The story of Rick and Ray

page 16
For sixty years, St. Vincent de Paul has provided a variety of social service programs that help low income people become self-sufficient.

St. Vincent de Paul is the largest non-profit humanitarian agency in Lane County with 550 employees, over 1,300 units of affordable housing, five emergency service programs, and a self-sufficiency department.

St. Vinnie's has become known as an international leader in developing nonprofit-based reuse and recycling businesses, which divert over 100 tons of material for reuse and recycling every day.

Dear Friend of St. Vincent de Paul,

Easter has passed, and spring is upon us in all its Oregon unpredictability. One day it rains, and the next the sun is shining with glorious warmth. Blossoms abound, trees thicken with leaves, and the harsh winter brownness of the land yields to a fresh, deep green you’d nearly forgotten existed.

Yet memories of winter linger. The past year brought a sharp increase in the number of people who are homeless. Many turned to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County for assistance, and with your generous help we assisted thousands of men, women and children through programs ranging from the First Place Family Center and the Interfaith Night Shelter to the Eugene Service Station and the Egan Warming Centers.

There have been some heartening successes over the past year. In late 2014, I joined Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, Lane County Commissioner Pat Farr and others in announcing an ambitious goal: to house 365 homeless veterans. Working with St. Vincent de Paul and other agencies and equipped with a welcome and necessary infusion of federal funding, Operation 365 accomplished that and more, housing a total of 404 veterans in a one-year period.

Later this year, St. Vincent de Paul will dedicate Alona Place, a beautiful new 40-unit affordable housing complex in Junction City. Its completion, and the acquisition of additional housing, including the 43-unit Tivoli Mobile Home Park in Junction City, has increased St. Vinnie’s inventory of affordable housing to more than 1,300 units. More is on the way: A new 35-unit affordable housing complex in downtown Springfield is in the planning stages, and we continue to pursue the acquisition of additional mobile home parks with the aim of preserving a critically important source of low-income housing.

We are grateful for such progress as spring takes grip. But we remain mindful that the problem of homelessness – and the issues that drive it – have not gone away. Even as we enjoy the dazzling warmth of spring, we are aware that winter will return and that we need to be ready, as the St. Vincent de Paul’s mission statement says, to “assist the poor and those in need of consolation, seeking out and utilizing every resource.”

Our communities face numerous challenges. You can rely on St. Vincent de Paul, with your generous and compassionate help, to continue meeting those challenges for many springs to come.

Terry McDonald
Executive Director

Above:
Terry McDonald visits with donors at his home during a donor appreciation event held in August 2015.
Birdathon at the coast: For Marie Bricher and son David Cornwell, the birding day starts before sunrise.

St. Paul kids ‘bird’ for homeless families

Think fundraisers are for the birds? The enterprising students at St. Paul Parish School are “listening” for your call. Sponsor them by the species, challenge them to find a rare variety of bird, or make an outright donation. Over a 24-hour period and regardless of the weather, they’ll traipse and slog through parks from Springfield to the beach to bag your birds as images, data and, ultimately, charitable donations.

They are birders-for-a-cause, and that cause is Project Starfish, which was started by former Springfield mayor and state legislator Bill Morrisette as a way of helping families make the transition out of homelessness. Since 2001, the Project Starfish Birdathon has raised more than $15,000 for deposits and other costs families must pay before they can get into housing.

Just as Project Starfish seeks to end homelessness one family at a time, Birdathon typically supports it by identifying one bird species at a time, according to founder Marie Bricher, whose older boys, Nathan and Jacob, ages 24 and 22, still take part alongside their siblings David and Mary in seventh and second grades. Birdathon is modeled after similar fundraising efforts held across the country.

The St. Paul birders have amassed a loyal following of donors whose pledges apply to every species identified in a 24-hour period. Some pledgers offer a bonus for a favorite or elusive species.

Set to “bird” in April, the birders, including four-year veteran Marissa Gibson, set as their 2016 goals of 100 species, 50 pledging households, and $1,500 for Project Starfish. They have counted as many as 116 species in their long days and many miles of birding and have photos and adventures aplenty.

“It has been such a blessing for me to share this big day with the kids and to join together with them in helping such a worthy cause,” said Marie Bricher. “To make good memories and to help someone in need adds up to a great event.”

The pledge period for 2016 extends through late April. To pledge to this year’s effort or get on the list for next year, leave your name and phone number at St. Paul’s school office, (541) 344-1401.

St. Vinnie’s, Tempur-Pedic Partner in Distribution

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, partnering with Tempur-Pedic, distributed more than 100 high-quality twin mattresses in January to low-income families.

St. Vinnie’s employees helped load the mattresses into vehicles for the recipients, who had received vouchers for the mattresses from SVdP’s social services office. “I really needed one of these,” said Alan Whitman, who said a leg injury has made it difficult for him to get in and out of his current bed. “This mattress is going to be amazing—and it’s free. That’s unbelievable.”

Tempur-Pedic, headquartered in Boston, is distributing near-new mattresses that have been restored and sanitized to SVdP as part of a pilot project that may be extended to other St. Vincent locations across the country.

Since January, the mattresses have been distributed to needy families through SVdP’s partnership with the District Council conferences.

“For an organization like (Tempur-Pedic) to have such great corporate responsibility and find a way to make this work for others is incredible. And for us, receiving this high-quality product for low-income families, ... it’s unheard of,” said Terry McDonald, SVdP executive director.
For the past five years, Roger Gray has been the rarity – a CEO with dirty hands.

As the general manager of the Eugene Water & Electric Board in 2011, Gray joined forces with Eugene City Manager Jon Ruiz; Terry McDonald, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, and Ed McMahon, executive director of the Home Builders Association of Lane County, to form the Veterans Housing Project (VHP).

Conceived in the wake of the Occupy Wall Street movement, the VHP recognized that homelessness among military veterans was endemic in Lane County and across the nation, with veterans more than 50 percent more likely than the general population to fall into homelessness.

The VHP founders resolved to focus on the generation of affordable single-family housing for veterans. The idea was to prevent returning vets from becoming homeless in the first place by providing the low-cost, temporary housing that could help them get a toehold as they re-entered civilian life. Once housed, the veterans would have access to case management and social services provided by St. Vincent de Paul, which would manage the housing.

But first the fledgling group had to find a way to create an inventory of single family homes on a shoestring budget. The VHP accomplished that by acquiring distressed residential properties through creative arrangements ranging from outright donations to dollar-year-lease agreements with local government agencies.

Next came the hard, dirty work, Gray’s specialty. As the lead volunteer – and in at least one instance, the lead builder – on many of the VHP projects, Gray coordinated a small, spirited army of volunteer individuals and groups. They provided the “sweat equity” that was essential – along with financial, material and professional labor donations and low-interest financing – to make the VHP houses ready for occupancy by veterans and their families.

Gray was no stranger to volunteer building efforts, having worked for more than 12 years with Habitat for Humanity in Northern California before coming to EWEB in 2010 as its general manager. While he wasn’t a veteran himself, he had a deep interest in supporting vets. “I come from a family with a lot of vets and I had a cousin who was killed in Vietnam,” he said. “Veterans matter to me.”

