The Lamb Building: A Legacy of Hope
pg. 14
Dear Friend of St. Vincent de Paul,

Have you heard? Sixty is the new forty.

Perhaps that phrase is mainly said by 59-year olds, but there might be some truth to it.

With people living longer and healthier and working longer, 60 doesn’t seem like it’s time to slow down.

I’m thinking about that a bit as St. Vinnie’s turns 60 years old.

We’re certainly not slowing down— if anything, we’re gearing up to do more.

2015 will see:

• The completion of Bascom Village in northwest Eugene
• The beginning of Alona Place in Junction City
• Doubling the already robust Cascade Alliance
• Complete renovation at the Eugene Service Center
• Housing hundreds of formerly homeless veterans
• A new store in Junction City
• Doubling the Overnight Parking sites in Eugene/Springfield
• A second mattress recycling facility in California
• 100 new jobs
• Two additional homes for returning veterans in the Veterans’ Housing Project

The items on this list reflect our response to community needs. And we couldn’t do it without you.

Thank you for your support— whether it’s donations of goods, or money, or expertise— you make a difference in the lives of those in need.

To paraphrase Robert Browning, “Grow older along with me. The best is yet to be.” Let’s do what we can together, to make sure he’s right.

Sincerely,

Terry McDonaldExecutive Director

Our Mission

We assist the poor and those in need of consolation, seeking out and utilizing every resource. Being mindful of the sanctity and dignity of all, we know that any charitable work that advances those goals is within the mission of St. Vincent de Paul.
Throughout most of the 20th century, Murphy Company logged and merchandised timber. Over time, Murphy became an open market veneer supplier and began manufacturing softwood plywood. Eventually engineered wood and hardwood plywood were added to the product mix.

Today, Murphy Company has evolved into a veneer product specialist, a transformation that grew from paying attention to the changing landscape and looking for opportunities to build on Murphy’s core strength: veneer. Murphy employs over 700 highly skilled workers and strives to provide excellent customer service.

John Murphy, the third generation to lead the company, values the community he lives in and gives back generously. St. Vincent de Paul is grateful to be one of the recipients of that giving since 1998.

For the past eight years Murphy Company has been one of the title sponsors of First Place Family Center’s A Moment in Time gala benefit. Other title sponsors include Lane Forest Products and an anonymous friend. This year’s A Moment in Time will be held October 22nd at Studio 5 in Eugene.

Thank you to Murphy Company and the Murphy family for your continued support!

A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 10:00 am with thanks to Seneca Sawmill and Neil Kelly Design-Build Remodeling. An 8th VHP home was acquired thanks to the generosity of Northwest Community Credit Union, is currently undergoing renovation and should welcome its first family this summer.

To learn more about the Veterans’ Housing Project, visit www.veteranshousingproject.org
Cookies sweeten A Moment in Time planning

Tracy Baier joined St. Vincent de Paul's CRAB Team in 2013. This was a natural, easy fit for her. (And not because she has a crabby personality. Because she doesn't.) Tracy is an upbeat, generous self-named “worker bee” who brings enthusiasm to the tasks associated with St. Vinnie’s biggest fundraiser, A Moment in Time, a benefit for First Place.

Tracy started her life by studying to become a paramedic/forestry ranger. A car accident ended that dream, so, while still in her 20’s she became a volunteer with the local fire department in her home town. She witnessed many local emergencies there and in her work at the local hospital.

Tracy’s family owned a Farmers Insurance Agency, and Tracy found her true calling working in the family business. She valued positioning her clients to be covered in case an unexpected hardship hit.

Though her compassion for her community continued, she found herself on the other side of the fence when faced with raising a special needs child as a single mother. Her family lost medical insurance coverage for her youngest daughter. Because of her uninsured medical expenses, Tracy reached out to St. Vincent de Paul.

St. Vincent de Paul’s aid helped her family stay in their home, while she kept her job and became an advocate for her child, who grew into an independent adult. With both of her daughters now grown and out of the house, Tracy felt it was time to get back into her community.

Besides running her own insurance agency, Tracy serves as a Community Emergency Response Team member for the Eugene and Springfield area. She has recruited 5 new members for the CRAB. Together, their dynamic team solicits donations for A Moment in Time’s silent auction and wall of wine.

She is sharing her CRAB work with her grandchildren, one of whom is pictured in the photo.

Sweetening up the CRABS! Pictured from left: Ellie (grandchild), CRAB Members: Tracy Baier, Shannon Petit, Sally Killgore, Forrest Brinkman, Paula Berry and Judy Hunt

A Moment in Time is St. Vincent de Paul's most prominent fundraiser utilizing an advisory board made up of community volunteers. The board, known as CRAB (Community Relations Advisory Board) meets monthly to plan, fundraise and execute the event which raises money for First Place Family Center. The event will be held on October 22, 2015 at Studio 5 on Chad Drive. For more information see back page of this publication. If you would like more information on CRAB, please contact Rebecca Larson at 541-743-7121 or rebecca.larson@svdp.us

Vinnie’s Voice Staff
Editing and Design: Paula Berry
Writer: Judy Hunt
Contributor: Rebecca Larson and Angie Bowser
Phone: 541-687-5820
www.svdp.us
Cover photo: Paula Berry
St. Vincent de Paul is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Emergency Shelter: Homeless Services

Overnight Parking Programs:
Overnight Parking Programs provide legal camping, free garbage disposal, and portable restrooms to homeless families living in their vehicles. 49 families (149 individuals) were helped in 2014 through First Place.

In addition, Eugene has 36 sites with 45 spots housing 72 people. Springfield has 2 sites, 3 spots housing 4 people through the Eugene Service Station.

Interfaith Night Shelter:
Night Shelter is a consortium of more than 30 faith communities offering night shelter, food, recreational activities, and comfort to 10 families per night, for a total of 55 families (196 individuals) helped throughout the school year.

