There is a pressing need for accessible medical care for those
experiencing homelessness in our community. Imagine for a
moment the importance of this service to unhoused individuals
with medical needs and several barriers to seeking care.

The basic logistics of scheduling an appointment, finding the
right clinic with a bus stop nearby, getting to the appointment
on time, having any medical records or even proper
identification, all could prevent someone from getting the
medical help they need.

Without service availability and support, most unhoused
individuals will wait until it is an absolute emergency before
seeking help. Many Dawn to Dawn (D2D) clients lack
adequate support to visit the doctor, and experience difficult
healthcare needs without the means to travel or pay for care.

In response to this deep community need, SVdP has
partnered with Willamette Family Inc. (WF) to establish The
HUB: two modular units equipped for basic healthcare check-
ups and mental health services including:

- mental health counselling
- drug and alcohol treatment
- help enrolling in Oregon Health Plan (OHP)
- basic health care
- wound care
- support to facilitate access to a primary care doctor
- transportation assistance for off-site healthcare

Services will be available to anyone enrolled in our
system through the Eugene Service Station at The
Lindholm Center on HWY 99.

The project’s motto is, “it’s all right here”, because
the addition of WF to the D2D site results in service
availability for homeless clients in one location: this
partnership ensures clients receive individualized
support and all the services they need without the
often daunting need to leave the site.

The intersection of service availability will break down
barriers through increased accessibility.

(Continued on page 6)
Dear Friends,

Your support has sustained this agency through a turbulent year, helping ensure our community’s resiliency amid multiple crises. Because of your care and generosity, St. Vincent de Paul continues to serve our most vulnerable neighbors and community members.

**With your support we were able to maneuver through incredible obstacles.**

In March we pivoted to meet the COVID-19 health crisis by opening three temporary shelter locations, as well as modifying our existing emergency shelter sites to maintain lifesaving services while following public health guidance.

Youth and Family Services programs have maintained crucial support throughout this unprecedented time. Our programs have worked to ensure that the distance-learning needs of youth, families and children are met. First Place Kids preschool shifted its program model to include services for school-aged children, and provided critical academic support to families navigating remote learning while experiencing homelessness.

**This was possible with the support of our community, and the dedication and fortitude of our staff.**

Meanwhile, St. Vinnie’s retail stores and recycling centers remain a source of dependable jobs and environmental stewardship for the communities we serve. With robust safety procedures in place, we were able to re-open retail stores and recycling operations in Oregon and California— now, with most programs running at capacity.

Online sales have become more important than ever. Proceeds from books, vintage fashion, and jewelry supported programs that otherwise would have struggled to stay open during the initial stages of the pandemic.

**We have taken time to evaluate and strengthen our plans for the future.** We know that the coming months will present even more challenges, but our organization is prepared to continue addressing the needs of our community’s most vulnerable with creative and responsible solutions.

As you read on the front cover of the newsletter, we have some exciting projects that have continued despite the trials of this year. Our new affordable housing project, Iris Place, is under construction. Our new partnership with Willamette Family Inc. at the Dawn to Dawn site will address health care barriers for unhoused community members.

We have decided to suspend in-person events this year, but look we forward to engaging with you in creative ways—including at a virtual event December 1st!

**Stay tuned to our website, social media, and e-news for updates on how we are investing in the future of this community. We’d love to share more with you!**

Thank you again for your support and incredible diligence as we continue to end the cycle of homelessness in a socially distant world.

Sincerely,

Terry McDonald
Executive Director
Youth & Family Services Update

**Family Finds Stable Future**
“Cassandra, Chris and their son Skyler spent quite a few years trying to find the support they needed to settle down. Landlords and rental companies prefer tenants have established rental history. For families such as Cassandra and Chris, it is hard to find a landlord who will take the risk. Cassandra and Chris decided that they were ready to become stable. One day, Chris said to me, ‘We are ready to find a home and settle down. Now we need to find someone that will rent to us.’ After they entered our Night Shelter Program, they started to receive the case management and support they needed on their path to stability. Navigating a complex system of physical and mental health services can be challenging for the most competent and savvy individuals. Cassandra and Chris were eager to work on goals and were motivated to follow steps to become housed. The Housing First Model is based on the principle that one must have basic needs, like housing, met before they can develop necessary tools to remain stably housed. Thanks to St. Vincent de Paul Housing, the Connections Program and the Night Shelter Program, this family will now have the chance to discover the possibilities of being stably housed. They have the opportunity to build rental history, attend classes that will build their personal capacities, and provide their son with family stability.”
-Mia Masters, Night Shelter Case Manager, First Place Family Center

**Summertime at First Place Kids means popsicles, playing in the sprinkler and resting under the shade of our play yard trees!**
“Throughout the pandemic, First Place Kids has continued to provide a child-centered space in which families experiencing homelessness may receive respite care and support. Continually adapting to the emergent needs of our community, First Place Kids has provided programs ranging from all day family activities to tutoring support at SVDP’s Annex Night Shelter to drop-in childcare. These program adaptations consistently align and reflect First Place Kids mission to provide therapeutic, trauma-informed care and support to families in Lane County.”
-Illana Jakubowski, First Place Kids Program Director