With Gray as lead volunteer, the VHP’s inventory of homes began to grow with the first two houses, foreclosed homes that had been vacant and deteriorating for years, rehabilitated in less than four months, thanks to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers who donated over 2,500 hours of work. In each project, Gray’s attention to detail, quality control, safety and organization proved essential.

“Roger was an absolute workhorse,” says Ruiz. “Without him, I don’t think some of the homes would have been completed.”

In addition to weekend workdays, Gray often worked on his own, or with his wife Susan, in VHP homes on week nights. He often showed up more than an hour early on weekend workdays to make certain the site was prepared and volunteers had clearly identified tasks. “I always felt I didn’t want a volunteer to have a bad experience by not having something to do,” he says.

Roger’s leadership, his infectious enthusiasm and sense of humor, and his ubiquitous, reassuring presence helped keep volunteers returning on project after project. “It’s important to me that the volunteers have meaningful work to do and that the work is done safely, but it’s just as important that they have fun doing it,” he says.

Gray reflects that VHP projects have had hundreds of volunteers, with...
Emergency Shelter: Homeless Services

Overnight Parking Programs:
Overnight Parking Programs provide legal camping, free garbage disposal, and portable restrooms to homeless families and individuals living in their vehicles. Through SVdP’s First Place, 32 families (111 individuals) were helped in 2015. In addition, Eugene had 35 overnight parking sites for individuals with 46 spots housing 80 people. Springfield had seven sites with 12 spots housing 15 people.

Dusk to Dawn Program:
Under a new city of Eugene pilot program, 750 people slept in a heated tent at the Service Station, and 20 people stayed a total 83 nights in five parking slots in a Lane County-owned parking lot near Autzen Stadium.

Interfaith Night Shelter:
Night Shelter is a consortium of more than 30 faith communities (see list below) offering night shelter, food, recreational activities, and comfort to 10 families per night, for a total of 41 families (131 individuals) helped throughout the school year.

Last year, more than 50 families found housing in the wider community. More than 2,394 volunteers, giving over 11,204 hours of service, make this outreach possible.

Egan Warming Center:
The Egan Warming Center ensures that homeless people in Lane County have a place to sleep indoors when temperatures drop below 30 degrees between November 15 to March 31. From November 2015 to March 2016, over 3,659 shelter beds and 7,318 meals were provided at 10 host sites (see list below). There were 946 guests this year during 12 activation nights and 11,533 volunteer hours.

Visit www.eganwarmingcenter.com

Eugene Service Station (ESS):
The ESS provides homeless adults with a warm and welcoming place to meet their basic needs and get assistance stabilizing their personal crises. The ESS offers telephones, message services, computer access, and job and housing referrals. In 2015, the ESS helped more than 8,009 adults, and gave more than 165, 000 in clothing vouchers, 155,000 meals, and over 31,114 showers utilizing solar hot water.

The Interfaith Emergency Shelter System, known to most as Night Shelter, is made up of local faith communities supporting the need for shelter for families who are in transition between homes. For a period of one to two weeks, these faith communities provide space for sleeping, home-cooked suppers and breakfasts, and welcome for up to 10 families per night.

Through this outreach, 131 individuals (60 adults and 71 children) comprising 41 families were able to have some sense of security as they waited for an affordable housing opportunity to come available.

On behalf of the families, thank you to the following faith communities:

Catholic Community Services
Central Lutheran Church
Central Presbyterian Church
Dayspring Ministries
Ebbert Memorial Methodist Church
Emerald Bible Fellowship
Emmaus Lutheran Church
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
Grace Community Fellowship
Harvest Community Church
Hosea Youth Services
Hope Lutheran Church
Living Hope Church
Northwood Christian Church
Powerhouse Ministries
St. Alice Catholic Church
St. Helen’s Catholic Church
St. Jude Catholic Church
St. Mark Catholic Church
St. Mary Catholic Church
St. Mary’s Episcopal Church
St. Paul Catholic Church
St. Peter Catholic Church
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Springfield 7th Day Adventist Church
Springfield Church of God
Springfield Lutheran
Temple Beth Israel
Thurston Christian Church
Trinity United Methodist Church
Valley Covenant Church
Valley Covenant Church
Valley River Assembly of God
Wesley United Methodist Church
Westminster Presbyterian

The following interfaith partners served as host sites for the Egan Warming centers between Nov. 15 and March 31 when temperatures dropped to 30 degrees or below:

Catholic Community Services
Dayspring Ministries
Ebbert Memorial Methodist Church
First Christian Church
Grace Community Church
Hosea Youth Services
Temple Beth Israel
Trinity United Methodist Church
Valley River Assembly of God
Valley Covenant Church

State Rep. Val Hoyle, D-Eugene, addresses Egan Memorial audience in December
### 2015 Financial Statements

**Statement of Activities: October 2014 - September 30, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues &amp; Other Support</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$1,385,400</td>
<td>$1,836,105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions - inkind other</td>
<td>609,624</td>
<td>1,399,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions - inkind food</td>
<td>1,294,684</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail sales, net</td>
<td>16,032,631</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>6,630,21</td>
<td>4,408,174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent income</td>
<td>3,404,880</td>
<td>3,156,919</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract services</td>
<td>86,753</td>
<td>740,144</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest income on notes receivable</td>
<td>243,821</td>
<td>448,410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developer fee income</td>
<td>1,087,307</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,720,018</td>
<td>1,085,322</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gain on investments in affordable housing</td>
<td></td>
<td>(114,325)</td>
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**Total Revenues and Other Support**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$32,524,172</td>
<td>$28,561,257</td>
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### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General, manufacturing, retail, warehouses, and recycling</td>
<td>$17,215,349</td>
<td>$14,628,194</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>7,280,495</td>
<td>5,724,049</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services and training</td>
<td>3,492,817</td>
<td>3,872,959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>218,221</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>1,613,467</td>
<td>1,803,640</td>
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**Total Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$29,820,349</td>
<td>$26,246,216</td>
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**Change in Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,703,823</td>
<td>2,315,041</td>
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</table>

**Net Assets, beginning of year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>39,121,110</td>
<td>36,806,069</td>
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</table>

**Net Assets, end of year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$41,824,933</td>
<td>$39,121,110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement of Financial Position: October 2014 - September 30, 2015**

### ASSETS:

#### Current Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$1,254,734</td>
<td>$1,573,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>3,046,473</td>
<td>1,857,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable &amp; prepaid expenses</td>
<td>2,362,965</td>
<td>1,186,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory, interest, and development fees</td>
<td>4,346,266</td>
<td>4,030,631</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Property and Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land, buildings, equipment, and construction in progress, net of accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>$38,234,252</td>
<td>$32,321,465</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Other Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notes receivable, Rural Rehabilitation program</td>
<td>2,582,027</td>
<td>2,695,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes receivable, related parties</td>
<td>7,792,536</td>
<td>8,017,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>6,745,729</td>
<td>5,650,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>6,295,967</td>
<td>1,595,821</td>
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</table>

**Total Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$72,660,949</td>
<td>$58,929,290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