Last year, 55 families found housing in the wider community. More than 2,100 volunteers, giving over 10,892 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 2014 to March 2015, over 2,740 shelter beds and 5,498 meals were provided. There were 948 guests this year during 10 activation nights and 9,000 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 2014, the ESS helped more than 7,802 adults, and gave more than $260,000 in clothing vouchers, 144,000 meals, and over 30,000 showers utilizing solar hot water.

A handmade cross and wreath commemorating the site of Major Thomas Egan’s death.
## 2014 Financial Statements

### Statement of Activities: October 2013 - September 30, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues &amp; Other Support</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$1,836,105</td>
<td>$1,046,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions - in-kind</td>
<td>1,399,311</td>
<td>658,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions - in-kind</td>
<td>1,317,076</td>
<td>1,235,567</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail sales, net</td>
<td>14,084,174</td>
<td>13,324,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>4,408,174</td>
<td>3,598,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent income</td>
<td>3,156,919</td>
<td>2,561,815</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract services</td>
<td>740,144</td>
<td>1,170,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>448,410</td>
<td>230,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developer fee income</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>551,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,085,322</td>
<td>(1,139,935)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loss on investments</td>
<td>(114,325)</td>
<td>not calculated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from</td>
<td>5,509,880</td>
<td>not calculated</td>
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</table>

**Total Revenues and Other Support**: $27,478,586

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General, manufacturing,</td>
<td>$14,628,194</td>
<td>$13,435,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>retail, warehouses, and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recycling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>5,724,049</td>
<td>5,820,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services and training</td>
<td>3,872,959</td>
<td>3,092,104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>217,374</td>
<td>236,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>1,803,640</td>
<td>1,849,283</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenses**: $26,246,216

**Change in Net Assets**: 2,315,041 (1,195,476)

**Net Assets, beginning of year**: 39,121,110 38,001,545

**Net Assets, End of Year**: $36,806,069


#### Assets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Assets</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$1,573,796</td>
<td>$1,129,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>1,857,545</td>
<td>1,478,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable &amp; prepaid expenses</td>
<td>1,186,792</td>
<td>1,561,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory, interest, and development fees</td>
<td>4,030,631</td>
<td>3,479,194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Property and Equipment

| Land, buildings, equipment, and construction in progress, net of accumulated depreciation | $32,321,465 | $31,450,349 |

#### Other Assets

| Notes receivable, Rural Rehabilitation program | 2,695,490  | 2,847,453  |
| Notes receivable, related parties | 8,017,220  | 7,739,311  |
| Investments | 5,650,530  | 4,972,731  |
| Other assets | 1,595,821  | 1,486,766  |

**Total Assets**: $58,929,290

#### Liabilities & Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Liabilities</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$439,418</td>
<td>$499,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll and related accruals</td>
<td>888,753</td>
<td>674,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lines of credit</td>
<td>250,591</td>
<td>477,247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current portion of long-term debt</td>
<td>1,549,900</td>
<td>725,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term debt, net of current maturities</td>
<td>16,296,956</td>
<td>16,981,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other liabilities</td>
<td>380,461</td>
<td>364,239</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Liabilities**: $19,808,180

#### Net Assets

| Unrestricted | 16,984,540 | 15,752,170 |
| Temporarily restricted | 22,136,570 | 21,053,899 |

**Total Net Assets**: $39,121,110

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets**: $58,929,290

* Due to the assumption of 4 limited partnerships
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 2014, approximately 2,721 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 the world 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 13 retail thrift stores and a 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 more than 350 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 2014, 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>3,674,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles</td>
<td>6,601,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>2,422,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Waste</td>
<td>1,634,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glass</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewaste</td>
<td>1,012,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoes/Belts/Purses</td>
<td>741,370</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 6-year old Styrofoam recycling program collected 24,287 pounds of material!

170,000 mattresses were diverted from our Eugene location and DR³ recycling facility in California and St. Vincent de Paul continues to be the #1 mattress recycler in the world.

SVdP diverted in 2014: 17,846,184 pounds from landfills!

For a digital copy of our financial report, please log on to www.svdp.us
You might recognize Lois Brown from her years at St. Vinnie’s Seneca Store. Or maybe you’ve seen her out with a bunch of youth from Emmaus Church, working on a volunteer landscape project. Lois keeps busy and now she is volunteering with St. Vincent de Paul to help with First Place Family Center’s annual fundraisers.

Lois retired from her Career as the Youth Director of Emmaus Lutheran Church and began helping with the annual Golf Classic whose proceeds benefit children living in SVdP affordable housing through the Resident Services Program.

After the Golf Classic, she continued volunteering with SVdP on a weekly basis, helping with A Moment in Time, the autumn gala which benefits homeless children and their families through First Place Family Center.

Lois worked in retail at St. Vinnie’s and was always impressed by the scope of St. Vincent de Paul’s charitable outreach. After taking the job with Emmaus, Lois continued her association with St. Vinnie’s finding volunteer projects for her Youth Group.

Lois is just one of St. Vincent de Paul’s many valued volunteers. Opportunities are available to help families, veterans, kids, and the environment through a variety of programs. Call Angie Bowser, volunteer coordinator, 541-743-7147 to find out more. We cherish current volunteers and welcome new ones!

### SSVF seeks veterans without homes

Veterans who are homeless or at-risk for homelessness have advocates at St. Vincent de Paul.

Provided with funding from the Veterans Administration and a mandate to end veteran homelessness by 2016, teams of outreach workers and housing specialists are canvassing Lane county for candidates, prospective housing, and camp trailers or lower-end RV’s that can be rehabbed for use as housing.

