Aster Apartments a beacon for low-income seniors

Imagine being 62 or older and moving into a gleaming new apartment that is modern, comfortable and secure, will never cost more than a third of your modest fixed income, and is yours for as long as you care to stay. It’s almost incomprehensible to 73-year-old Richard Pell who will be moving into St. Vinnie’s Aster Apartments in early April, closing the door on 16 years of homelessness. He is excited at the prospect of being able to truly relax in a place that’s warm, secure and his own, and he’s at a loss to express his gratitude.

Richard is one of three people for whom homelessness will end with a move to the 54-unit Aster Apartments. The facility’s first residents are mostly single. Five have disabilities.

The Aster project has broadened the horizons of many St. Vinnie’s staff members. Among them is Melissa Crover, an assistant in Property Management who accepted applications and conducted interviews.

“It’s been very much of a joy to do,” she said. “I got a better understanding of what seniors are going through.”

About 40 applicants remain on the Aster waiting list, which is always open to new applicants. The waiting period to move in could be from three months to a year and a half.

For Terry McDonald, executive director of SVdP, the Aster Apartments represent the culmination of a plan that had been on the back burner for nearly a decade and is now a bright spot for low-income seniors and a timely boost to community development.

“Taking care of our senior population is a basic value for all in our society,” he said. “Without affordable housing for some of our low income seniors, their golden years are a struggle. “This effort helps 54 families achieve a permanent and caring way for them to live a decent and hope-filled future.”

With the Aster Building, Heather Glen, and VetLIFT III, St. Vinnie’s has developed more than 950 units of affordable housing and homeownership opportunities since the mid-1990’s.

Outside the Aster Building, Project Manager Kristen Karle chats with visitors from Korea who toured the facility earlier this year.
From our director

Where there are challenges, there are opportunities

The past year has been difficult. The vague uneasiness we experienced in mid-2008 ended in a winter of true difficulty. At St. Vincent de Paul and dismally. Through it all, you, our volunteers and donors remained steadfast and optimistic – making a difference in the lives of people who are less fortunate. As one donor said, “I’m lucky to be able to give anything, but I know there are people out there who are hurting worse.” At St. Vincent de Paul, we have always served those who are hurting worse. In years past, that, typically meant homeless and low-income folks: people who are “barely making it,” and we continue to help as we can. Increasingly, we’re seeing even more “neighbors in need”: middle-class people who have just been laid off and don’t know how they are going to pay a utility bill or mortgage. People who have never had to ask for help before.

For 2009, we do not ask “where it will take us,” but “Where will we take this year?” We feel optimism for improvements in the coming year. The heart of St. Vincent de Paul is to reach out to folks in crisis, and we’ll continue to partner with EWEB, United Way, Womenpace, FOOD for Lane County, and others to do just that. Thanks to our visionary Board, we’ve developed more than 900 units of affordable housing. We will continue to grow, particularly in housing for veterans and the elderly, and with a continued exploration of creative “green building.” Our recycling efforts will expand into new arenas, providing jobs and opportunities.

Where there are challenges, there are opportunities. Thank you again for your continued interest and support.

Terrence R. McDonald
Executive Director
‘Unlucky’ date no match for good fortune at First Place

For homeless families, every day may seem like Friday the 13th, but on that date in February in Eugene, parents and children celebrated the good fortune to have found St. Vinnie’s First Place Family Center. Thanks to the individuals, organizations, and faith communities that were also honored, homeless families can regain the sense of normalcy and security needed to regroup and move forward.

First Place families have access to food and kitchen facilities, clothing and laundry facilities, affordable daycare, computers, and phones. Those approved for the Interfaith Night Shelter program sleep in the halls of participating faith communities or in their own vehicles on church lots.

Mayor Kitty Piercy greeted the guests, packed shoulder-to-shoulder in the First Place living room and bedroom, and bedecked with heart necklaces created by First Place’s artists. “At the end, nobody was going home,” Barbara Nelson and Bill Tomlinson of Living Hope Church treasure the memory of a 4th birthday party. “It was very heartwarming to see a homeless child so happy,” Barbara remembered. “It had all the trimmings, including 16 other children eager to help the birthday boy unwrap his gifts.”