#### Current Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$635,450</td>
<td>$439,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll and related accruals</td>
<td>1,294,684</td>
<td>1,317,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lines of credit</td>
<td>1,050,36</td>
<td>888,753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current portion of long-term debt</td>
<td>253,129</td>
<td>250,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term debt, net of current maturities</td>
<td>2,323,567</td>
<td>1,549,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other liabilities</td>
<td>385,823</td>
<td>383,461</td>
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</table>

**Total Liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$30,836,016</td>
<td>$19,808,180</td>
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</table>

#### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>16,906,294</td>
<td>16,984,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>24,918,639</td>
<td>22,136,570</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$41,824,933</td>
<td>$39,121,110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$72,660,949</td>
<td>$58,929,290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recycling for Good

Appliance Recycling
In Oregon, major appliances, propane tanks, and fire extinguishers cannot be landfilled. The metal takes up great amounts of space within the landfills or other trash disposal facility. Whenever possible, appliances are repaired for resale or donated to those in need; the remainder are recycled. In 2015, nearly 3,000 appliances were repaired.

Aurora Glass Factory
Unlike bottle glass, window glass has few applications for recycling. Aurora Glass creates architectural accents, gift products and custom awards from recycled window glass. www.auroraglass.org

Dogma Pet Beds
Dogma Pet Beds are pet-sized real mattresses made from recycled mattress materials and stuffed with EcoFiber (soft batts of recycled cotton). All materials are diverted from the waste stream, conserving space in landfills.

Mattress Recycling
St. Vincent de Paul is a national leader in mattress recycling. St. Vinnie’s obtains mattresses for reuse and recycling in California, Oregon, and Washington. St. Vincent de Paul, in conjunction with Cascade Alliance, has helped establish successful nonprofit mattress recycling programs throughout the nation.

Retail Sales
St. Vinnie’s operates 14 retail thrift stores, with another set to open soon in Salem, and a used car lot in Oregon. The stores create jobs and training, as well as reusing many items that would otherwise end up in landfills. Items are either given directly to those in need or sold, providing revenue for our charitable outreach. Stores operations support nearly 400 jobs.

Styrofoam Recycling
St. Vincent de Paul is Lane County’s only recycling center for Styrofoam. St. Vinnie’s shreds and compresses Styrofoam into logs, making it more cost-effective to transport to recyclers. Styrofoam peanuts are used at Aurora Glass or resold in our thrift stores.

EcoFire
Utilizing post-consumer cotton (from recycled mattresses) and paraffin from used candles, EcoFire is a simple fire starter that can be used in campfires and wood stoves.

In 2015, St. Vincent de Paul diverted from the landfill:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Pounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scrap Metal</td>
<td>7,546,493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles</td>
<td>6,845,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>3,831,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Waste</td>
<td>4,144,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>14,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewaste</td>
<td>1,157,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoes/Belts/Purses</td>
<td>810,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>104,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyurethane Foam</td>
<td>1,239,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper/Cardboard/Magazines</td>
<td>196,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>106,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraffin Wax</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The 7-year old Styrofoam recycling program collected 19,545 pounds of material!
- SVdP recycled 195,461 mattresses in our Eugene location and DR³ recycling facilities in California and St. Vincent de Paul continues to be a leading mattress recycler in the Northwest.

2015 Total: SVdP diverted 25,367,976 pounds from landfills!
Soldiers learn leadership, discipline and teamwork, yet a dismaying number of veterans have a hard time finding work after leaving the military. Unemployment among military vets both nationwide and in Oregon hovers around 8 percent, 2 percent higher than the general population. Several factors contribute to that gap. Many vets enlisted directly after graduating from high school, some because they couldn’t find decent-paying jobs in a changing and uncertain economy. They often leave the armed forces in their 20s with resumes heavy in military, often combat, experience but light in private-sector work experience. And since 9/11, many veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have military-related disabilities ranging from missing limbs to post-traumatic stress disorder to traumatic brain injury making it especially challenging for them to enter the workforce.

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County’s Veterans in Progress (VIP) program works with local veterans to help them find employment. Through VIP, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, up to 150 vets a year receive skills assessments, paid work experience, job-search assistance and placement, case management, career planning, professional certifications and other career-related assistance.

The comprehensive VIP program has had encouraging success. Last year, 93 percent of veterans in our program secured a job. And on Feb. 25, the program took another major step, staging its first full-scale veterans job fair at the Hilton in Eugene. Dozens of veterans attended the fair, with 13 employers participating. They included Strapworks, States Industries, Aramark Uniform Services, Oregon Supported Living Program, First Source, First Call Resolution, Glory Bee Foods, St. Vincent de Paul, Fisher Pest Control, Galt Foundation, Home Depot, Lowes and the Hilton.

Rudolph Fox, a U.S. Air Force veteran who served in Vietnam and who previously owned and operated a local graphics design company, was one such attendee. After his business took a thumping in the Great Recession, Fox enrolled in the VIP program in the hopes of finding employment in an economy that is not always friendly to older workers, including veterans.

“I basically want to work for anyone who will give me a chance,” Fox said. “I’m looking for an employer who will let me grow and show them what I can do.”

Employers at the fair reported that they welcomed the opportunity to meet veterans, accept applications and, in some cases, conduct interviews for job openings. Many said they were eager to hire vets not only because of their service to their country, but because of the knowledge, skills and qualities acquired in the performance of that service.

“The veterans come with such grace and a desire to give back—they’re ready to work,” said Kristee Neumann, States Industries’ human resources manager. Neumann received more than a dozen resumes for three job openings at the plywood supply company.

Karen Fleener-Gould, program manager for VIP, says several veterans ended up with jobs as a result of the job fair and that she has received positive feedback from both veterans and employers who attended the event.

“We were thrilled—this went far better than we expected,” she said, adding that all of the employers who attended the fair said they want to participate in the next VIP job fair, which is planned for the spring. “We have also had numerous employers who weren’t there contact us wanting to get involved in our next job fair.

That’s good news because the more players involved the better chances veterans will have of finding jobs.”

Sitting at a table at the fair with fellow veterans who were busy filling out job applications, Rudolph Fox said he plans to be among the first in line to make the rounds of employers if he doesn’t have a job by the spring job fair.

“I’ll be ready,” he said. “I’m just looking for that chance.”

Turns out the indomitable Mr. Fox can skip the spring job fair. One of the companies represented at the February job fair recently hired a veteran who had impressed them in his interview.

It was Rudolph Fox.
Judging by its growing footprint, St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County appears to be a good fit for the Junction City area. What began as a size 4 shoe with the purchase of vacant land at High Pass Road and Oak Street has since grown to a size 12 with these developments:

- Purchase and renovation of a long-closed car dealership at 333 Ivy into a gleaming 16,000-square-foot St. Vinnie’s retail thrift store.
- Purchase in January of Tivoli Mobile Home Park, situated between Prairie Road and SW Quince Street;
- Construction of a new affordable housing complex on the High Pass site, with completion of Alona Place set for fall 2016.