**COVID-19 Relief Gives Hope to New Mother**
“A pregnant mother, employed full time, was disastrously affected by the Covid-19 virus. Her co-worker contracted the virus and her employer shut down the company. The CDC enforced a quarantine for her and her young child. A motel voucher was given, but with the long-reaching effects of the virus, the money ran out. She was unable to pay for another night. Sweeping in at just the right time, FPFC called her in regards to the Covid-19 Rent Relief Program. With a qualifying Intent-To-Rent letter from a new landlord, we were able to move her into a new apartment. We then proceeded to roll her family into the Cares Rent Relief Program so she will be able to keep a roof over her family, have running water, and stay warm this winter.”
-Justin Baker, Family Housing Navigator, Lead Family Support Specialist
Supportive Services for Veteran Families

SSVF is serving twelve veterans through the Veteran Housing Program (VHP) which, provides 2 years of housing for veterans to break down barriers to securing permanent housing.

This year, case managers secured Veterans emergency quarantine housing, and respite from smoke. Despite several unanticipated challenges, the SSVF team and the Veterans and families we serve have accomplished awesome goals!

**82** Veteran families transitioned to positive housing destinations

**57** day average for Veterans to transition to positive housing destinations

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St. Vinnie’s Affordable Housing Puzzle

St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County has been working to solve the affordable housing puzzle for nearly four decades. It’s your turn! Each answer completes the name of a SVdP housing complex or program.

**ACROSS**
1. “One can only _ _ _ _” Loop.
2. “NYC hermit is _ _ _ _” Place. (slang)
4. “Longtime Eugene city official, Ruth _ _ _ _ _ _” Village.
7. “We’ll leave the lights _ _”
8. “_ _ es to _ _ es” Meadows.
10. Ross _ _ _ _ in _ _ _ _ County.
11. “Fern _ _ _ _, Wolf _ _ _ _”

**DOWN**
1. “A carpet of _ _ _ _ _ _” Glen.
3. “Best for wood heat, _ _ _ _ _ _” Manor.
4. “Hillsboro JP Harry _ _ _ _ _ _” Downs.
5. “Lady _ _ _ _” Apartments.
6. Corey “accessible to all” _ _ _ _ _ _.
9. “Oh, give me a _ _ _ _” of Your Own Program.

Looking for the answers to the puzzle? Visit: https://www.svdp.us/news/article/affordable-housing-got-answers
Connections Program Update

Connections Transitional Housing helps homeless families transition from repeated episodes of homelessness to stability. Intensive case management, innovative and appropriate services, and affordable housing for up to two years help families break the cycle of homelessness.

Our Case Managers are working hard to provide compassionate and trauma informed care and a few of them had success stories they wanted to share:

Single Dad Accomplishes Stability

The Connections Program was a lifeline for Kurtis, a single dad who lived in a trailer on a property in rural Lane County with his young daughter. Prior to entry in the program, they lived with no basic amenities like running water, heat or a bathroom. Kurtis lacked transportation, which made obtaining supplies difficult. He struggled to maintain a job and stable housing due to physical health, drug addiction and social anxiety. Determined to maintain custody of his daughter, Kurtis was motivated to make changes in order to obtain affordable housing. During his time in the Connections program he was able to secure a stable income, and will soon be moving to a place to call home through Homes for Good. Kurtis states, “If it wasn’t for the program helping with move in cost and the rental subsidy I would not have gotten this far.” He says, “Without my case manager challenging me I knows my biggest fear would have come true.” Kurtis has been out of the program 18 months and still maintains contact with his case manager because the support he received made all the difference in where he is today.

New Family Creates New Habits

Carlee and Dusty were sleeping on the streets and in desperate need for a stable home before their daughter was born. They struggled with accessing housing due to lack of rental history and the money to pay a deposit. Carlee says, “The Connections Program has changed our lives.” She explains, “People have no clue how scary it is when no one will give you a chance.” Dusty worked a full time job but it never seemed to be enough when living day to day on the streets. “I felt like a failure because I could not fix this for my family,” says Dusty. In tears Carlee expressed, “I thought for sure they would take our baby because we didn’t have a home, but thanks to Connections we have a home.” Carlee feels that they have a sense of hope because of the support from their case manager and the Connections team. Not even a year into the program, they feel that they are learning to be better prepared for the future. They are learning to budget and save money & how they spend it can benefit them. The family has finally found the stability they needed to both be working and maintaining a safe place to raise their daughter.

“People have no clue how scary it is when no one will give you a chance.”