Ginny Osteen was honored for a second year of raising money with family, friends and coworkers at Oregon Research Institute to get homeless families into housing. Ginny’s efforts have reaped more than $5,000 and inspired other groups to do the same.

Since her story appeared in the local paper, she has been recognized by strangers as “the lady who helps homeless families.”

Michele Gruessing and Mike Dickinson described how, as homeless parents, they turned to First Place, worked hard, and found new lives for themselves and their children. Michele is attending herbalism school and hopes to own an apothecary.

Mike is a military veteran whose initial career in computers went down in the dot-com bust. He and his family were in Night Shelter just a couple of months. Mike has since found stable housing and a job as St. Vinnie’s information-technology guy.

Ariana Archer is the Oregon Research Institute’s first-ever Family-Centered Research Assistant. She works hard, and finds her work very rewarding.

No longer homeless, Mike Dickinson also found a job through his association with First Place.

First Place mom Michele Gruessing hopes to own an apothecary.

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A view from across the SSO desk

BY DENNIS MARICLE

I had sought out volunteering at St. Vinnie’s Social Service Office (the SSO) for a long time. Since I am working less and have “retired”, it’s time to try something new. For me, that means taking my place behind a desk at 4566 Hwy 99 each Monday that with that I people who have come to St. Vinnie’s to ask for help.

I am a part of a home visiting team through the St. Catherine Parish Conference so I am familiar with the concept of assisting those in need by combining our resources with those of St. Vincent de Paul. Whether on a home visit, or sitting at this desk, my code of conduct is the same: Treat people with respect. The person before me is no different than I. Professionals with a lifetime of experiences have led him or her down another path.

Every story is different, but with a common thread: These people have used up their resources and have nowhere else to turn. So, they come to this desk. Often, they are embarrassed and uncomfortable in asking for help. Sometimes they apologize for having to beg. If your roles were reversed, and you were the one asking for help, I would expect to be treated with courtesy, as an adult, and with compassion.

From my side of the desk, it’s easy to write a voucher for clothing, prescription medication or property, but much harder to say “no” when I must. I wish that I could help every person with rent, travel expenses, etc.

Years ago, as a new home visitor, I was as likely as not, to want to “give away the store” to the first family that I visited. But, Known that here, as on a home visit, we must make the best use of our resources. So, the person asking for bus tokens gets two, not a bag full. The landlady gets 100 bucks from St. Vinnie’s, not the entire amount requested by the tenant. The hungry family is told that the Food Room is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, not today, Monday. Even there, we sometimes break our own rule and fill a little box – just to get them by.

The hardest thing to have to do is explain that because they live on street A and not street B, we cannot help them. One person asked from across my desk, “I live on the wrong side of the tracks, don’t I?”

You see, every parish-based St. Vincent de Paul conference has its own territory and a different set of guidelines to be followed when we consider households for home visits. Each is limited by its volunteer numbers, and the amount of cash and goods donated by parishioners and the community. Most folks who come to my desk understand that and accept it.

I wish that there were another way, even as I thank God for those who are able and willing to donate to a parish conference or directly to St. Vinnie’s via the attached envelope.

I’ll be back at the desk next Monday morning, and the Monsdays thereafter. I will hear mind-boggling stories of misfortune. I will share the pain, do what I can to help, and pray that it’s enough.

Saddly, I say, “No”, when I have to. And I’ll give quiet thanks for the many times your donations make it possible for me to say, “yes.”

Dennis Maricle is a longstanding St. Vinnie’s volunteer. He is chair of the Manufacturing & Recycling Committee and president of the Archdiocesan Council, which consists of SVDP representatives from throughout Western Oregon.