An Encouraging Transformation

It all adds up to nearly 10 acres, 80 units of affordable housing, and a growing stream of thrift-minded shoppers who still marvel at last year’s transformation from tire department to books, service center to clothing, and new-car showroom to a furniture department.

Folks whose requests for assistance are routed to the St. Helen Catholic Church Conference can now shop locally for the beds, clothing and housewares made available through a long-standing partnership with St. Vinnie’s.

The store is open daily from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and employs 15 people. They include Tammie Keeler, a 34-year veteran of the original Country Coach motorhome business. Both she and husband Terry lost their jobs with the business’s closure and spent two uneasy years unemployed. Tammie eventually was called back to Country Coach’s service center but was laid off again after four years.

Meanwhile, the Gibson Motors site had become one more painful reminder of the economic crisis after the 87-year-old dealership shut its doors in 2008. Like many other Junction City residents, Tammie was elated at the transformation to a St. Vinnie’s store. She joined the staff last Oct. 1.

“I am so grateful for my job,” said Tammie who has the flexibility in hours to be involved in the daily routines of her youngest grandsons. “With so many people out of work, it’s a good place to shop. People love the use of the building.”

And while the store is helping the community overall, Tammie is aware of the person-to-person outreach extended through SVdP’s partnership with the region’s Catholic church conferences. “So many customers say they like shopping here because St. Vinnie’s helped them at some point in their life, and they like to give back. I hear that a lot.”

Time for Tivoli

Opportunity knocked at the right time for Tivoli Mobile Home Park, which went on the market as St. Vincent de Paul was looking to utilize the latest round of state funds dedicated to the preservation of affordable housing in the form of mobile home parks. The funds were made available to counter a statewide trend of rising rental costs, a growing number of low-income households, and many older parks being replaced by more lucrative development.

Located outside the Junction City limits and skirted by new subdivisions, the nearly 40-year-old Tivoli park is typical of what state housing authorities had in mind for preservation. It has a mixed population of working families and retirees, aging owner-occupied units and a deteriorating infrastructure.

Under SVdP ownership, Tivoli residents can look forward to their park remaining affordable for decades to come, with 60 percent of spaces occupied by people at or below 60 percent of area median income, and with long-range planning for maintenance and infrastructure upgrades.

Tivoli is SVdP’s second mobile park in the 97448 zip code, the first being Harwood Mobile Manor on River Road. Three other
The dictionary defines Metamorphosis as “as major change in the appearance or character or something.” It is an apt definition for St. Vincent de Paul’s Metamorphose Upcycled Fashion Show & Art Auction, which was held April 23 at the Hi-Fi Music Hall in downtown Eugene.

Nearly 300 people attended the annual event – twice last year’s turnout. They watched nine designers compete in a vibrant runway fashion show featuring clothing made of cast-off materials transformed into original couture. This year’s event featured a new format that required designers to incorporate workplace waste materials into their fashion designs.

“This was just an amazing show,” said Vern Wright a Eugene kilt designer who said he was drawn to the event because of its upcycling theme. “It has a lot in common with Scottish clothing, and I love seeing the work of people who have the creative ability to take waste and turn it into something that is both beautiful and valuable,” he said.

Winners were chosen separately by an audience vote and a panel of judges that included Eugene mayoral candidates Lucy Vinis and Mike Clark and Register-Guard op-ed columnist Don Kahle. Both the audience and jury gave the first place award for fashion design to Renne Phillips of Eugene. Her work incorporated an oddball collection of business waste materials from Tracy Sydor Photography that included a plastic cake, film and broken dolls. Phillips and the other designers also used materials purchased from St. Vincent de Paul’s Division St. store to create their fashions.

In a separate art upcycling competition, Mahala Elliott, of Veneta, won the judges’ first place award, while Joey Edwards, of Eugene, was the audience choice for first place in the youth art category. Angelica Miller, of Eugene, won the judges’ vote for first place in the youth art category, while the audience choice was Haylan Alvis, of Creswell.

“This was just an amazing show”

~ Vern Wright, Eugene kilt designer

Business sponsors for this event included the Eugene Weekly, REI, the Lane Transit District, Tracy Sydor Photography and Caffe Pacori.

At left, St. Vincent de Paul’s in-house designer Mitra Chester wearing one of her designs.
SVdP-owned parks are in Eugene and Oakridge.

St. Vinnie’s Alona Place was about half complete when word came in March of Herb Nill’s passing. The iconic patriarch of Guaranty Chevrolet and Guaranty RV sold the seven-acre parcel to SVdP in 2010. The housing project was named Alona—Hebrew for oak, in honor of the ancient, spreading oak that graces the site.

When the complex opens to tenants in fall 2016, it will add to the local housing stock 40 energy-efficient affordable units, in one to three-bedroom designs, in both ground-level and townhouse layouts. A spacious community building with kitchen and kids’ area will be available for both tenant and community use. The landscaped grounds will feature a “tot lot” and plenty of green space. The complex will have a laundry room, plus a full-time onsite manager and a part-time resident services coordinator to ensure tenant stability and success.

Alona Place will serve families at 50 percent and 60 percent of area median income. The waitlist is now open. To get on that list, visit St. Vincent de Paul’s administrative office at 2890 Chad Dr., Eugene, just east of Costco.

Construction on Alona Place is expected to be completed by this fall.

People must have steady employment and decent wages to move out of poverty. Employers need skilled, consistent employees. Self-Sufficiency Services addresses both these goals by helping people with multiple barriers to employment find work. Programs include the following:

Supported Work Experience (SWEX)
SWEX participants are referred by the Department of Health and Human Services (SSP Division) to gain work experience. To qualify, participants must currently be receiving TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) and involved in the JOBS program. Clients are placed at various St. Vincent de Paul work sites between six and 15 hours per week. The services and components are structured to support effective and efficient progress to employment and self-sufficiency, and in 2015 SWEX helped more than 1,000 people.

Veterans in Progress (VIP)
VIP helps homeless veterans through employment and training. The VIP program is funded by a Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program (HVRP) Grant through the Department of Labor/VETS. Clients receive situational assessment, paid work experience, job search assistance and placement, case management, individual career planning and certifications. In 2015, VIP had 150 participants, with a regular ongoing enrollment of about 100 veterans.

Second Chance Renter’s Rehabilitation
Second Chance gives people with poor rental and/or credit history the tools they need to regain housing stability. The eight-week educational series is both an intervention and prevention program. In 2015, Second Chance helped 120 people.

The Lindholm Center sees thousands of clients every year providing food, showers, laundry and a wide variety of social services.
Junction City Store: 333 Ivy St./Hwy 99; (541) 234-2672
Chad Drive Store: 2890 Chad Drive, Eugene; (541) 743-7117
Division Store: 201 Division Ave., Eugene; (541) 762-7837
Boutique Store: 555 High St., Eugene; (541) 344-2115
Oak Street Store: 100 E. 11th, Eugene; (541) 868-0200
Seneca Store: 705 S Seneca, Eugene; (541) 345-8036
West Broadway Store: 2345 W. Broadway, Eugene; (541) 284-5024
West 11th Store: 1870 W 11th, Eugene; (541) 844-1945
Chandler Long’s household includes two single parents and their respective children, so he was happily frustrated recently outside St. Vinnie’s West Broadway retail thrift store. He had gotten a great deal on two sets of metal bunk beds, but he was having a dickens of a time securing them onto the back of his pick-up truck. A steady drizzle didn’t help.