Couple Finds Empowerment, Brighter Future

Jodi, Ted and their 2 children found support with an opportunity for housing through the Connections Program. They lacked resources to pay the move-in cost, but just as they were about to lose the housing opportunity Connections reached out to them. Jodi says, “It was the best news I had gotten in a long time.” Despite having a source of income, savings is a huge challenge for most people who lose housing and become homeless. “Our time in the Connections program helped us get the support we needed to get more long-term supports in place,” Jodi explains. While in Connections Ted was able to work with a job coach and get counseling set up. The family was able to work with a parent coach to help the kids adjust to changing schools. Jodi says she is extremely grateful for the program and her case manager. According to Ted, “Having someone who listened to me and supported my family made all the difference.” The family has been out of the program for a year now. They have saved money and are on a list for housing that supports their physical abilities.

Young Family Blazes a New Trail

When they came to the Connections Program, Calista, Dan and their 3-year-old daughter were staying in a hotel. Their room was funded by a local church, but support was soon coming to an end. Calista, who has cerebral palsy, was frightened because she couldn’t sleep in a car due to her health condition. “Connections made a huge difference for my family at the right time,” said Calista. The family had multiple barriers that had kept them from obtaining housing. “Being in the program helped me to address things in my family and finances that needed to change,” Calista says. The family was able to organize their affairs, budget effectively, and graduate the program in approximately 10 months. They have been out of Connections a year now and have moved out of their apartment and into a house.
The Hub: continued

This is the first project in Lane County to combine a health clinic and emergency shelter services. It represents a unique solution to shelter and healthcare needs that will model a more holistic approach to moving unhoused individuals toward a stable and healthy lifestyle that allows them to thrive.

While our programs will continue to expand, The Hub is the first step towards providing small living communities to aid in transitioning unhoused adults into permanent affordable housing. SVdP and WF will continue to collaborate to expand and hone services onsite.

The Hub was in the works before COVID-19 swept across Oregon. Partnership with WF and the support we’ve received from the community brought this unique program to fruition. It would not be possible without the buy-in from our community that homelessness is not just a series of bad choices but a systematic issue that any individual or family could face.

As many families face job loss and severe financial crises that result in loss of stable housing, many in our community have come to recognize the housing and homelessness crisis as a community, not individual problem.

View pictures and a virtual tour of The Hub on our website: https://www.svdp.us/news/article/the-hub

Why I give...

"In a world too often characterized by greed and inequity, St. Vincent de Paul represents equity and the antithesis of greed. Research on effectiveness of St. Vinnie’s programs, from Dawn to Dawn to The Annex, will turn up good news about good projects.

Director Terry McDonald and his bevy of benevolent assistants are brilliant thinkers, planners, and entrepreneurs. They do the hard and gritty work that I can’t do or don’t do. I’m not proud of shrinking from the tough stuff, willing to let someone else do it. I’m grateful St. Vinnie’s saints are there, sympathetic to the marginalized, day after day, working programs that set people on their way toward self-sufficiency.

Be assured that St. Vinnie’s will use your donations with efficiency and efficacy and great love."

-Brenda Kne-ennui, Monthly Sustainer, Volunteer, Advocate

Become a Monthly Sustainer

$20 Buys a meal for an unhoused veteran
$50 A month of laundry for an unhoused adult
$100 Provides service for 1 family at FPFC
$500 Provides full support to unhoused family at The Annex

Sign up today! Call: (541) 600-8454
St. Vinnie’s Thrift Stores & Donation Centers
OPEN 10-6PM, 7 DAYS A WEEK

- ALBANY STORE & DONATIONS
  2220 Pacific Blvd, Albany, OR
  Phone: (541) 928-1559

- CHAD DRIVE STORE & DONATIONS
  2890 Chad Dr, Eugene, OR
  Phone: (541) 743-7117

- DIVISION STORE & DONATIONS
  201 Division Ave, Eugene, OR
  Phone: (541) 762-7837

- FLORENCE STORE & DONATIONS
  2315 HWY 101, Florence, OR
  Phone: (541) 997-8460

- JUNCTION CITY STORE & DONATIONS
  333 Ivy St, Junction City, OR
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- MAIN ST. STORE & DONATIONS
  4555 Main St, Springfield, OR
  Phone: (541) 747-5811

- OAKRIDGE STORE
  47665 Hwy 58, Oakridge, OR
  Phone: (541) 782-4484

- Q ST. STORE
  199 Q St, Springfield, OR
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- SENECA STORE & DONATIONS
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  Phone: (541) 345-8036

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  2167 W 11th Ave, Eugene, OR
  Phone: (541) 284-5024

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  Phone: (541) 370-1231

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**The Register-Guard**

**READERS CHOICE AWARDS 2020**

1. Best Thrift Store

3. Best Friend to the Environment

Thank you!
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P.O. Box 24608
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St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County Presents

VIRTUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

Tuesday December 1st @ 7:00 PM

VIRTUAL TRIVIA & SILENT AUCTION

Hosted Terry McDonald, Executive Director
Benefiting our Youth & Family Service programs

PRIZES AWAITS OUR WINNERS!
Support your local families and neighbors in need!