Thank you…

Mayer Memorial Trust

The Collins Foundation

$25,000 to VEDA [Volunteer Individual Development Account]

The Workmen’s Building

$25,000 to Second Place

Chambers Family Foundation

$10,000 to St. Vinnie’s

Elizabeth Webb Foundation

$10,000 for utility assistance for families affected by COVID

Hill Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation

$4,000 for support of St. Vinnie’s Thrift Stores and recycling

The Auburn Foundation

$3,000 for Resident Services - Youth Summer Camps

Sack Family Foundation

$2,500 to Second Chance Housing

The Erge Family Charitable Trust of the Vanguard Charitable Endowment

$25,000 to St. Vinnie’s

Gray Family Fund

of the Oregon Community Foundation

Rippee Family Fund of the San Francisco Foundation

$1,000 for a matching gift to Second Place (SI $1,000 for First Place)

A&A Charitable Fund

E.O. Enfield Family Fund

$1,500 to St. Vinnie’s

R.W. Family Fund

of the Oregon Community Foundation

Edwin E. and June E. Cone Fund

of the Oregon Community Foundation

Sterling Savings Bank

The Bankroll / Bloucha DA Fund of the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation

St. Martin de Porres Trust

National Gardening Association & Home Depot

Donate online! Visit St. Vinnie’s at www.svdp.us

Transitional housing opens doors for veterans

BY CINDY LEMING

Vet LIFT Program Manager

The past year saw great growth in St. Vinnie’s ability to house chronically homeless individuals who have co-occurring diagnoses, particularly those with no income and little hope of obtaining housing. A third apartment complex for Vet LIFT is near completion, and a transitional-housing program supported fiscal by the Veterans Administration is paying for qualifying veterans’ housing for up to 24 months, during which he or she can apply for VA disability, go to school, or access vocational-rehabilitation services.

So far, 26 veterans have accessed transitional housing. Of these, 15 remain, 5 are in stable housing, and 6 have left the program. Sixteen veterans have applied for help with disabilities. Ten have attended school, and/or obtained employment.

Overall, Vet LIFT has 30 participants, the other 15 being in the permanent-housing program. Among them they have maintained clean and sober living, landed employment, connected with and/or are raising children, qualified for disability and saved toward purchase of a home. One veteran was able to access surgery for a debilitating disorder. Another is dealing successfully with severe mental illness and is fitting into the community.

Two veterans in permanent housing graduated from the transitional program. One has accepted employment with the Veterans Administration.

Our latest arrival joined Vet LIFT last month, moving with his son into permanent housing. Both are very excited to be involved with the program.

We have had many positive experiences over the past 4 years of Vet LIFT. Twenty-six of our veterans have volunteered in the community at agencies such as Catholic Community Services Food, for Lane County, St. Vinnie’s Eugene Service Station, and SAFE. One of our veterans started a non-profit to help homeless comrades transition into housing through the Hope for Our Heroes program. Our veterans participate in Stand Down and Project Homeless Connect. We take pride in our community involvement.

Vet LIFT is blessed with a network of individuals and businesses that express their support for veterans by donating time, goods or money. If you’d like to become one of them please call me at 687-5820 x166.

Well Done!

Through your efforts 2,500 households received Holiday Food Boxes.

To our Turkey Drive Spokesperson, Betty Snowden, Our Generous Partners & Wonderful Volunteers:

Well Done!

St. Vinnie’s

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Vincent de Paul Housing Programs

Connections Transitional Housing Program Manager Jill Kragh

Saveing families that are homeless to stability, providing safe, affordable housing, case management, a referral to other services.

Families enrolled in 2008:

47

Families graduated in 2008:

19

100
good homes for long-term housing

14

2008 success rate

74%

Special Thanks: SVDP partners,

Property Management - Thrift Stores - Resident Services

Southwest Community Health

Self Sufficiency Services - Energy Assistance

Community partners:

Dept. of Health and Human Services - Centro Latino Options Counseling

Aging Services - Lane County Licensing Point

Assistance League of Eugene

UR Challenge: Unmet Need Threat

LIFT: Living Independently Following Treatment Program Manager: Thad Dusing

10 units of SVP housing are set aside for individuals who have been chronically homeless, have a clinical mental-health diagnosis, and have a history of substance abuse. LIFT empahsizes stable housing, a clean and sober lifestyle, and personal growth.

