of health and family needs, it has become necessary for me to reduce my involvement at St. Vincent's. Therefore, I have resigned from my Council Board position and my general involvement with our Council finances and decision making. I and Mary Anne will continue to volunteer on Mondays in the Kitchen, so we will still be around as long as we can. Thank you for all the help given to us over the years. Sincerely, Len"

Len and Mary Anne have been the hands and face of Christ and the image of St. Vincent in Jackson County. They are loved and cherished among the Vincentian family that they have helped create in the Rogue Valley. Though they will still be volunteering with us, I especially will miss Len's leadership and invaluable wisdom as the voice of reason and his grasp of what needs to be done. I feel confident he will remain my confidante and mentor but the hands-on help he gave will be missed. I can never be what Len is. What we have experienced with his skillful business management, organization and knowledge seems like our golden age. We will continue because that is what St. Vincent de Paul does. We are St. Vincent de Paul as we are Christ by serving others including volunteers. We are serving greater numbers all the time and the expense of doing so, keeps rising. We will have at least three dinner auctions this year to help raise additional funds. We can look forward to any and all challenges we face, together because our leader is the Lord. The Love of Christ, Dennis

Thrift Store Features Customer Specials

At this time of year lots of you are seeking out sales in the area stores you often frequent. Unfortunately, you may have already missed some truly valuable ones at St. Vincent de Paul's Thrift Store. The day after Thanksgiving we had our Black Friday Sale from 5 pm till 8 pm with *25% off everything in the Store*. Besides providing some great buys, it generated nearly \$1500 in sales. Then, in December, we dedicated an entire Sunday to our annual *Customer Appreciation Day (Sale)*. All *Christmas-related items* went on sale at *50% off* beginning that day and running to December 22, after that they dropped to *75% off* until the end of December. We saw lots of our frequent customers and realized a whopping \$5,500 in revenue. Given that everything in the store was 50% off, that was a lot of merchandise that went out the door. Whether you missed these sales or not, mark your new 2012 calendar for next year so you can be early in line.

In addition to these sales, we plan special clothing sales in mid February and mid August. *All adult clothing* will be *one dollar each* and *all children's clothing* will be *just fifty cents a piece*. As always, we will also have a pre-Collectibles Sale the entire week before the big day. During the week of Saturday, September 29 until Friday, October 5 *all merchandise* in the store will be *50% off*. The last day of that sale will also offer *grocery bags of clothing, books, housewares and toys for \$2 each*.

All of our sales will be highlighted in *The Nickel* and *Buys Galore*. Plus, you

can also watch our large elevated outdoor sign in front of the Store for special reminders.

Remember, shopping at the Thrift Store means your dollars go much further and it helps the less fortunate in this valley. Our Store revenues are used to fund the other services we provide the poor and working poor... rental and utility assistance, groceries, school supplies, shower and laundry services, daily meals, clothing and household necessities and the operation of the homeless shelter. •

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materials needed to support their children returning to school, the call went out for help. Since SVDP saw fewer students needing school supplies this year, we were able to step in and help with the additional needed resources. But, this isn't a one-way street, NSWA recently provided food supplies of pizza and other food products from Amy's Food Kitchen to the kitchen at SVDP because these goods exceeded their needs. After all, we are all focused on assisting the poor and needy of Jackson County.

As we go into the winter months SVDP and NSWA will see even greater numbers of poor and needy Jackson County people seeking assistance. So they look to our community for support, to include volunteers willing to help over the particularly demanding holiday season. If you can help, please call their office at 541-773-6811. •



Donna Rineman, Volunteer Coordinator, chats with Charlie Burgess about the Pantry's volunteer needs.



Part of the blessing of Christmas is all the volunteers who show up to help serve meals.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - 30 Year Celebration

On the evening of February 18, SVDP welcomed our volunteers and guests to our Annual Appreciation Dinner and kicked off our 30th year celebration. Clearly this was the largest volunteer event we've ever had, with nearly 250 volunteers attending. Since we have about 300 volunteers, we were delighted so many could attend and also realized that we will have to make major allowances for an even larger event next year.