**Titled Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF),** SVdP’s program is in the first year of a 3-year, $3 million grant. A renewal grant, awarded to SVdP and sub-contracted to Community Services Consortium for the past two years, provides similar outreach to veterans in Benton, Linn and Lincoln counties.

**For the purposes of SSVF,** veteran families are households in which the head of the household served at least one day in the US military or Coast Guard and was released or discharged under other than dishonorable conditions. A veteran family can be an individual, couple, or parent(s) and children.

In Lane County, SSVF’s goal is to serve 200 veteran households per year for each of three years, by either preventing their eviction or by getting literally homeless veterans into housing or at least into a camp trailer that is dry and secure.

**Toward that end,** SSVF outreach offices in rural communities are open as follows:

- **Oakridge:** 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 10 am-3 pm, inside the St. Vinnie’s building, 47663 Hwy 58;
- **Junction City:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 9 am-1 pm, inside the Local Aid building at 210 E. 6th Ave.;
- **Cottage Grove:** 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10 am-3 pm, inside the Community Sharing building at 1440 Birch Ave.;
- **Florence:** 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 10 am-3 pm, Department of Human Services (DHS), 3180 Hwy 101 North.

To date in Lane County, 48 veterans have been housed and 72 have received other forms of housing assistance. Twelve have graduated from SVdP’s Financial Literacy program. The current SSVF caseload is 86 individuals. A new case manager has been hired to work with veterans who have significant mental health issues that affect their ability to maintain housing. Other services provided by SSVF include help accessing veteran benefits, and referrals for assistance with utilities and myriad emotional and physical health concerns.

Finally, SSVF and other agencies are compiling a Master List of Homeless Veterans to help ensure an effective outreach approach making sure no veteran is left behind. If you know of (or are) a veteran who camps, lives in a vehicle, or is at-risk for losing housing, please call the hotline number at 541-743-7107 and leave a message with your name and best contact information.

### Retired youth director still helping kids

Retired youth director still helping kids

You might recognize Lois Brown from her years at St. Vinnie’s Seneca Store. Or maybe you’ve seen her out with a bunch of youth from Emmaus Church, working on a volunteer landscape project. Lois keeps busy and now she is volunteering with St. Vincent de Paul to help with First Place Family Center’s annual fundraisers.

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People closest to St. Vincent de Paul know it’s been in Junction City more than 50 years, quietly assisting the poor in partnership with local volunteers of St. Helen’s Conference. In the early sixties a family facing hard times could make a request from a volunteer at the lawnmower shop then pick up emergency groceries at McKay’s Market.

The volunteers met in the evening at the church to account for activities and funds, just as today’s group meets now in a sunny dining room over warm Danish pastry. With nearly 50 years’ combined experience, the dozen or so members of St. Helen’s Conference respond to requests for help in a territory that occasionally takes them into neighboring counties. They bring a sympathetic ear, a voucher, and an eye for additional ways to help or resources to suggest.

At their monthly meetings St. Helen’s volunteers share their experiences and are reminded of God’s grace in their lives. They worry about finances and recruitment, especially of men or younger couples, or anyone willing to work as part of a two-person, male-female team.

This group helps a lot of people, making both long drives and short treks as was done recently to households right in Junction City.

Jessie’s trim figure belies his 80+ years. The retired fire warden says he was heavier last year, before he started chemo. He’s taken care of his disabled son for 51 years, and the two now share a tiny apartment.

The son is in a bedroom, sunk into his only chair, absorbed in a video game. Jessie would rather stand than sit in the broken living room chair that wreaks havoc on his back.

He asks only for “something like an easy chair” for his son for the living room, speculating, “Maybe he’ll come out and sit with me.”

Martha Dacar prepares a voucher that will cover the Conference’s half of the cost of two comfortable living room chairs, and post-dates it just a little to coincide with the arrival of Social Security checks and the means for Jessie to get to Eugene. She confirms that Jessie has no way to transport the chairs himself so she then adds a note about delivery.

“He’s a jewel,” says Martha as Jessie’s front door closes behind her. “I get treats like that visit ever so often.”

It’s livelier a few blocks away in a single-family home occupied by four generations extending from an elderly great-grandmother convalescing in the converted garage to a toddler just out of foster care. In between are his 4-year-old sibling, their mom, Alecia, and her parents.

It’s tight quarters in many ways, especially since Aleesha, 32, is readjusting following two years in prison and a halfway house. She hasn’t lived at home since she ran away at 13.

Alecia’s mother overcame addiction herself, is employed in behavioral services, and has been raising the 4-year-old for more than half his life. Alecia’s dad drives truck.

Martha Dacar is thankful that St. Helen’s Conference was able to help this household where not all full-time members have beds, let alone Alecia’s older boys, ages 13 and 11 who will visit her from time to time. Earlier, Martha wrote a voucher for the bed and dresser that now fill the room Alecia will share with her youngest.

Alecia says that she applied herself in prison to retraining her mind, and she took her time transitioning out. She has learned to consider potential outcomes of her every action and she focuses on the positive.

Contacting SVdP’s Social Service Office for help was one thing she could do for herself and her entire family, and have a beneficial, practical outcome.

“It has given me a chance to do something,” Alecia said. “I’m glad there are people out there willing to give me that chance.”

For the members of St. Helen’s Conference, St. Vinnie’s opening in Junction City will mean the people they serve won’t have to go to Eugene or Albany to...
JC Landmark gets an Overhaul

A main-street Junction City landmark will soon be repurposed into a St. Vinnie’s retail store and donations center, bringing jobs, affordable shopping, and that tempting invitation to “have some fun, save some money, and do something nice for your neighbors.”

The remodeled store is the former Gibson Motors building, built in 1956 to house the local Ford dealership. The business closed in 2008, but relics remain -- a steel beam from an overhead crane, a vintage lever for the long-gone roll-up doors, an antique display cabinet, and a shell of the distinct, 16,000 sq. ft. building situated on a full city block.