Current residents:

- Including 7 men, 12 women, 1 child

Waiting list: 2
Ragozzino & Friends rock the Hilton in First Place benefit

Given a choice between Broadway and an Ed Ragozzino show in Eugene, Kathleen Bosteder would just as soon be entertained in her home town.

“They are so professional,” she said of Ed and his Friends ensemble. “And you don’t have to get that airline ticket to go to New York.”

More than 300 supporters agreed, packing the Eugene Hilton on Nov. 13th for St. Vincent de Paul’s second Dinner Theatre, a benefit for homeless families at First Place Family Center. Business associates, families and friends dined at tables beautifully decorated by Lipton, snapped up an impressive array of silent and oral auction items, and danced in the aisles as Ragozzino and Friends presented their Decades show. The audience responded generously to Auctioneer Sid Voorhees and蔼的口吻。

“I will give back,” she promised.

Terry McDonald, SVdP executive director, described the importance of being a good member of the community. He portrayed Director William Wise and Assistant Director Diana Wise as a “wonderful, inspirational team whose love and affection makes what happens at First Place possible.”

Family Center, they found a lifeline. “Without their help we would have been on the streets,” said Kim. “I can’t thank them enough for their generosity, love and kindness.

Alexis added her own gratitude to First Place both for the material items and the emotional support that helped her mother remain strong and willing to move forward.

Scenes from St. Vinnie’s 2008 Dinner Theatre.
Clockwise from upper left: Ed Ragozzino & Friends (front from left, Dan Garret, Jennifer Sculock, Shirley Andreas, Marc Siegel, Roxie Ragozzino, and Karen Scheeland; back from left, Jane Chase, Perry Tendlick, Michael Stone, Bill Hulings, Vickie Brabham, Richard Pecora, and Ed Ragozzino). Above, Mary Brefler and Sister Margaret Graziano, and the temptations of the silent auction table. At left, above, Kim Havley and daughter Alexis, formerly homeless, are back on their feet thanks to First Place. At left, middle, Heidi Coleman and Phyllis Brasier are SVdP treasure hunters by day. Below, long-time friends from St. Jude Church, from left, Kathleen Bosteder, Ed Ragozzino, Mary Lynch, and Mary Jo Shaw.

First Place Kids Center addresses devastating affects of homelessness

BY JAKE SPAYNS
Director, First Place Kids Center

Homelessness has devastating effects on children, affecting their development, physical health, mental health, and behavior. Homeless children exhibit significant behavioral difficulties like tantrums and other aggressive behaviors. In a study of 81 preschool-age children in Boston Homeless shelters in the late 1990’s, 47 percent of the children exhibited at least one serious impairment in their social skills, motor development, and language. According to the National Coalition for the Homeless over one-third of homeless mothers have a chronic health condition and almost 40 percent have been hospitalized for some kind of medical treatment. The problems that homeless children and families face are daunting, and that is where we at First Place come in.

Our state-certified Child Development Center, called First Place Kids Center, is a one-of-a-kind therapeutically oriented preschool designed to support homeless families and children. With specially trained staff, community volunteers, Head Start, EC CARES, and students from the University of Oregon all working together, we help children ages 30 months to 6 years to develop strong self-management and self-care skills, and strong social skills.

The idea is that our Kids Center will function as a “home-based” classroom, serving as a consistently safe, and supportive place for children and families. Daily, we provide breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack. We have a daily body rest time, where kids can get the rest they need in a safe place.

We work to empower children to find solutions to their own conflicts or problems. Utilizing solution kits, a break area, and the Turtle Technique of anger management (Stop, tuck, breathe, think!), children learn to share their feelings with adults and peers rather than acting out.

Through quality and positive interactions with interns, staff, and volunteers children learn to play, take turns, and share. We utilize the principles of positive behavioral supports. In this, we choose to focus on positive behaviors of children. Through praise and recognition, we want to teach children that following rules, listening to teachers, and making good choices is fun and healthy, and the right thing to do.