The evening's activities moved along nicely since Dennis Mihocko, our President, made major changes in the flow of the evening. People wanted a more lively evening and they got it. After the rosary we had a short social hour, followed by a delicious roast pork and rice dinner served by Donna and Pat Patella and staff. Dennis showed the video that we created in 2011 for the *Light the Winter Fires* fundraiser, thanks to the work of Garth and Rosemary Harrington and the support of KOBI. This video is an excellent synthesis of what SVDP is all about and is available should you wish to show it to other organizations. In addition to the film, we viewed some of the many photos that have been collected over the years. Dennis provided an annual summary of the state of our organization followed by recognition of the volunteers and their years of service. The most important organizational information is the amount of growth we are experiencing, with ever increasing numbers of less fortunate people coming to us for support (see the annual report insert). Likewise, our funding requirements are grow proportionally given our budget for 2011 grew to \$2,033,373 from \$1,835,566 in 2010. Our Thrift Store revenues were \$660,316 in 2010 and \$650,000 in 2011. The Thrift Store is our largest source of operational funds for our work.

This year we recognized five people for thirty years of service: **Len Horner, Edwina Jenkins, Gloria and Glen Ray, and Mary Gulrich.** If you have passed a major milestone in your service to SVDP, and not received your pin, please contact one of our volunteer recruiters.

Our two volunteer recruiters, Dee Stromberg and Donna Rineman, are kept very busy meeting the needs of our conferences, adding several new people weekly. Because of them and increased advertising, we have reached the current level of volunteers to 300. Given this growth it was great to see the lively greetings and chatter between all the guests. We would have liked to had time to allow old and new volunteers to mingle but our growth now restricts that. So the job is on you; as you go about your day work in your Conference, make certain to extend a greeting to all those new volunteers whom you don't know. That will help keep SVDP a fun and lively place to volunteer.

The highlight of the evening was the singalong by our Board led by Socorro Holloway. They did a majestic job of *Lean on Me* and nearly brought the rafters down. Thanks to all who attended and helped in the planning and set up of this year's celebration. We appreciate all the volunteer hours you have donated! •

Dinner/Auction -

Our last dinner/auction in December 2011 raised \$6000- and benefited the Home Visit and Kitchen Conferences

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 website:

stvincentdepaulmedford.info

Pet Enclosure -

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

Volunteers Needed!

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. Let her know what your area of expertise is or just try out one of our many areas that need help.

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.



Lucille Nichols carefully arranges Christmas decorations for sale in The Store. We made about \$850 each day selling these.



Knights of Columbus member, Ralph Browning, presents SVDP President Dennis Mihocko with a check from the profits of the Christmas Tree sales held at SVDP.

Sacred Heart School students bring Shoe Box gifts for the less fortunate.



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November and December several large and overflowing pallets were moved from our long-term storage warehouses to the Store receiving area each weekend where the contents were sorted, cleaned, priced and then put on display. This requires the concerted work of 20 to 30 volunteers each year. Because of their efforts we generated additional sales of around \$850 a day. In total we generated over \$45,000 in nine weeks while providing a source of very inexpensive needed Christmas decorations to lots of local families. Some of our loyal customers are so tuned in to our work that they appear repeatedly each Monday when the tables are again overflowing with holiday goodies. In early December the Store's weekend crowd is joined by Ralph Browning and a small band of his merry men from the Knights of Columbus at the Shepherds of the Valley who provide low cost fresh Christmas trees to local families. These trees are on sale for most of December and 50% of the revenue generated is donated to support the services at SVDP for the coming year. Parishiners from the Shepherd's congregation also help SVDP in