The transformations embody the vision of Bergsund-DeLaney Architecture and expertise of Meili Construction, development partners since 1989 when St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc. got into affordable housing.

The Gibson building has been relatively easy for the Meili crew and subcontractors to renovate, using SVP’s reconstruction principles: Save what can be saved and do right by the environment.

A grease-imbued interior wall that separated the garage and tire department has been removed, opening a retail auditorium with a row of stately vertical supports, flooded by light from original windows on the upper back wall. Upward-looking shoppers will also see the original open-beam, natural wood ceiling along with the steel girder that shouts in white paint: 3000 MAX.

At the front, a vintage door opener is all that remains of the garage’s rollup doors. The new design will accommodate a bank of glass panels and doors.

To access drive-through donations, donors will enter from Ivy, curve around the old showroom and pull up alongside the covered breezeway on the south side. Dubbed “the fishbowl” by the construction crew, the showroom will remain intact as an all-weather display area. An expansive second floor has been scaled back to the mechanical room and office.

St. Vinnie’s block will also boast new sidewalks on three sides, just in time for the Function 4 Junction. A system of berms and stone catchments will channel water from a new asphalt parking lot into the ground.

On changing ground Meili Construction’s Les Biggerstaff.

The completed project will represent a $1.5 million investment by St. Vincent de Paul and its partners in a New Markets Tax Credit transaction. The tool was created by Congress in 2000 as a means for investors and small businesses to create economic development opportunities in low-income communities.

Smooth sailing in Junction City means St. Vinnie’s will open sooner than anticipated, perhaps even over Memorial Day weekend. After the initial set-up and grand opening, St. Vinnie’s Junction City Store will employ up to 16 people in management, retail sales, and as drive-through donations attendants. Some on the Junction City staff will be experienced employees transferring from other sites; others will be new hires. Wages start above minimum with benefits.

The operation will be a full-service St. Vinnie’s, offering clothing, housewares, books, jewelry, appliances and miscellaneous. St. Vincent de Paul’s chain of retail stores, located throughout Lane County, and in Albany and The Dalles, sustain 350+ jobs and help support the Agency’s charitable outreach, headquartered at the Lindholm Center at 456 Hwy 99, Eugene.

Terry McDonald, executive director for St. Vincent de Paul, said the development in Junction City will allow St. Vincent de Paul to better serve areas to the north of Eugene. Over the past year SVP acquired and rehabbed the Sommerville Apartments in Harrisburg and will break ground this summer on 40 units of affordable housing adjacent to Junction City High School. (See related article, pg. 11)

St. Vinnie’s has a long partnership with the all-volunteer SVP conference at St. Helen Church in Junction City to share the cost of beds, clothing and other essential assistance provided to local households that seek help through the agency.

“Having a St. Vinnie’s in town will be convenient. I think we’ll attract folks from Linn and Benton counties, too, and that’s good for everyone’s business.”

Conference, continued from page 10

utilize store vouchers, and other low-income families will have more access to affordable goods.

That’s encouraging to volunteers as they do what they love: Serving the poor.

Carol Cersovski was recruited at the church door after Mass. Her myriad obligations flashed before her eyes as she agreed to one home visit.

That was many home visits ago, but her reaction is still fresh: “Wow.”

“I always thought (conference work) was done in Eugene,” she said.

“I had no idea it was going on in Junction City.”
**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 worksites between six and fifteen hours per week. The services and components are structured to support effective and efficient progress to employment and self-sufficiency. In 2014, SWEX helped 759 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 2014, VIP helped 347 people.

**Vocational Assessment and Job Development**
This program provides skills assessment, training, job placement, and follow-up for adults with multiple barriers to employment. 178 people were helped in 2014.

**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 8-week educational series is both an intervention and prevention program. In 2014, Second Chance helped 507 people.

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**Alona**

Once an international hub of the motorhome industry, Junction City all but lost RVs and associated jobs in the decade following 9/11. While it’s been slower to rebound than some communities, Junction City may be on firmer economic ground, said Chamber of Commerce Director Rick Kissock. Guaranty Chevrolet reports record sales, Country Coaches are returning home for service and/or resale to a neighborhood scented by Cosmos Creations where business is popping. Finally, the much anticipated opening of the State Mental Hospital is a beacon for jobseekers throughout the state, if successful, would expect to relocate.

Mr. Kissock has been fielding inquiries about housing and finding the pickings pretty slim. He said Junction City is atypical in that it has mostly middle-income to upscale housing even though it’s generally lower-income than Eugene. Even market-rate rentals are scarce. The Reserve subdivision is expected to grow by 300 single-family homes, but they won’t come in time to accommodate an influx of people.

“We are scrambling to find these people rentals,” Mr. Kissock said. “Overall, we have a real lack of rentals.” Meanwhile he was keeping an eye on development at the former Gibson Motors site, wondering whether “another second-hand store” was what Junction City needed. He said as much to Chamber member Cindy Montgomery who seized the opportunity to set him straight about St. Vinnie’s bringing jobs with benefits and a mission of assisting the poor. Her brother is part of the retail team that plans for and sets up new stores, most recently in The Dalles, and now in Junction City.

In light of this information also came the announcement that SVdP will develop a 40-unit housing complex at 1st Ave. and Oak. Named Alona Place in honor of the heritage oak tree that will be preserved, it will provide affordable rentals in a neighborhood setting for working households with incomes below 60% of area median. Its completion in the latter half of 2016 will bring St. Vincent de Paul’s portfolio of affordable housing to more than 1,300 units in three counties.

Mr. Kissock reexamined existing St. Vinnie’s stores with an eye for business more than just bargains. He liked what he saw.