First Place Kids Center is a place where children at risk can learn, grow, and develop in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment.

Yes! You CAN donate online! Visit St. Vinnie’s at www.svdp.us

In 2008, it was the privilege of First Place staff & volunteers to serve families with children as follows:

**DAY SHELTER**

- Unduplicated Families: 394
- Adults: 589
- Children: 695
- Of the 394 families, 188 were NEW to First Place in 2008. They include 281 adults (23 of whom are pregnant women), & 311 children.

**Person Days of Day Shelter**

- 17,581

**NIGHT SHELTER**

- Families Served: 41
- Adults: 63
- Children: 73
- Person Nights of Night Shelter
- 6,075

**OVERNIGHT PARKING PROGRAM**

- Families Served: 30
- Adults: 46
- Children: 57
- Person Nights of Parking Shelter
- 6,066

**PRESCHOOL**

- Average monthly enrollment: 16
- Volunteers: 85
- Volunteer hours: 1,393.5
- Hours of Preschool Provided
- 16,125
VIDA saves homes

Home ownership once seemed out of the question for Lane County residents John and Teri, but with the help of the Valley Individual Development Account (VIDA), both are watching spring in homes of their own.

St. Vincent de Paul is a partner in VIDA, which offers a savings account for low-income participants serious about controlling their finances and willing to save for life-changing investments such as the purchase of a house, schooling, or home rehabilitation. VIDA is administered by CASA of Oregon which, in addition to developing farmworker housing, is a Community Development Financial Institution.

VIDA success is hard-earned. Participants must complete classes in personal finance and homeownership, and save $3 for every dollar saved, up to the three-year maximum of $3,000. William, who lives with his VIDA plan and cats, was living in a cold, too good to be true. He rotated in and out of programs and worried more about landscape change than in the big house than in a small one. He finally mustered enough support to maintain sobriety and qualify for St. Vinnie's LiFT Program for adults “living independently following treatment.” The program provides case management, housing, advocacy, and goal-setting. John earned his driver’s license, found a job as a delivery driver, and enrolled in VIDA.

Teri played to Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina and to the Middle East. Personally, he was plagued by anxiety associated with change. He rotated in and out of programs and worried more about landscape change than in the big house than in a small one. He finally mustered enough support to maintain sobriety and qualify for St. Vinnie’s LiFT Program for adults “living independently following treatment.” The program provides case management, housing, advocacy, and goal-setting. John earned his driver’s license, found a job as a delivery driver, and enrolled in VIDA.

John credits the Threshold course, presented by the Neighborhood Economic Development Organization, and Jill Krath, thanh Doong, and Anne Williams of St. Vinnie’s Housing Programs.

Teri was encouraged and empowered by Ann Rudy of the local housing authority. Teri John and Teri visited the Department of Agriculture, life-long friend Carol Fed, and their 100 Mile House Moser of St. Vinnie’s VIDA program.

This process made me grow,” Teri said.

While still “in the process of relaxing,” Teri is enjoying greatly improved health and eager to dig digging.

“I am overjoyed that my dream of owning land to grow food and ‘pay forward’ has come true,” she said.

“I dance in my home and give thanks to God.”

Downsizing: Donated that unneeded car, truck or RV to St. Vinnie’s!

The VIDA fund was established to provide emergency services to low-income individuals & families.

It takes about 15 minutes. Visit stvinnies.org/Donations to provide free towing.

St. Vincent de Paul’s Cars for a Cause 607-6451 • 1175 Hwy 99

Now, in his own West Eugene condo, John takes pride in homeowner duties as he prepares for a second deployment to the Middle East. Instead of calling a landlord, he replaced his own refrigerator. Teri is thrilled with his home, friendly neighbors, and precious security, and satisfied that his monthly mortgage payment is an investment.

“I would have never dreamed I would be living here,” he said. “If I can do it, anybody can do it.”