An enterprising 38-year-old with a bent for negotiation and trade, Chandler had never heard of St. Vinnie’s thrift stores or even St. Vincent de Paul before he moved to Eugene from Florida seven years ago. It didn’t take long for him to appreciate his new hometown as a mecca for thrift-minded folks like himself.

“I find good deals that I can trade for other stuff,” he said. “I love to barter. He loves old vinyl, too, and spends a lot of time flipping through albums. He wasn’t surprised to learn that SVdP designer Mitra Chester turns unsaleable records into the Re-Play brand of laser-cut earrings.

“I’m a big advocate of re-use,” he said. “I can’t remember the last time I bought new pants or shirts – it’s probably been 20 years.”

“I like thrift stores because the quality is better,” he said. “It’s old school stuff.”

He starts at St. Vinnie’s, rain or shine. “I feel that they do the most for the community,” he said. “I believe in that, and that’s why I like to check here.”

Background photo: St. Vinnie’s shopper, Chandler Long, secures his treasures from a recent visit to St. Vinnie’s.
Volunteer opportunities abound at St. Vinnie’s

By Ashely Hensley

In 2015, St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County saw more than 150 new volunteers come through its doors. Over the past several months, we’ve been making huge strides toward finding new and exciting ways for more people in our community to get involved.

Our efforts have produced results. Less than four months into 2016, we’ve already had more than 160 new volunteers reach out to see how they can be a part of our amazing team. As the days grow longer and spring jumps into full swing, we’ve been busy with one volunteer project after another. Between our group volunteer projects and our first few special events of the year, our fantastic volunteers have already clocked more than 500 hours of service, and they’re just getting started.

Intrigued? With a wide variety of opportunities to match your interests and schedule, we can find the perfect match for you!

Here are some areas where help is needed:

• Administrative: filing, data entry and general office duties.
• Development: donation calls, events and special projects.
• Outdoors: landscaping, painting, car washing/detailing.
• Retail Stores: sorting donations, shelving items, rearranging inventory, general store clean up, furniture repair and assembly.
• Social Services: sorting, organizing and restocking the Food Room; prepping, serving and cleaning up breakfast and lunch at Eugene Service Station.

Upcoming volunteer opportunities:

• As long as the sunshine continues to grace us with its presence, we’ll be keeping our schedule full of landscaping, painting and outdoor improvements.
• Friday, Sept. 9–Bill Barr Memorial Golf Tournament (formerly 17th Annual Golf Classic)
• Wednesday, June 22–Bi-Mart Charities Golf Tournament
• Wednesday, Sept 21–Angel Dinner
• Thursday, Oct 27–A Moment in Time

Check our website www.svdp.us/get-involved/volunteer or contact me (Ashely.Hensley@svdp.us or (541) 743.7147 for more information.

The following volunteer positions are waiting for that perfect person to step up:

• Extra Helping assistant–This position requires a weekly commitment of at least 90 minutes at a specified time. The volunteer assists our resident services coordinator in selecting, loading and unloading food donations from Food For Lane County. This position requires someone who can remain on their feet for at least one hour and lift 30 to 50 pounds without difficulty, as well as being able to obtain reliable transportation.
• Community engagement volunteer–This volunteer assists our community engagement coordinator in facilitating our volunteer program, as well as assisting with special events. This position requires a volunteer who can remain fairly active (sitting, standing, walking, lifting, etc) and feels comfortable interacting with community members on a regular basis.

What have we been up to?

In February more than 50 volunteers stepped up to help with the 35th annual Truffle Shuffle and donated more than 150 hours of their time. As if this wasn’t commendable enough, many of sacrificed watching the start of the Super Bowl 50 in the name of helping military veterans.

For the UO’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service more than a dozen university students, some veterans themselves, helped us ready tents and care packages to be distributed to homeless veterans through our Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

The fabulous folks who call Cascade Manor home helped us assemble more than 250 care packages for our Egan Warming Centers guests to stay warm and off the street during the winter.
Nearly 500 Runners Brave Cold to Help Veterans

Despite cold weather and competing Super Bowl activities, nearly 500 runners showed up Feb. 7 to run or walk in the 35th annual Truffle Shuffle and raise money for the many local military veterans who receive assistance through programs provided by St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County.

I’m always glad to help out St. Vinnie’s – they do great things for veterans,” said Al Peterson, the veteran KVAL-TV weather forecaster who was delighted that he beat his last year’s time in the Truffle Shuffle by 30 seconds. He added: “There are too many homeless veterans out there. There are too many veterans in need. They worked for us, and a lot of them have problems because of the work they did for us. The folks at St. Vinnie’s get the job done for veterans. They go right to the heart of the matter and take care of it.

This year’s event began at Alton Baker Park with a 700-meter fun run for kids. Other events included a 2-mile run, a 2-mile walk and a 4-mile run. The top male and female finishers in the 2-mile run were Clark Embleton (10:04) and Caitlin Goodman (11:56). Top finishers in the 2-mile walk were Eldon Fox (30:17) and Junie Spear (18:27), and top finishers in the 4-mile run were Scott Davis (21:08) and Callie Cooper (24:02). Prizes were awarded to the first place male and female winners in each age group, and this year’s race also featured the return of team competition, with friends, family members, business associates, running club members, supporters of non-profits and others forming teams that competed in an open division.

Euphoria and KVAL were title sponsors for this year’s race. Jerry’s Home Improvement Center sponsored the kids run. Other sponsors include Eclectic Edge Racing, Bigfoot Beverage Co., Chipotle Mexican Grill, Track Town Pizza, Hop Valley Brewing, Kazi, Innovative Print Group, Eugene Running Co., Eugene Physical Therapy, Cambria Sportswear and Cosmos.

Volunteers, continued from page 14

For the United Way Global Youth Service Day more than a dozen 9th graders from North Eugene High School helped us package pet food for the loyal four-legged companions of our community’s homeless.

The UO Stamps Scholars rallied to give our Seneca store and warehouse a facelift. They cleared blackberry vines and painted our donation center drop-off sign.

For more information, contact Ashley Hensley, community engagement coordinator, by phone at 541.743.7147 or via email at ashley.hensley@svdp.us

Winners of the Jerry’s Home Improvement Kids Run pictured with their Aurora Glass medals.

New Volunteers
In 2015: 154
So far in 2016: 164

Gray continued from page 4

roughly a 50-50 mix between veterans and non-vets and ranging in age between pre-teens to octogenarians. “I’ve got a Korean war vet in his mid-80s who works harder than anyone else and is one of strongest people I’ve ever known,” he said. “We built a fence together and you should have seen him digging those postholes.”

“You should have seen him” is a phrase that VHP members and volunteers often use to describe Gray’s work on VHP projects. No job was too big, too daunting, too complex for Gray and his volunteers, including the job of digging a huge trench where a hillside had slid into the back of one of the VHP home. “We assigned that job to the women’s lacrosse team from the UO, and they got it done in an amazingly short amount of time,” he said.