“I am amazed at what he (Executive Director Terry McDonald) has accomplished,” he said. “I know how difficult it is in the nonprofit sector. To see St. Vincent de Paul’s success is great.”
METAMORPHOSE 2015
Metamorphose means “transformation” and the back room of the Oregon Wine Lab embodied just that, becoming an art gallery and runway for the 2nd annual Fashion Challenge and Art Show, held April 18, 2015.

A standing-room-only crowd sipped wine and enjoyed the music of Mood Area 52 as they voted on their favorite art pieces, re-created by local artists of all ages. Models strutted on the Persian-style rugs forming the stage, as they showcased eveningwear, swimsuits, and casual separates created by six local designers.

The designers’ fashions were crafted from Bay area fashion district fabric remnants and embellished with items from MECCA, co-sponsor of the event.


Background photo: Desiree Kwenkele on the runway at The Oregon Wine Lab.
The Lamb Building: A Legacy of Hope

A trio of original residents and their fellow tenants enjoy serenity and peace above the business of St. Vinnie’s Retail Thrift Store at 11th and Hayes.

The Lamb Building stands on the site of the first store owned by St. Vincent de Society of Lane County. The building, pictured on the cover, was a cobbled together conglomeration of a store: an original 2,000 square foot stucco building with three tiny upstairs apartments; a 5,000 square foot built-on retail space; and an old metal Butler building all skillfully linked together with a porch designed by local architect Fred Suebert. “It was a building that fit our needs at the time,” recalls Terry McDonald, Executive Director. “The work done there between since 1955 and 1982 built the foundation for the St. Vinnie’s we have today.”

With growth came new needs, and St. Vinnie’s moved its offices and processing operation to Seneca Street, freeing the excellent 11th and Hayes site for other uses.

“The building needed to go,” Terry said. “By then, it leaked like a sieve and was impossible to heat. It needed to be torn down.”

In the process of demolition, a large hive of honey bees was found in one of the outbuildings. Approximately 50 jars of honey were harvested and given away to guests at the Grand Opening. “It was a sweet surprise,” said Terry, “but one that is fitting for how well the project turned out.”

Completed in October 2010, the Lamb Building is home to 35 households. Eugene resident Richard, pictured below, planned to move into the Lamb Building, before it even existed. He’d read about the upcoming project in The Register-Guard, filled out a housing application, and was selected as one of the first tenants. “I even got to pick out my own apartment,” he said, glancing around his light-filled corner living room. Richard studied electronics in 1959, but worked mainly in a machine shop. “I got shocked too many times,” he joked. After a career at Gore-Tex, he became a long haul truck driver. When he retired from trucking, he took a job at Royal Caribbean. Health issues forced him to retire for the final time, to his home at the Lamb Building. He likes its “laid-back attitude” and attends the community gatherings to be sociable and friendly.

One of the friends he meets at these gatherings is Tony. Tony and his sister and brother were adopted by a military family and grew up in Oregon. The family moved to Eugene and Tony attended Willamette High School and Lane Community College. Tony volunteered at Next Step to build his resume and would still like to find a part-time job. He appreciates life at the Lamb Building. “This is a nice place to live. I have friends. It’s brand-new and secure.”

Another original resident, Julie, also appreciates the quiet and security of the Lamb Building. Julie trained as a competitive ice skater from age 8. Her school work was adjusted so that she could practice between five to seven hours every day.

As an adult, she began a career in computers and always thought she’d have a job. A serious illness ended that work. “I kept thinking I would get back on my feet,” she said. “But I used up all my savings and investments. I waited too long to ask for help.”

She did eventually find part-time employment in social work, but the pain became too acute to continue a regular schedule. “It’s taken many years for me to learn to live with chronic pain and have some kind of life.”

Julie is pictured with art she purchased in her 20’s. She saw it in a gallery in the Bay Area. “It spoke to me,” she said. “I’ve never seen another one like it.” She has always loved art and finds an outlet for her creativity in poetry.

The Lamb Building was named for Donald L. Lamb, long-time St. Vinnie’s volunteer and Board member. A plaque gracing the lobby memorializes his “life lived in service.” Don served as the Board chair and was a home visitor with the St. Mark conference. He owned a title business and gave wise council to Terry and the Board particularly on matters of real estate and finance.

The apartments in the Lamb Building are rented to individuals and families at or below 50% and 60% of the area median income. The Lamb’s features include a community room, outdoor terrace, and on-site laundry. The complex is conveniently located with access to public transportation and in close proximity to shopping (including the St. Vinnie’s Thrift Store on the ground floor), restaurants, social service programs, and other urban amenities. With a high efficiency heating and cooling system, solar water heating, fluorescent lighting fixtures, and EnergyStar appliances, the Lamb Building is a model of sustainable, environmentally-sound building principles.

Affordable housing is both a present and future investment in the lives of local people. The Lamb Building, like St. Vincent de Paul’s other 1,100+ units, will remain affordable for 50 years, providing decades of safe, beautiful, energy efficient housing for the people who will be sheltered under its roof. Folks like Richard, and Tony, and Julie.
Affordable Housing:
St. Vincent de Paul provides beautiful, quality, affordable rental housing in Lane and Marion Counties. More than 1,100 units of housing have been developed since 1988.

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. 27 families graduated in 2014. The program has helped over 650 families since it began.

Living Independently Following Treatment (LIFT):
The LIFT Program provides supportive housing for 18 households annually. Participants have clinically assessed co-occurring mental illnesses with addictions and are in recovery, having received inpatient treatment. Currently, LIFT is serving 29 families.

Resident Services Program:
Resident Services provide information and referral, educational, recreational, and community building services to assist with providing 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, VIDA served 127 individuals. 36 people graduated from the matched savings program, and 20 people graduated from financial literacy classes.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF):
SSVF is a new program helping homeless veterans and those at risk of homelessness with the resources needed to become or remain permanently housed. In 2014, SSVF helped 138 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 59 veterans.