Both Teri and John relied on personal and professional support systems as they worked toward home purchases.

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John Antone is president of the Lane County District Council, composed of church-based SVAP conferences in Lane and Benton counties. He is also on the SVAP Board of Directors.

orticel caters to pets and their friends

It was a gorgeous Sunday. His name was Dusty. He was one week old. A man was preparing to throw him off the Hwy. 99 bridge. His crime was that he was an unwanted mixed-breed puppy.

A homeless man walking on the bridge saw what was going to happen. He offered to buy Dusty for every penny he had. He had $41.95. He bought Dusty and carried him another mile to the Pro-Bone-O clinic at St. Vincent De Paul to get him examined and get food, a collar, and a leash.

The dog that waited for Easter Spring Sunday in late January had less dramatic stories, but Pro-Bone-O’s services were equally important to their owners who were clearly fed up with economic downturn. Most were there for the first time.

Don, 43, brought his apricot poodle for her final round of weekly shots. A homeless fellow, he has seen 80 to 90 percent of his client base vanish in the previous nine month drunk war. “I was a 7-year-old Chihuahua, got caught up in a county crackdown on unleashed dogs. His owner, who is disabled, was referred to Pro-Bone-O for the shots necessary for a free tag.

“It’s really hard to keep going and maintain a pet,” she said. “But it’s my companion and my best friend.”

In 1998 HALO (for Helping Animals Living Outdoors), was formed to provide free veterinary care for the companion animals of the homeless. The program was later
Sanctuary a long time coming for Service Station assistant

As a homeless man, Ed Caraveo never spent more than an hour at a time at the Eugene Service Station. Now he’s there four days a week, getting paid to shepherd a growing clientele of adults who rely on the facility for meals, showers, laundry, and an address and phone.

It’s been through their various challenges and for some, the oddly seductive nature of homelessness itself. He’s been through it all. As a result, he’s a zealous guardian of the right of each person to use the facility in peace.

Ed signs folks in, directs shower traffic, and ensures that immediate needs are met. Anyone who would hinder that process is asking for trouble.

“This isn’t the environment to act out or impose issues on people,” he said. “This place is for people who, for one reason or another, need a sanctuary.”

Ed spent nearly 50 years seeking sanctuary. When he was 3, his dad abandoned the family. When Ed was 12, his mother died. No relative ever came forward to adopt.

Ed was shuffling from a juvenile facility to Boys Town in Nebraska. At 17 he enlisted in the Army, serving two years as a medic in South Korea.

He joined the hippie scene in San Francisco and acquired a drug habit that seemed benign through the many exposures to hallucinogenic construction. Then a mid-life crisis tipped the scales. Lacking emotional skills and a personal support system, he made bad choices, self-medicated to escape, ran afoul of the law, and was incarcerated for four months. His addiction threw the final punch, beginning three years of probation to 10.

Ed hated prison, but he recognized that many inmates were guys like himself, products of calamitous childhoods, incarcerated for four months. His addiction threw the final punch, beginning three years of probation to 10.

Ed is coming to terms with his tumultuous past. “If my life wasn’t meant to have happened as it did, it would have been different,” he said. “That’s even more reason why being anxious and fearful are such a waste of time, and yet they are stimulants to motivate us.”

Even anxiety can be useful.”

Come April, Ed will have been on the Eugene Service Station staff for one year. He was targeted for the job by Bud Dickey of the V.A. and St. Vinnie’s human-resources director.

“I think I have a good report here,” he said. “It has taken a while, but the people have come to know I am no-nonsense but fair and willing to listen to any one.”

“Sometimes people think they can act out, but because of my past I won’t tolerate it.”

Ed is proud of his role in St. Vinnie’s larger program of services.

“I can say from my heart, St. Vincent de Paul provides a really good service to the community,” he said. “I know a lot of clients are appreciative of the facility and that they have the right people to help them out, even if it’s only a shower, a hot meal, or clean clothes.

“They have a place where they can come and feel safe.”