Gray plans to look for similar volunteer opportunities in Portland, where he and his wife Susan, also active in the VHP and on its steering committee, recently moved as he begins a new job as director of the Northwest Requirements Utilities. The trade association represents 53 small and midsized utilities located in seven Western states.

But Gray also plans to return on weekends in coming months to work as a volunteer when the VHP decides to expand its current inventory of nine homes. When he does, he will bring the unique levels of enthusiasm and energy that, as fellow VHP founder Terry McDonald puts it, “could probably meet EWEB’s power demands for years if someone could figure out a way to harness it.”
When Rick Stephenson responded to a call last fall to help a critically ill homeless military veteran who was lying under a church awning in south Eugene, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County employee took decisive measures: He rushed the deathly ill man to a local hospital emergency room. And he refused to leave until the homeless man was formally admitted as a patient.

That’s just part of Rick’s job as one of five case managers for SVdP’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families. Their mission is to help homeless veterans and do whatever it takes to get those who are willing off the streets, and provide them with the housing and case management they need to survive and, hopefully in time, to thrive.

That job description rarely leads to confrontations with emergency room staff, as it did in Ray’s case. But it does require deep empathy for troubled individuals, and the belief that any positive action could be the one that changes a life.

Rick, 53, doesn’t know the woman who took action to save him nearly two decades ago, when, after years of poor choices, substance abuse and homelessness, he was struck by a vehicle as he crossed Main and 42nd Streets in Springfield. A nurse witnessed the accident through a restaurant window and rushed to his side, using her coat to stem the flow of blood from Rick’s neck and crushed cheekbone.

The accident—and the nurse’s do-whatever-it-takes response—proved a turning point for Rick, who emerged from a coma to endure extensive reconstructive surgery on his face and leg, partial paralysis, and traumatic brain injury.

Upon his release from the hospital, Rick was taken in by his aunt and uncle, Buddy and Karleen Boss of Eugene, with whom he’d spent much of his childhood. He spent the next two years recovering with their assistance. “They are wonderful, caring people who don’t judge,” he said. Along with their love and acceptance, Rick experienced a spiritual awakening of his own as he transitioned from wheelchair to walker to hiking in the mountains whenever possible.

“I would spend entire days, just getting away from everything,” he said.

Unable to do long-haul trucking or lumber-mill work as he had in earlier days, Rick used disability benefits to pursue his education, first earning an associate degree at Lane Community College and then a bachelor’s degree in family and human services at the University of Oregon.

He became familiar with Lane County nonprofits via internships at SVdP’s First Place Family Center and the Eugene Service Station. He was working in the mental health field at ShelterCare in mid-2015 when he heard that St. Vincent de Paul needed a caseworker for its SSVF program.

The son and brother of military men, Rick has long had a heart for veterans. “I’ve always thought they deserved better for whatever it was they had to do,” he said. “For me, being able to help is a way of giving back for what they’ve gone through, especially those who are homeless. They were there for us; we need to be here for them.”

In the past 13 months, Rick has worked with more than 125 veterans. After outreach workers locate local homeless veterans, Rick and other case managers offer them help getting into housing and connected to support services. That help can include providing the deposit and first month’s rent that veterans need to secure housing, as well as the services of a SSVF benefits and resources worker to help them access permanent Social Security disability or veteran benefits.

Or, as in the case of Ray Peterson, it can involve doing whatever it takes to help a troubled, ailing vet. As Rick approached Ray’s inert form under the church awning last fall, he suspected the worst until he heard a racking cough. A concerned couple stored Ray’s belongings for safekeeping, while Rick took him to the hospital. After he got out of the hospital, Ray was taken to a recovery center and, eventually, a tiny, neat apartment in the Whiteaker neighborhood, where home health workers monitored Ray’s well-being.

Rick recalls that Ray’s belongings included carefully preserved paperwork with housing references from local police officers, judges and others who had come to know the convivial red-headed veteran over his nearly three decades of homelessness. “He’s the type of guy who doesn’t burn any bridges,” Rick said.

During his three months in St. Vincent de Paul’s SSVF program, Ray received medical and residential care, case management and temporary housing until he got his own apartment under the HUD Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program. “I couldn’t do anything by myself,” Ray recalls. “That [SSVF] program helped me with everything, and Rick saved my life by rescuing me when I was half dead and in the worse shape in my life.”

Ray Peterson was one of about two dozen veterans whom Rick assists on a regular basis. That’s a hefty caseload, and the veterans on it who remain homeless are among Rick’s most challenging cases, often because of
Affordable Housing:
St. Vincent de Paul provides beautiful, high-quality, affordable rental housing in Lane County and the surrounding region. The agency has developed more than 1,300 units of housing since 1988 and additional units will be added to the inventory this year.

Connections Transitional Housing Program:
Connections helps homeless families transition from repeated episodes of homelessness to stability. Intensive case management, for up to two years, helps families break the cycle of homelessness. The program serves approximately 13 new families each year and has helped nearly 700 families since it began.

Living Independently Following Treatment (LIFT):
The LIFT Program provides supportive housing. Participants have clinically assessed co-occurring mental illnesses with addictions and are in recovery, having received inpatient treatment. Currently, LIFT is serving 11 families and five individuals (a total of 16 households). In 2015, 27 households received supportive housing.

Resident Services Program:
Resident Services provide information and referral, educational, recreational, and community building services to provide enrichment and stability to residents in St. Vincent de Paul’s affordable housing.

Valley Individual Development Account Program (VIDA):
VIDA helps households achieve major life and financial goals through matched savings, training, and support. Last year, 105 people attended VIDA financial literacy classes and 75 people graduated. Ten people graduated from the Individual Development Account (IDA) program, while 18 people opened new IDAs.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF):
Two separately funded SSVF programs help homeless veterans and those at risk of homelessness with the resources needed to become or remain permanently housed. In 2015, both SSVF programs helped a combined total of 515 individuals.

Veterans Living Independently Following Treatment: (VetLIFT)
VetLIFT provides assistance to chronically homeless veterans who are dually diagnosed with substance abuse and mental health issues. VetLIFT helps veterans access permanent housing and increase income and job skills. Currently, VetLIFT provides housing for nearly 60 veterans.

A hand up, continued from page 16

mental and physical health problems. Many veterans have service-related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injury or other debilitating conditions. And some, after years of delay and difficulties getting government assistance, have given up getting help. And other vets have chosen to either not seek or refuse assistance.

Some of them have no trust in the government because of what it’s not doing to help them,” Rick said. “I hear that all the time.”

He explains to veterans, sometimes repeatedly, that while he is not a vet himself he knows what it’s like to be addicted and homeless. “I try not to ask too many personal questions at first,” he said. “I see a lot of fear that comes out as anger.”

Rick says his own history of substance abuse helped prepare him for working with homeless veterans suffering from addictions. “I’ve lived it, I’ve experienced it, I understand the struggles in getting out of that situation,” Rick says. “A lot of veterans want to get out but they can’t because of the addiction.”