other ways, with their Rogue Valley Friendship Club donating several large food baskets along with over fifty individual personal packs (cosmetics, toiletries, etc.) for men and

women. Simultaneously, across the valley, Sacred Heart Church had set up their Giving Tree in the recreational hall where they sought out toys and warm weather clothes for many of the families we serve. Many of the parishiner's children, who attend Sacred Heart School, also created their Shoe Box gifts for the children in the valley who are less likely to share in the holiday plenty. Because of their efforts nearly 300 gift shoe boxes were received by the children of families served by SVDP or who are supported by the Family Nurturing Center and the Magedlin Home. Keeping track of all of the gifts flowing in was the job of many volunteers. John Hoffman and his family provided the focal point for this work. Not only was their a certain amount of on-going inventory control necessary, the whole family had to be available Christmas day when many of the gifts were distributed at our Christmas dinner. Besides all these gifts, an anonymous donor also has several pallets of warm jackets and blankets sent to SVDP for individuals and families struggling to make it through the cold winter. While all these blessings were converging on SVDP we were strategizing to ensure as many local families and individuals saw some holiday joy as possible.

In our march up to Christmas day both of our Home Visit groups (Shepherd of the Valley and Our Lady of the Mountain) planned their pre

Christmas visits to the families they support...about 15 families in each group, with lots of young children and some families living on the street or in their cars. Teams of volunteers visited each individual or family carrying with them the fruits of the Sacred Heart Giving Tree, the Shoe Boxes from the children from Sacred Heart School, the personal packs and groceries from Shepherd of the Valley, as well as a measure of the coats and blankets received from other donors. The capstone event was our own annual Christmas dinner here in Medford. Not only were the attendees given gifts from all the sources we discussed, they also received a plentiful supply of stuffed animals, holiday mugs, toys and other items brought to the dining room when the store closed Christmas eve. Because we've formed a collaboration with Northwest Seasonal Workers, we also kept an eye on their needs. Subsequently, we arranged a late Christmas surprise for many of their people consisting of all the gifts not given out on Christmas day at SVDP.

I would say the supporters and volunteers of SVDP did a lot to bring holiday cheer to a wide audience of folks again this year. Thanks for all your work and your caring.

Special Christmas Elfs

Dr John Paden's Physician's Offices - Funds for pumpkin pies for Christmas

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Reducing Your Tax Liability

More than once, when I've come to the end of the year and received my investment summary, I've realized I made more money on investments than I thought I would. This is good news-bad news. My stocks are doing better than I thought, but I'm going to owe more taxes than I'd planned to pay if I sell the securities. Because of this sudden awakening, I often haven't set aside enough money to cover my greater tax liability. Since I'm still sitting there with my investment summary in hand, one logical conclusion is, "Why not just sell some of my stocks that don't look very promising to pay off my enlarged tax obligation?" Thankfully, I have learned enough to call my tax advisor, Joe, about this time and reveal my tremendous plan. Joe listens patiently before giving me the bad news. "Just recognize Patrick that any money you make on the sale of these stocks over what you originally paid for them will be subject to capital gains taxes. In other words by using the strategy you just described, you will further increase your income for the year and, thereby, even further increase your tax liability."

Any time Joe gives me bad news he tries to couple it with good news. "But you are in luck. You could 'gift' your securities' to a favorite non profit. Since I'm a very visual guy and a bit of a smart aleck, it would be just like me to say, "Why do I have to gift wrap the stocks before donating them?" On good days Joe tries to muster a fake chuckle before setting me straight. "When you gift securities you donate



the stock certificates themselves to the non profit and you have no capital gains. You can use the full value the stocks have increased while you owned them as a deduction to your income."