Pro-Bone-O

renamed Pro-Bone-O and in 2000 began using the Eugene Service Station as a clinic site.

Now, more than 25 local veterinarians donate their time and expertise to Pro-Bone-O, making possible the care necessary to stop the spread of parasites and infectious disease. Two veterinarians serve on the Board. Others do nate supplies, equipment, spay-neuter services, and emergency treatment, Oregon State Veterinary School students serve as vet technicians.

Jenny, a geriatric Golden Retriever mix, was all smiles in the hands of Lindsey Leppard, Han Rothman, and Joc eyn Reihl. Lindsey is finishing her degree in animal science and awaiting word on her application to the OSU vet school. Hannah and Joselyn are second-year vet students.

“We spend a lot of time just sitting in lectures,” said Hannah. “It’s good to touch animals and get hands-on ex perience.”

Brian, Jenny’s owner since puppyhood, had thought two weeks earlier that he might have to put her down to ease her arthritis. Pills had helped, but he was concerned that she was still in pain. He watched as the technicians conducted their examination.

With a vet and three other technicians on hand that Sunday, every animal that came to the clinic was seen and treated. The average clinic accommodates up to 50 animals. Most are dogs and cats, but reptiles, rabbits, and even birds, are treated. Vet technicians and volunteers manage that more than 7,000 pets to date.

Before the current lottery system of admission, owners began lining up as early as 4 a.m., in all kinds of weather, demonstrating their dedication to their pets.

Services are provided free and include flea control, treat ment for skin problems, vaccinations, heartworm tests, and general wellness exams. Pet food is offered and so are any supplies that enable them to stay in their homes.

Pro-Bone-O also offers financial assistance and education, and requires that dogs and cats be spayed or neutered within six months of their initial visit.

Assisting at each clinic are some of the 75 citizen volunteers that devote time to the cause. They do intakes, fill out rabies certificates, complete and dispense spay/neuter vouchers, provide resource information, distribute food and supplies, and extend friendship and support to a vulnerable population.

Many volunteers have been coming for more than 10 years, expecting no more than pets, hugs and an oc casional puppy kiss.

Jennifer has been help ing at clinics with her foster mom, Cathy Bill, since 2003. A cat owner, she signs pet food and sometimes dis tributes dog treats to those awaiting services.

“Jennifer gets her dog fix here,” Cathy said. “I feel like I’m helping people, and kids added.”

Special thanks to Rita Castillo

St. Vincent de Paul’s Richard W. Lindholm Center

Roxanne O’Brien, Director

In the spring of 2009 the staff and volunteers of the Lindholm Center were privileged to provide the following assistance:

Social Service Office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>$18,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>15,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greyhound tickets</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus passes</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propane</td>
<td>13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription medications</td>
<td>18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>151,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eugene Service Station

Special thanks to Rita Castillo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food boxes</td>
<td>15,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocational Services

Julie Orr, Director

This past year St. Vinnie’s Vocational Services Department has served more than 280 individuals for skills assessment, job training, and placement. We started a new program with the Community Transitions Program for youth through the Springfield School District called C-WEX (community work experience). Youth were placed within St. Vinnie’s for work experience and ongoing training, which complements their continuing education.

We are expanding our facility into the former site of the Bethel community policing station. This will give us with much-needed space for private consultations with our clients as well as an employment resource area (providing online job search, resumes, cover letters, etc.).

In late April we will host an open house along with our community partners and other departments within SVFP. For information on the date or time please call 607-0439 or email jorr@svdplanecounty.org.
Vinnie’s volunteers honored at Angel Dinner

They usually work quietly behind the scenes, but St. Vinnie’s volunteer angels were called into the limelight at the Angel Dinner. Thanks to Jones & Roth CPA’s, more than 200 volunteers dined for free on a tasty spaghetti dinner prepared by the Self-Sufficiency Services staff. Proceeds from other ticket sales supplement emergency services at St. Vinnie’s Linholm Center.