Clayton Castle served in the Air Force from 2000-2003, stationed in Missouri and Oman, Saudi Arabia. He and his family became homeless when their landlord needed the rental for his own family. Clayton moved his family into a local weekly motel where they lived for 3 years. He works full-time as a shift lead in a local metal fabrication company, but living expenses consumed all his paycheck. And he was just over the income limit to receive aid from other programs. The 1st/last/deposit from A Veteran Home for the Holidays, made it possible for his family to move into their own apartment. Inspired by Michelle Obama’s Operation 365 which encouraged mayors from across the country to work with local organizations to house our veterans, A Veteran Home for the Holidays is a campaign spearheaded by Mayor Kitty Piercy and St. Vincent de Paul to help find a home for a veteran every day through Veteran’s Day 2015.

Without help from our community, this veteran and his family would never be able to get ahead. Other local veteran families are in the same situation, unable to qualify for existing programs due to income ineligibility, etc.

St. Vinnie’s brought a couch and beds to the Castle household donated from the community. “I’ve been in this business 30+ years and we can never get enough beds,” said Terry McDonald, St. Vinnie’s executive director. “Donations from the community are critical. And we need more beds.”

All donations to St. Vinnie’s are either given directly to someone in need, or sold in St. Vinnie’s Thrift Stores, whose revenues support the Agency’s charitable mission.

Please join us in contributing to this effort to raise some funds to house homeless vets who have given so much.

To help house a homeless veteran, please contact Rebecca Larson at 541-743-7121 (rebecca.larson@svdp.us) or Anne Williams at 541-743-7127 anne.williams@svdp.us.

Pictured above: Terry McDonald, The Honorable Pat Farr, Lane County Commissioner; Clayton Castle, and The Honorable Kitty Piercy, Mayor, City of Eugene.

“Donations from the community are critical.”
Terry McDonald

A Home for a Veteran every day
St. Vinnie’s continues building mentoring relationships with 11 nonprofits around the country that are developing waste-based businesses with our help. From Lowell, MA, to Orlando, FL, and from Portland, OR, to Newark, NJ, we are advising groups opening retail thrift stores, creating mattress recycling facilities and selling a variety of goods online. We’re doing this work thanks to a generous grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

This network of nonprofits is known as the Cascade Alliance and its efforts are ground-breaking in the realm of reusing and recycling. At Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises in Connecticut, for example, the team has been selected as one of the state’s two official mattress recyclers in a landmark first-in-the-nation stewardship law that creates a system for diverting mattresses from the waste stream. Greater Bridgeport is also creating jobs through diverting books no longer needed by libraries and selling them online. Among their innovations: using the wood from box springs in their mattress recycling facility to build the shelves housing their book inventory.

The Cascade Alliance members all strive for a triple-bottom line: diverting materials that still have value, creating jobs for those with barriers to employment, and generating revenue to fulfill a social mission.

Visit our website for more about the Cascade Alliance and the work individual groups are doing: www.cascadealliance.us.

By Susan Palmer, Cascade Alliance

Creating jobs across America  SVdP’s reach extends further
Dear St. Vincent de Paul,

Today I started my 4th year at St. Vinnie’s. It was cloudy this morning, then the sun came out and it turned into a fantastic day. Really reminds me a lot of my journey here at SVdP.

Four years ago, my family and I struggled to make ends meet and the future was... well... bleak.

I started in the SWEX program under Esther Wells. [SWEX stands for ‘supported work experience’ and requires volunteer hours from people receiving public assistance.] Thanks, Esther, for believing in us when we don’t believe in ourselves sometimes.

I volunteered for six months on the West Broadway docks. Thank you, Rick, for showing me the ropes.

Curtis gave me my job interview. I still remember him saying, “I’ve heard good things about you, Scott. Would you like to work for us?” Of course I said, “Yes!” and he sent me to Carol for my intake process. Thanks, Carol and Curtis, for being the beacon we follow when we have doubts.

After 6 months or so it was time to open the Oakridge Store and since I lived there, it just fit I should work there also.

Setting up a new store? Oh, man, did I learn a lot not only about our company, but about myself.

I still remember the words when Marge first met me. [Marge worked for St. Vinnie’s for 19 years and managed 6 stores.] She asked how was I with clothes and since I had worked mostly in the back room for Crystal at Division, I said, “Not a lot, but I’m learning.”

Marge said, “I don’t think you are gonna make it.” Her words haunted me for a few weeks. Thanks, Marge, for the slap to get my butt in gear.

Six months later, I was the manager of Oakridge. I made mistakes, took my lumps, and started over at Division. Thanks, Crystal, for pushing me to advance and fill-in at Albany for a couple of months. She encouraged me to try for a fleet position and I was happy to drive and meet the donors up close and in person, again, with Rick as my lead.

I felt like the luckiest guy in the world in April of 2014 when we were approved for our home loan here in Springfield.

And now I am the manager of the Car Lot on Highway 99. I truly believe this is my place, the spot I’m supposed to be in.

So… thanks so much beyond measure to every one of you. With your guidance and trust...me, my family, and those I serve in the name of St. Vincent de Paul: the sun is shining on us.

Sincerely,
Scott Burgess

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From left: Esther Wells, Marge Bearden, Terry McDonald, Charley Harvey, Curtis Bowser, Scott Burgess, Dave Tussing, Carol Belmer and Leisha Wallace. Not pictured: Rick Albriton and Crystal Dorsey.

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Scott Burgess

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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 at a grocery store, helping people maintain their dignity.

In cooperation with FOOD for Lane County, St. Vincent de Paul provided more than 14,400 food boxes last year. More than 2,300 holiday food boxes were given to families in need 2014.*

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 7,802 unduplicated adults each year.

We Need You.

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

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 Angie Bowser at (541) 743-7147.

Donate

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

Thank you!