Now, you too can use this process to support SVDP, because we've set up our own *Gifts Account*. If you are interested, simply call our main office and ask our operator to connect you to the Treasury office. The Treasury office will either send you instructions on how to proceed or you can choose to come into their offices to learn more. Part of what you will learn is that SVDP will assist you in making contact with your broker to transfer the securities. Once the securities are transferred to SVDP, we will sell them. (We do not plan to engage in speculation, trying to wait for the ideal time to sell the stock.) You will receive a letter indicating the proceeds of the sale and the amount you can deduct from you overall income for the year. So, not only will your Federal tax liability be reduced, your state tax liability also will be reduced. A win-win for you and for St. Vincent de Paul.

If you are interested in the "Gifting of Securities," call our offices at 541-772-3828 and select the Treasury line. •

Far left: Mario, La Prova, V.P. of Finance, watches over our financial well being.

Left: While working at the store this week I discovered Mary Hall, one of our cashiers, was serving as a nurse in Viet Nam at the same time and place as I (Patrick) did.

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dinner along with several boxes of non-perishable food.

American Sewing Society, Southern Oregon Chapter - 50 overnight bags and about 20 lap quilts.

Dianne Rynne (Store volunteer) - Handcrafted 60-70 wreaths and garlands for sale in Thrift Store along with giant wreath for the December Dinner/auction.

Kathy Zoll, project coordinator for Sacred Heart Giving Tree, along with Sacred Heart Parishners - Gifts for underprivileged individuals and families.

Principal Shirley Gray and Vice Principal Lonni Conner along with the staff, students and families of Sacred Heart School - 140 Shoe Box Gifts for families supported by St. Vincent de Paul, the Family Nurturing Center and the Magdelin Home.

Ralph Browning along with Matt Axness, Bob Baehr, Kevin Blodget, Jim Brick, Jerry Burgeois, Ted Clark, Dave Dorman, Francis Fisher, Harvey Foster, John Garner, Thom Gilsdorf, Martial Henault, Chris Hunter, Marshall Kentish, Richard Kreuger, Jim Leroy, Doug Mansur, Dick Obrien, Matt Sekreta, Randy Sparks, John Stilwell, Leon Stupfel, Rich Thelen, Joel Tobias, Paul Von der Mehden, Carl Weiland, Frank White, and George Zentgraff - Knights of Columbus Christmas Tree Sales with 50% of revenue going to fund services of Saint Vincent de Paul. •



Edwina Jenkins, with 30 years of service, still helpful sorting clothes at the Store.

SVDP Hours

Office & Social Services:

541-772-3828

Monday-Friday, 10 - 2

Thrift Store:

541-779-3648

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: Call office for hours, extension 6.

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:

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January 2012 - 2011 Annual Report - 30 Year Anniversary

Background. St. Vincent de Paul's name is recognized around the world and each Council is locally organized, funded and staffed for the purpose of helping our neighbors in need. There are 172,000 members in 4600 communities in the United States. Our local Council has no financial connection or obligations to any other Council, organization, church or institution. We serve all who come regardless of race, creed or ethnic origin. The Rogue Valley District Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society was established in 1982 to serve the poor and needy in Jackson County. We are celebrating our 30th year of active service. Over 300 part-time volunteers provide all staffing and services—almost 95,000 volunteer hours in 2011. We have no paid employees. Funding is derived from church poor boxes, special church collections, direct mail appeals, fundraising dinners and auctions, direct cash donations, grants from Foundations, non-cash donations of food, clothing, household items, donated automobiles, and greatly through sales from our Thrift Store. Our facility consists of four buildings totaling 43,000 square feet on nearly four acres of property. We are located at 2424 North Pacific Highway in Medford, Oregon. Our Thrift Store is our single biggest revenue source and our recently refurbished older main building contains our Emergency Family Shelter, our Urban Rest Stop, our Food Pantry, our Kitchen Dining facility, our Social Services offices and our Administration spaces.