But Rick and his SSVF colleagues keep at it, searching for a way to help veterans find a path to stability and a new life.

“I love it,” Rick said. “Having been there I know how hard it is for those who need a hand up. And they deserve it.”

As for Ray Peterson, he has a message for the fellow veterans he knows who are still homeless and living on the streets. “It’s time to come in and get help,” he says. “It’s just getting too hard and dangerous out there.”
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Our Thanks to our District Council Conferences & Affiliates: Home visitors who bring hope and assistance to our neighbors in need.

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You can help a single mom, a hungry child, an elderly person, or a neighbor through St. Vincent de Paul’s work in Lane County.

Here’s how:

Monthly and Planned Giving
Our monthly giving program offers a convenient and efficient way to provide continuing support to those in need in our community.

You can give beyond your lifetime by including St. Vincent de Paul in your estate plans. Your legacy gift is a testament to the lasting value you place in our shared work.

For more information call Paula Berry, Director of Development at 541-743-7144 or email paula.berry@svdp.us.

Take Hands-On Action Now
More than ever, St. Vincent de Paul is encouraging folks to get involved in the issues and programs that help achieve positive change. For information, call our community engagement coordinator at 541.743.7147 or email ashely.hensley@svdp.us.

Stay in Touch
There are many ways to stay updated on what St. Vinnie’s is doing in Lane County. Visit us at www.svdp.us, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, sign up for our printed newsletter, and our monthly email newsletter.
Thanks to generous funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County is helping other nonprofits across the country develop retail thrift stores, mattress recycling projects and online used book sales.

We call this growing network the Cascade Alliance and in the past year St. Vinnie’s staff was on hand for grand openings and pop-up shops in Pennsylvania and North Carolina, and at mattress recycling facilities in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Longtime SVdP staffers Dave Tussing, Curtis Bowser, Velvet Sanders, Bethany Rockwell and, of course, Executive Director Terry McDonald have visited these locations and shared their expertise and passion.

The result: Members of the Cascade Alliance have created 68 new jobs!

Some recent highlights:

• Finger Lakes Reuse, a nonprofit in Ithaca, N.Y., that is dedicated to redirecting materials from the waste stream into productive new uses, opened a second store, creating seven new jobs and diverting 178 tons of materials from the waste stream.

• In Bridgeport, Conn., the nonprofit Park City Green created 13 jobs in its mattress recycling and online book sales projects with combined revenues of $225,000 and the diversion of 590 tons of material.

• The Scrap Exchange, a nonprofit that promotes environmental awareness, creativity and community through reuse in Durham, N.C., saw the revenue from its thrift store grow steadily over the course of a year of SVdP mentoring. In February 2015, for example the store grossed $23,000. In February 2016, it grossed more than $53,000, and now Scrap is exploring adding a second store in the Durham area.

• UTEC, a youth outreach organization located in Lowell, Mass., continues to increase the size of its mattress recycling operation, more than doubling its output and revenue over the previous year.

• We’re excited to welcome the Union Rescue Mission to the Cascade Alliance. The Wichita, Kansas agency, which provides shelter and transitional housing, is preparing to launch an online book business and we’re excited to support them.

Entrepreneurs understand that 80 percent of new businesses fail in their first few years, and it’s just as challenging for nonprofits that want to generate their own revenue and create jobs in their communities. Having St. Vinnie’s staff available to help them through the many challenges is key. We’re honored to help them grow and thrive. For more on this project, visit www.cascadealliance.org.

Susan Palmer is the director of the Cascade Alliance. She previously worked as an environmental reporter for The Register-Guard and also is a published novelist and musician.

About the Alliance:

The Cascade Alliance helps non-profit organizations take control of their financial future by transforming them into a self-sufficient, job-creating community enterprise.

The result: financial stability for the organization, a cleaner, more sustainable environment for all, and the opportunity for a healthier, more secure life for the most vulnerable in the community. For more information, visit: www.cascadealliance.org.
By Eileen Chanti

First Place Kids has seen many exciting changes over the past two-and-a-half years since I began my work as the first (and only) paid staff member to run the early childhood programing at First Place Family Center. Since then, we have grown from a once-a-week playgroup run entirely by volunteers to a multi-faceted program that supports families living in transition during the most critical period of a child’s life.

Our program works with families in three essential ways: First, it collaborates with families to ensure that they are making use of all potential resources within the community. Next, it provides developmental and social/emotional screenings to all children age 5 and under, making referrals to Early Childhood Cares, a University of Oregon program that provides early intervention special education services.

Finally, First Place Kids operates a therapeutic preschool program that offers children at First Place an opportunity for child-centered play and an essential early learning environment. By offering comprehensive, synergetic support, our goal is to mitigate the stress, and often trauma, that children dealing with instability and homelessness face.

Unlike other local organizations that offer similar services, First Place Kids is unique in that our programming is universal, allowing children to attend for the length of time they are using First Place’s services rather than requiring an enrollment agreement. In this way, the program reaches children who largely go unseen by agencies that serve as safety nets designed to serve children in need.

Take for example, Elliot, a three-year-old boy who was eventually diagnosed with autism. When we first met Elliot and his single mother, it was obvious their family unit was in need of support.

Not having much exposure to young children, Elliot’s mom was under the impression that her son was just more challenging than other children his age and that she should be able to cope without help or support. Elliot would regularly unlock doors and escape into the street without any concern for oncoming traffic. When they took the bus to go to his mom’s job training program, Elliot would become so distraught and fearful that they were regularly asked to leave the bus for the safety of the other passengers.

Elliot’s mom was constantly on guard, trying to keep her son safe and at ease while navigating the unknowns that go hand in hand with homelessness. Thanks to First Place Kids, Elliot was given a safe, therapeutic classroom environment while his mom received respite. By performing the ASQ (a statewide screening tool for kids ages 0-5) Elliot was referred to Early Childhood Cares and connected to the essential services that would support Elliot’s development while also giving his mother the tools and resources to manage Elliot’s challenging behaviors.

Like many parents living in extreme poverty, Elliot’s mom was not able to make routine pediatrician visits and had little access to a community with deep knowledge of child development. In this way, First Place Kids served as a critical touch point for a family’s health and well-being that might not otherwise access services meant for them.

In addition to bolstering our offerings, First Place Kids has recently experienced several exciting developments. Over the past year, our relationship with the UO’s Family and Human Services program has become an indispensable asset to our

First Place Kids, continued on page 21
Theron Atkinson
Food Room
At the Food Room, clients select their own items, choosing what best suits the needs of their family. This approach decreases wasted food and is more like shopping, which helps people maintain their dignity. In cooperation with FOOD for Lane County, St. Vincent de Paul provided more than 15,600 food boxes last year. More than 2,800 holiday food boxes were given to families in need in 2015.*

Social Service Office
The Social Service Office provides emergency services to low-income families and individuals, in conjunction with our fifteen parish conferences and affiliates. Dedicated volunteers and staff provide emergency aid to more than 8,114 unduplicated adults each year.

Thank you!