The Haddock family at home thanks to help from First Place Family Center.

In 2014, the Social Service Office distributed the following

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clothing &amp; furniture vouchers</td>
<td>$476,000</td>
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<td>Rental assistance</td>
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<td>Propane for heating</td>
<td>$29,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prescription medications</td>
<td>$32,300</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.
Heart for the Homeless honors families

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 2014, First Place helped over 540 families with 1,117 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 come 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.

There’s much to be celebrated at Heart for the Homeless, SVdP’s annual thank-you event for First Place Family Center’s donors and volunteers. The gathering acknowledges the efforts of families to get into housing, and it fills the heart of Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy who said the event “brings out the best in all of us.”

“The best” allowed First Place to assist 540 families in 2014, including 1,117 children.

This year’s “Heart” honorees were adults and children united by homelessness and empowered by the opportunity to do something about it.

As First Place’s Diana Wise explained, the most rapid development of a person’s life takes place during the first five years, and all children have a right to have access to safe, developmentally appropriate places to play. Play Group, at First Place, helps accomplish that and steers at-risk children toward community resources they may need. Play Group is offered one to two times a week, about 2 hours, and provides families with access to a routine, structured and supportive early childhood learning environment targeting social communication and social emotional learning opportunities.

Another honoree was Michael, a hardworking father of three (pictured right) who was blindsided first by divorce then by a herniated disc from keeping up multiple organic farm operations between the valley and coast. Unable to work, he and the kids became homeless.

“First Place has been amazing,” he said.

Michael’s family got by with day services at First Place and overnight accommodations in Night Shelter, through the network of interfaith communities. One day before his back surgery, he and his family got into housing.

“I had a place to recover, and I’m back on my feet,” he said. “I feel really blessed.”

Adriana, Vanessa and Jeremy (pictured above left to right with Night Shelter Coordinator Becky Beck and Mayor Kitty Piercy) were invited to Eugene by his stepbrother who helped them as much as he could.

With nowhere to stay, they found a hotel room but it proved to be too expensive. They turned to First Place.

“First Place was able to get us into Night Shelter and keep us together,” Jeremy said. Being together is important, especially with a new baby on the way.

Vanessa is a CNA and hoping to work in that field again.

“I don't know what we would have done without First Place,” she said.

United Way of Lane County

Michael at First Place with kids Michael Jr., Maia, and Adrianna.
Bascom Village, a 101 unit apartment complex located in northeast Eugene, is a partnership between St. Vincent de Paul and the Housing & Community Service Agency of Lane County (HACSA). This project is nearly halfway complete. Half-way through the first half, that is.

Phase 1 is being developed by SVdP and is on schedule to be finished and welcoming families and individuals this fall. A variety of styles and sizes in these 53 units will be available to households at or below 50% of Area Median Income. A public ribbon cutting ceremony will be held to celebrate.

Bascom Village is being built by local contractor, Meili Construction, who will move their skills and equipment literally across the street and begin the 48 units of Phase 2 this summer. This second phase is being developed by HACSA and will be completed in the fall of 2016.

The project’s name honors Eugene Mayor Ruth Bascom, the first woman mayor of Eugene serving from 1993 to 1996. Mayor Bascom was an advocate for affordable housing during her 8 years as a City Councilor as well as during her term as mayor. Bascom Village, with its sensitive design by Bergsund DeLaney Architecture and Planning P.C. and subtle pallet of blues and greens, will be a lovely reminder of her concern and advocacy for affordable housing.

Truffle Shuffle: A First for St. Vinnie’s

A little bit of rain didn’t dampen the spirits of competitors at the 2015 Truffle Shuffle, a 35-year old event that grew up with Committed Partners for Youth and transitioned to St. Vinnie’s this February.

About 600 runners and walkers turned out on February 8th, many inspired by this year’s cause, veterans receiving assistance through St. Vincent de Paul programs.

Aurora Glass medals were awarded to first place finishers in a variety of age groups, but everyone won: a Euphoria chocolate truffle awaited all who crossed the finish line, distributed by Euphoria Chocolate Company owners, Bonnie and Van Glass, ably assisted by KVAL’s Al Peterson, who kicked off the Jerry’s Kids Run.

Adult runners/walkers enjoyed a beer from Hop Valley Brewing Company and title sponsor Thrivent Financial’s granola bars and fresh oranges were a popular treat.

Mark your calendars for next year, rain or shine: Truffle Shuffle 2016, Sunday, February 7th.

Half-way There

The Truffle Shuffle welcomed everyone from the serious runners to those shuffling for a truffle!
Resident Services provides Extra Helping

Resident Services provides a variety of activities and support to tenants at many of St. Vincent de Paul housing projects. This includes information and referrals as well as educational, recreational and community-building events.

One example is Extra Helping, facilitated by Resident Services in partnership with FOOD for Lane County. This program provides families with produce and bread at no cost on a weekly basis.

At the Aster Apartments fruit and prepared salads are the most popular food items. One tenant said that having access to produce and fruit through “Extra Helping” has helped her to eat a healthier diet. Not only are tenants able to stretch their monthly grocery budget to the end of the month and eat more fresh foods, it also helps bring groceries to tenants who have difficulties accessing transportation.

Many tenants in low-income housing live on fixed incomes and rely on Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (otherwise known as SNAP or Food Stamps) which often run out toward the end of the month. In 2014, St. Vincent helped 95 families in SNAP. Extra Helping is a program that encourages healthy eating and supplements residents’ menus.

Thank you to Oregon Football O Heroes’ Elijah George, Offensive Line, and Juwaan Williams, Strong Safety, pictured with Betty Snowden, Turkey Drive ambassador. Elijah and Juwaan hoisted frozen turkeys rather than footballs for this Holiday Food Drive outreach.
Our Thanks to our District Council Conferences & Affiliates:
Home visitors who bring hope and assistance to our neighbors in need.

