

St. Vinnie's Voice



Metamorphose:
*From fashion scraps to
scrappy fashion.*
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***Meeting the
Challenges of
Changing
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in
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Recycling
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Jobs***

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**St. Vincent de Paul
Society of Lane County, Inc.**

Spring 2017 newsletter; 2016 annual report

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc

P.O. Box 24608, Eugene, OR 97402

541-687-5820

www.svdp.us

Making the climb one step at a time

There's nothing like a spring vacation in the astonishingly beautiful southern regions of Italy to get one thinking about change. My recent visit to Mount Vesuvius and the once prosperous Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, which were suddenly buried under volcanic ash and mud in 79 A.D., serve as a vivid reminder of how swiftly people's lives – and their histories – can change.

I tested my own fate on a long climb to the caldera of Vesuvius. The technology for capturing such a feat has certainly changed, but as you can see from my selfie at right the length of my arms has not.

Here in the United States, we are living in a time of great change. Challenges lurk at every turn: homelessness, hunger, climate change and more.

So what is a nonprofit like St. Vincent de Paul to do in such uncertain times? Our response has been to focus, as we have done for decades and hopefully will continue to do for decades to come, on one problem at a time. To bring all our experience, creativity, courage and collective resources to bear to create viable solutions. And then to move on to the next problem.

Faced with a chronic shortage of affordable housing in this community, last year we opened the 40-unit Alona Place, bringing to Junction City its first affordable family housing in decades. Next up is Myrtlewood, a 35-unit, four-story complex near 10th and Main streets in downtown Springfield, which will begin construction later this year.

With the outlook uncertain for future funding for the construction of affordable housing, St. Vinnie's is increasingly focused on acquiring and revitalizing aging mobile home parks -- the state's largest and most imperiled source of affordable housing. Earlier this month, St. Vincent de Paul acquired its sixth park, Saginaw, which is located on Highway 99N between Cottage Grove and Creswell, and we will add more



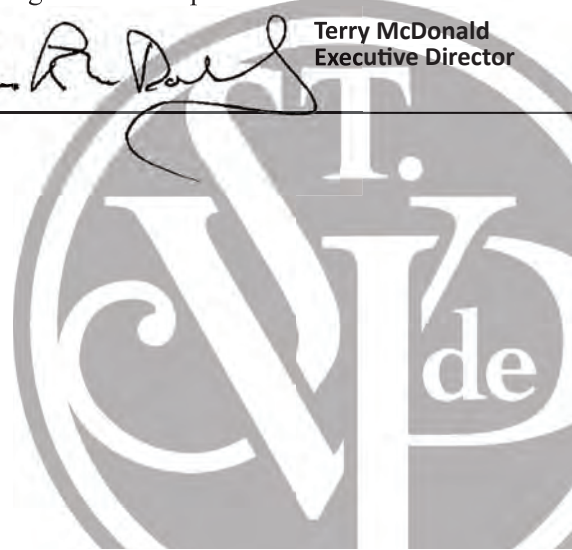
mobile home parks in the near future.

Faced with the challenge of how to help the more than 400 homeless high school students in the Eugene, Bethel and Springfield school districts, we are converting a former church in south Eugene into a refuge that will provide up to two years of free housing and social services for homeless high school teens.

And at a time when the number of homeless individuals and families in this community continues to grow, St. Vincent de Paul continues to provide an array of emergency services and shelter programs, as well as programs designed to help people get off the streets and into permanent housing and jobs. During the cold snaps this past winter, St. Vinnie's on some nights housed more than 800 people. That extraordinary accomplishment was made possible by the work of literally thousands of dedicated community volunteers and the generous financial contributions of local residents.

One challenge, one solution at a time. That's how St. Vincent de Paul – and the community that makes possible its good works - proceeds in this time of change.

Terry McDonald
Executive Director



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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.

Metamorphose anchors local Earth Day events

Eleven local fashion designers competed in St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County's Metamorphose Upcycled Fashion Show on April 22 at the Wheeler Pavilion at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

More than 350 people attended the popular annual Earth Day event - a 20 percent increase over last year's turnout. The audience enjoyed a vibrant, imaginative -- and always unique -- runway show that featured fashions made of discarded materials transformed into original couture.

"This year's show definitely got a lot of new people excited about upcycling fashion - and about Earth Day," said Mitra DeMirza Chester, St. Vinnie's resident fashion designer who founded the Metamorphose event four years ago and has watched it evolve to become the Eugene-Springfield area's signature Earth Day Event. "A number of people came up to me during the event, including young people, saying they were excited about what they'd seen and want to compete as designers next year."

Like the Metamorphose fashion challenge, the MECCA and BRING challenges are intended to raise public awareness of the potential for creative reuse of salvaged materials. Sponsors for this year's Metamorphose event include BRING, MECCA, the Eugene Weekly and Tracy Sydor Photography.

Mitra anticipates that the event will continue to grow and hopes to make several additions next year, including workshops and tutorials and possibly a new competition category that includes young designers. "Our primary goal is to continue to broaden awareness about upcycling and to more people to get involved," Mitra said.



In Collaboration with



bring



If you like upcycled fashion, you'll LOVE St. Vinnie's at 11th and Oak in Downtown Eugene.

First Place count reflects families' struggles nationwide

Are your relatives or friends at risk of losing their housing? If so, it wouldn't surprise the staff at SVDP's First Place Family Center where the number of families served in January 2016 (298) was twice that of January 2011. In all of 2016, a record 643 families with 1,255 children under 18 accessed services as essential as use of restrooms and safe overnight parking.