We are organized to serve our neighbors in need as follows:

- **Social Services.** With seventeen trained volunteers, almost 13,000 families and individuals were carefully screened and counseled last year, to provide a "hand-up, not just a hand-out." Many people we help are desperate with no one to turn to, having fallen through the State and Federal safety nets. They are families and single adults facing 72-hour eviction or utility shut-off notices. Many are those who have been negatively impacted by our current soft economy, and people recently released from jail, or alcohol and drug recovery units, needing clothing, work related identification or other legal documents. They are people living on the street who need clothing,
- tarps to stay dry, sleeping bags, candles and personal hygiene items. They are always encouraged to find work to stabilize their lives. They are stranded travelers or victims of circumstances that leave them helpless. At St. Vincent's they find people who will listen and find ways to help.
- **Thrift Store.** Donations of clothing and household goods enable the store to provide help to the needy. In addition, the store sells selected items to the general public, the sales of which provide substantial monetary support for our many services, administration and overhead costs. Approximately 95 volunteers operate the Thrift Store and served 9,500 people. The store generated \$625,000 in revenue in 2011, to help us do what we do, helping the poor and needy.
- **Dining Room.** A healthy, hot lunch is served Monday through Saturday from 11am to 1pm. Approximately 42 volunteers prepared and served almost 55,000 meals last year to men, women and children, often exceeding 200 meals per day. Volunteers from 8 wards of the LDS church provide the Saturday lunch. The dining room is also open for special holidays especially Christmas day dinner.
- **Food Pantry.** Some of our neighbors struggle on minimum wage, some have injuries, others are on government assistance and cannot manage their finances or make their checks stretch the entire month. To assist these people, almost 22 volunteers provide bagged groceries on the last two Fridays of each month to qualified low-income families and individuals. The pantry served almost 7,600 households last year with about 11,000 sacks of groceries with a four-day supply in each sack. Referrals to other food pantries are also provided and we are part of the Medford Food Project. Our goal is for no one to be without food in Jackson County.
- **Shelter.** Emphasis is on the emergency needs of parents with children. The shelter provided 3,800 bed nights for families and/or individuals. During their stay, each family is counseled and a plan is developed to get them back on their feet. Our Shelter also includes a dormitory facility to house up to eight single women. Our partnership
- with LaClinica provides free Health Screening once per month.
- **Urban Rest Stop.** This facility provided almost 3,200 showers and almost 1,000 laundry loads to the needy in our area. The numerous volunteers who manage the facility say that they often are told how much the services are appreciated.
- **Free Emergency Dental.** Services are provided by twelve Dentist, numerous dental assistants, and hygienists volunteering their professional skills to those in Jackson County who are without affordable access to much needed dental care. They provided over \$90,000 in dental care to over 160 patients.
- **School Supplies.** This project provided kits of grade-specific basic school supplies to over 2,700 needy children in 2011. Sixteen volunteers enable this service.
- **Administration.** Twelve volunteers answer telephones, greet and direct all visitors, track income and expenditures, pay bills, stay current on filing and computer input, and ensure we are organized and effective in serving our needy neighbors.
- **Ashland-Talent area.** Through a referral system, twelve Ashland volunteers make home visits and provide Social Services to almost 1,300 needy individuals in that area. This Conference is partnering with the City of Ashland to help keep needy people from becoming homeless.
- **Medford-Central Point area.** Another group of volunteers make home visits to provide Social Services to almost 900 needy individuals. These visits are often triggered by referrals from agencies and area churches. This group also provides help with getting access to free prescribed medicines from pharmaceutical companies.
- **Council Officers.** Each of the operations (Conferences) described above is headed by a Council Board Member. These members along with Executive Committee members make up the Board of Directors for the Council. Generally, the Executive Committee makes recommendations to the Council Board. The Council Board meets monthly to approve recommendations, review recent activities, plan seasonal changes and develop future programs. •

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - 30 Year Celebration



Above left: Glen and Gloria Ray with Dennis



Above right: Dennis with Len Horner

Right: Nancy Hunt and Al Zon stand with another of our 30 year volunteers, Mary Gulrich