Eugene Christian Fellowship
First Baptist Church of Eugene
Justice and Peace/Voice of the Poor
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church
St. Benedict Lodge
St. Alice Catholic Church
St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
St. Helen Catholic Church
St. Henry Church
St. Jude Catholic Church
St. Mark Catholic Church
St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Albany
St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Corvallis
St. Mary Catholic Church, Eugene
St. Mary Catholic Church, Our Lady of the Dunes, Florence
St. Michael Catholic Church
St. Paul Catholic Church
St. Peter Catholic Church
St. Thomas More Newman Center

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 Giving
Our monthly giving program offers a convenient and efficient way to provide continuing support to those in need in our community. For more information please call Rebecca Larson at 541-743-7121 or email rebecca.larson@svdp.us

Planned Giving
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 Rebecca Larson at 541-743-7121 or email rebecca.larson@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 volunteer coordinator at 541.743.7147 or email angie.bowser@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 or our monthly email newsletter. Thank you!
If you’re of a certain age you may remember having the freedom to play and “just be a kid.” Life is more complicated now, and finding the time and place to “just be a kid” can be tough, especially when family life has gone awry to the point of homelessness. For boys whose families are in St. Vincent de Paul’s Connections Transitional Housing, there’s a solution: Boys’ Group.

Connections serves at-risk families for up to two years with transitional housing, case management, and as many supplemental activities as funds allow. Boys’ Group is one such opportunity, providing “kid fun” especially geared for boys.

It’s facilitated by Basilio Sandoval who also works as facilities manager/drug and alcohol counselor at Centro Latino Americano. Each week a handful of Connections boys, all about the same age and from various parts of the city, get together for adventure and camaraderie and a meal. It’s a welcome break from the cares and stress of their lives — something they can count on.

"The consistency of Boys’ Group is vital,” said Casi Totten, Connections program manager. “Having a set time once a week helps to rebuild a sense of security and trust. Security and trust is something a young boy coming from homelessness often knows very little about.”

It’s also what Basilio calls “a prevention activity,” in that it provides structure and healthy ways to socialize.

For young men at an impressionable age, Boys’ Group provides priceless time with exemplary role models. Said Totten, "By intervening at this age, Basilio and his assistant, Sue, help the boys work through trauma they've experienced and learn non-abusive ways to relate to their peers and adults that will be of benefit their entire lives.”

One Connections mom confided to Basilio that her son copes with many challenges so the activities and sense of community he enjoys in Boys’ Group are a highlight of his week.

2014 Boys’ Group outings included fishing, swimming, hiking, bowling and berry picking, and a whole lot of fresh air and exercise.

If you remember what it’s like to be a little boy, or remember good times with your sons or brothers, please consider earmarking a donation to the Connections Boys’ Group, and continue the gift of friendship, adventure and positive growth.

**Boys’ Group Fosters Security, Trust**

Boys’ Group members, Jared and Athel (a.ka. Jr), learn about nature, friendship and trust in Boys’ group.

**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

Rebecca Larson 541.743.7144
OMHP: A Letter from Oakridge

No doubt you’ve heard about or seen changes at the Oakridge Mobile Home Park (OMHP). St. Vincent de Paul bought this park less than one year ago and has been working to restore it to the pleasant neighborhood I remember as a young parent. What happened in between? With primarily elderly/disabled tenants, the park fell into disrepair. It became a magnet for squatters, drug activity, and violence. At the worst of times, half the Oakridge Police Department’s calls were to OMHP – up to 4 per day – and the majority of tenants stayed inside, fearing for their safety.

If you’ve noticed the OMHP turning around, it’s because a hugely generous and hardworking community has pitched in with me, as local lead, and St. Vincent de Paul to clean up, haul out, replace uninhabitable units, and restore the grounds. Lease agreements were enacted that retained good tenants.

Last summer we held clean-up days and removed 185 yards of debris. We hired security, moved in five 2014-model manufactured homes, rebuilt and re-equipped the laundry room, and established the community center called Legacy House. As time passed we noticed tenants getting involved, offering snacks, doing a little tidying up of their own.

These days, with police support, on-site management, and professional security, OMHP is much quieter. Folks say they can sleep at night or even go outside if the mood strikes. It feels like a neighborhood again.

Why care? The factors that so negatively affected OMHP affect our entire community. Consider the “broken window theory” which, in short, states that small repairs, maintenance and monitoring on a continuous basis help to create an atmosphere of order and lawfulness, thereby preventing more serious crimes.

It’s like letting one broken window go unrepaired. Then another window gets broken, then another. Next thing you know the place deteriorated into a hazardous eyesore.

Here’s what’s coming up at the OMHP: More cleanup, landscaping, power-washing/painting, fence building, improved lighting. Seven more units will arrive. A playground will go in near Legacy House. The facility itself will have offices for the park manager and social worker, and space for community activities like meetings and classes.

We all can do something to make our neighborhoods and Hwy 58 corridor safer as has been done at the OMHP, perhaps some of it with your help or donations. Thank you.

Thanks to everyone who’s helped or networked to accomplish the turnaround of the Oakridge Mobile Home Park. By Gienia Baines, OMHP

Gienia Baines and a volunteer construct the sidewalk for the new Legacy House at OMHP.
Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Eugene, OR
Permit No. 487

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 14, 2015
- Angel Dinner
  September 24, 2015
- Golf Classic
  September 11, 2015
- A Moment in Time
  October 22, 2015

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

A Moment in Time
Red Carpet Premiere at Studio 5

a benefit for
First Place Family Center,
a day center serving families and children
without homes

Thursday, October 22, 2015
5 pm at Studio 5

For sponsorship or table reservations call 541.743.7121

Social Hour - Silent & Live Auction - Dinner - Entertainment