We Need You:
To Give
The Social Service Office is always in need of financial support to provide emergency assistance to people in need. Please use the enclosed donation envelope or donate online at www.svdp.us

To Volunteer
Volunteers receive guests, answer phones, and help in the food room. In addition, volunteers are needed to visit families requesting support and fellowship. For more information on volunteering, call Ashely Hensley at (541) 743-7147 or email her at ashely.hensley@svdp.us.

To Donate
We appreciate donations:
• Non-perishable holiday food
• Backpacks
• Blankets
• Non-prescription medicines
• Personal hygiene supplies
• Baby supplies
• First aid equipment

In 2015, the Social Service Office distributed the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clothing &amp; furniture vouchers</td>
<td>$464,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental assistance</td>
<td>$102,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility assistance</td>
<td>$39,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propane for heating</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescription medications</td>
<td>$33,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A special holiday food box complete with turkey or ham is featured in December, thanks to the tireless efforts of Betty Snowden and supportive local businesses.

First Place Kids, continued from page 20

programing. We now supervise between three to four interns each term in exchange for quality care in the preschool. The relationship is win-win; interns receive hands on experience with a population that is often challenging to reach and in return, the children at the preschool get one-on-one time with enthusiastic eager adults.

Another exciting development has been the community’s outpouring of support since making known our need for additional funding in December. We are happy to report that all programming at First Place Kids is secure for the rest of the year thanks in part to generous community donations. Several groups have stepped up to rally around our program including Church Women United, which is conducting a fundraising campaign on our behalf.

First Place Kids also was recently approached by a group of paella makers who volunteered to help throw a fundraising event on our behalf. As a result of this generous offer, we are currently working on a paella dinner benefit, complete with music and silent auction to be held at Claim 52, a local brewery, on June 24. Tickets are $50 per person, and business sponsorships are available; call Kristi Bare at (541) 743-7177 for information.

We are optimistic that the event will be a success and help secure further funding that will allow us to hire a program assistant and move one step closer to our ultimate goal of providing the preschool program five days per week.

We love working as part of the St Vinnie’s community! If you have any ideas or want to contribute to our wonderful program, please don’t hesitate to reach out!

(Eileen Chanti is the director of the First Place Kids Center)
Heart for the Homeless honors families

Heart for the Homeless is a long-standing Valentine’s Day tradition at First Place Family Center. This year’s April 12 event celebrated nearly three dozen faith communities, partnering agencies, and the hundreds of volunteers who provide food, fellowship and a safe sleep to families without homes. Also showered with appreciation, candy and flowers were several guests of First Place who are successfully “turning it around” for themselves and their children.

They included Alana, who has worked diligently to reduce her debt and qualify for housing. Then there was Crystal and Brian, who have gone to great lengths to find work and then keep it, with Crystal commuting from Eugene to Stayton for a time. The couple enrolled their little daughter in Head Start and got approval for an apartment just a few blocks away.

That’s the result everyone works toward at First Place, from Director William Wise to Frank Dunbar, the peripatetic janitor who works tirelessly and “always knows what’s really going on,” Wise said. That would be in addition to the endless rounds of meal preparation, laundry, showers, computer use, and case management that take place amid the chatter of kids at play.

It all warms the heart of Mayor Kitty Piercy, who attended her twelfth Heart for the Homeless as mayor of Eugene. While this year’s appearance might be Piercy’s last as mayor, St. Vincent de Paul Executive Director Terry McDonald made clear that she would be an honored guest at future Heart for the Homeless celebrations for many years to come. “You are much loved here, Kitty, and you will always be a part of what happens here,” he said.

Less heartwarming is the growing number of homeless families who need assistance. First Place was launched in 1991 as a cooperative effort by the City, Lane County, the Eugene School District and St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County as a temporary response to an economic downturn. Twenty-five years later, in 2015, a record 614 families were served, including 1,200 children under 18.

Hosting families nightly for one to two weeks during the school year, the Interfaith Night Shelter served 45 families in 2015.

Said Mayor Piercy, “Valentine’s Day is a time when people go out of their way to give their loved ones special care and attention. But we can be proud that this community—and the fine people in this room—do that every day for those less fortunate.”

First Place Family Center:
First Place provides crucial assistance and support to families with children who are in transition due to homelessness, job loss, health issues, or other critical problems. In 2015, First Place helped 614 families with 1,200 children.

First Place...
• is the only center in Lane County solely dedicated to sheltering and supporting children and their families.
• is the “first place” families in transition go for basic needs: food, showers, laundry, etc.
• connects families to the Interfaith Emergency Shelter System and Overnight Parking Program.
• provides support and referrals to community resources, encouraging self-sufficiency and stability.

Greg Ilg and Marcia Whisler-Ilg are long-time volunteers and donors! Greg emceed the event.
Once again, ‘This one’s for the kids’

By Paula Berry

The 17th Annual Golf Classic will be held on Sept. 9 at Springfield Golf Club, and this year the popular event has an even more special meaning than usual.

That’s because it has been named “The Bill Barr Memorial Golf Classic” in honor of long-time event Chairman Bill Barr, whose unexpected death on Dec. 5, 2015, shocked and saddened his many friends and fellow golfers.

We are expecting over 200 golfers to support this worthwhile cause, many in recognition of Bill’s massive contribution to the tournament he had overseen since its founding. But the greatest motivation for participants remains the event’s mission to provide services and activities for children living in St. Vincent de Paul’s more than 1,300 units of affordable housing.

Last year, the committee raised over $50,000 for the children living in our affordable housing. St. Vincent de Paul hopes to exceed that number, as we continue to see a growing need for services that assist children of low income families living in St. Vincent de Paul’s housing complexes.

KMTR’s Allie Warren and Nathan Winters joined forces with Crescent Park Senior Living’s Alex Gossland and Jill Krupoff Berry in 2015 for their first St. Vincent Golf Classic.

Your support is critical to the success of this event. There are ways for supporters of all ages to support this effort. The tournament will have two sessions and a complimentary lunch will be offered between the morning and afternoon session. In addition to prizes on the course for contests and play, there will also be a silent auction and team awards. Sponsorships and company foursomes are still available, and the cost is $125 per golfer.

As the irrepressible Bill Barr was fond of saying at every tournament—and every planning meeting that preceded it—“this one’s for the kids.”

(Paula Berry is Director of Development at St. Vincent de Paul and has been involved in tournament planning for the past four years.)
He didn’t choose to be homeless.

St. Vincent de Paul
Society of Lane County, Inc.
P.O. Box 24608
Eugene, OR 97402
www.svdp.us

Your support is worth more than you know.

Upcoming Events!

Picnic Supper
May 5, 2016
Angel Dinner
September 21, 2016
Golf Classic
September 9, 2016
A Moment in Time
October 27, 2016

Receive our E-news.
Sign up at
www.svdp.us

What will your legacy be?

Please remember the work of St. Vincent de Paul in your will or estate planning and leave a legacy. If your plans already include a bequest, please do call so we can thank you and discuss how you would like us to use your gift. Thank you.

To learn more about how you can leave a legacy at St. Vincent de Paul, please call
Paula Berry, Director of Development at
541.743.7144