Keynote speaker was Teresa Danovich who described the spirituality and intricacies of icon writing - the process of rendering religious images in various media. Her gilded images illuminated one wall of St. Mary’s Parish, all as servers from O’Hara Catholic School scurried to serve more than 300 guests.

Emcee was John Antone, District Council president. This year’s Angel honorees include Ray and Yvonne de Paul, Jim and Rose Mootz, Marie Grinstein, Virgil Heidecker, Jack Walker, Lori King, Barbara Nelson, Gloria Obershain of Warehouse Demonstration Services, Teresa Rossetti of Best Buy, Don Griswold, and the management team of St. Vinnie’s.

Barbara and Shannon Nill added St. Vinnie’s share of 2,000 pairs of socks collected by Guaranty employees.

Barbara and Shannon Nill added St. Vinnie’s share of 2,000 pairs of socks collected by Guaranty employees.

On hand to help unload the Southtowne delivery was Thanh Duong, manager of St. Vinnie’s LIFT program, which provides housing and case management to adult men and women, including many veterans.

And giving feels much better than getting. “I have been very blessed my whole life,” he said. “My parents told me I would never be able to give more than I receive.”

Like most, Laurie and Roger Hall learned of the opportunity via the USAoemp.org website and seized it to share clothing donated by their grandchildren. And Anita Belt delivered “a Boston coat” she brought when she moved to Lane County. “It’s perfect for here,” she said.

Jeanne Jackson-Gistel was one of a core group of volunteers who started planning for the drive in December. Initially, about 50 people signed up to help, but she figured that more than 180 had participated on the holiday alone.

“It was way more than we expected,” she said. St. Vinnie’s gratefully received two truckloads of items.

Rhian Takash, 7, delivered a big hug of warm items.

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First Jones & Roth tourney has miniature course, huge cause

It’s a rare treat that brings golfers indoors on a glorious fall day, but the Jones & Roth Mini Golf Classic did just that to raise funds for St. Vincent de Paul. Despite a looming tax deadline, J&R teams labored after hours on a nine-hole parody of the CPA business that wound through hallways and past the open doors of busy offices.

Seventy-two golfers putted through sand traps in the senior-services paradise and a veil of computer mice hanging by their tails at the tech-group hole. They savored the spring of tax loopholes before entering the House of Tax Audit Horror with its auditor portraits and “tacks” hazard. St. Vinnie’s hole challenged golfers “tired of waste” to loft their ball through a recycled tire.

Thanks to hole sponsors and paying golfers, the first-time benefit raised $2,400 and helped break the secrecy of humors tax accountants, said J&R’s Phil Sutton. As an organizer, even he was stunned at the result and pleased to honor its creators with “previously awarded” trophies from St. Vinnie’s. The firm chose St. Vinnie’s for its longevity, breadth of programs, and business partnership, he said, adding, “Also, the money goes back to Lane County instead of some-where else.”

Ben Mondragon and the Southtowne Rotary underwear are welcomed by Thanh Duong, LIFT manager.

Rotarians, Guaranty put undies under the tree

After a meeting of the Southtowne Rotary, as he loaded bags of new socks into his car, Ben Mondragon was approached by a curious stranger. As he explained that his items were destined for for people served by St. Vincent de Paul, the man noticed only one boot.

Lay of socks substituted for the other.

Ben offered a package of 10 socks. As the man fumbled to remove one pair, Ben assured him that he could keep them all.

Later, Ben described how glad he was to have been in a position to help. He touched his hand to his heart as he said, “That’s going to stay with me for a long time.”

The value of the basics – new underwear and socks - can’t be overestimated. Thanks to the continued generosity of Southtowne Rotary and Guaranty RV in Junction City, low-income residents, veterans and veterans once again received new sets at Christmas.

Guaranty’s fifth annual socks donation was delivered personally by co-owners Shannon and Barbara Nill. The project evolved out of Travelers’ Club barbecues and grew to an inter-departmental competition that this year yielded 2,000 pairs of new socks.

“The first thing people in trouble need is warm, dry socks,” Shannon explained. “If you’re feet aren’t dry and warm, you’re basically out of commission.”