The staff is well aware of the numbers because First Place truly is the first place a family can turn when there's nowhere else to go, or when they need to preserve resources to keep the housing they've got. Situated on the grounds adjacent to South Eugene High School, First Place gives families a place to shower, wash and dry clothes, prepare meals, use computers, and access safe overnight shelter or vehicle parking. With their immediate needs met, families can start their quest for a stable living situation.

First Place also has an early childhood program for children from newborn to 5 years old tailored to develop positive social skills and promote school-readiness.

St. Vincent de Paul founded First Place Family Center more than 25 years ago in response to what was assumed to be a temporary rise in homelessness. So why, in 2017 with Oregon's jobless rate below 5 percent, are twice as many families in need of services?

The economic recovery we hear so much about has not reached them, says William Wise, who, with his wife Diana, has co-directed First Place for more than a decade. While the number of families actively using First Place fluctuates throughout each year, he said, the doubling of families in six years is cause for alarm, especially since Oregon's jobless rate is the lowest it's been in 40 years.

Wages versus childcare costs is part of the story. "We have many single parents, male and female, who cannot find child care that costs less than they

earn," Wise said. Last fall it was widely reported that in at least 30 states childcare costs had exceeded the cost of college.

com, two Oregon cities rank among the top 10 most difficult housing markets – Eugene at No. 2 and Portland at No. 8.

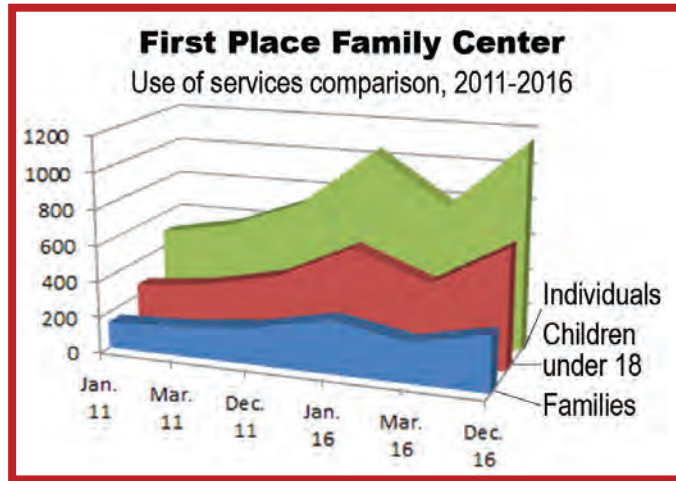
Even Section 8 vouchers, a government subsidy that has been a housing lifeline for low-income families, cannot compete. Wise said he's watched families wait years for a Section 8 voucher only to lose it because they couldn't find anything affordable before the voucher expired.

Finally, many families simply lack the job skills necessary to move forward in Lane County. A few decades ago a high school graduate could earn college money with a job or start a career in

a resource-based industry like timber and wood products. Such entry-level opportunities have largely gone away.

Meanwhile, homeless children have

See FIRST PLACE, page 9



The local housing market doesn't help, with its surplus of buyers and inflated prices, both of which affect rental costs. According to OregonLive.


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5:30 pm - June 24th, 2017
Territorial Vineyard's Tasting Room
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Eat, drink & help First Place Kids!
First Place's unique program for at-risk preschoolers, the First Place Kids Early Childhood Program addresses the physical, social and educational needs of children whose families are homeless or "precariously housed."
You can learn more over a tasty selection of paella, among people who share your concern for the youngest members of our at-risk community – an evening well spent in the Whit.

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California operations reduce waste, grow employees

Jason Prasad had trouble as a kid and more as a job seeker. Mattress recycling gave him a foot in the door.

Jason Prasad just wanted to be able to provide for his wife and three kids, but that's hard to do when you can't get work. Like so many men, Jason had been careless in his teenage years, gotten into trouble with the law and wound up in jail. When he got out, employers showed little interest.

"I bounced around to different dead-end jobs but never really had any solid work foundation," he said. "I began receiving cash aid and food stamps, going through a very low point in my life where I could not find any employment because of my background."

In the summer of 2015, he finally caught a break. With help from Lao Family Community Development Foundation, he lined up a job at DR3 Woodland, a mattress recycling operation just outside of Sacramento, Calif., run by the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County.

He started out as a mattress stripper, cutting the fabric and foam away from



The success of Jason Prasad, right, is partly a work of Art Taylor, a long-time employee of St. Vincent de Paul.

mattress springs. After several months, he was operating heavy equipment and seeking increased responsibility.

Today, almost two years later, Jason Prasad is the operations manager at this warehouse, responsible for meeting a high production flow and overseeing a crew of 20 people. During its first year of operations under the California mattress stewardship law, the Woodland facility deconstructed 126,000 mattresses and reached profitability.

Jason is a hard worker and a fast learner, but he is the first to share the credit for his success with the guy who helped train him. Art Taylor, a long-time St. Vincent employee, who works mostly in the Eugene operations, spent

several months last year improving production at DR3 Woodland.

Art saw a spark in Jason and nurtured it. When the assistant manager position became available and Jason stepped in, Art trained him. Art would know a thing or two about being given a second chance. Like many St. Vincent employees, he has a checkered past that also involves a stint behind bars.

Dozens of excellent nonprofit organizations in the country are providing job training and entry level work to people with barriers to employment of the kind that stymied Jason. But few charities nurture these diamonds-in-

See JASON'S STORY, page 8

St. Vinnie's runs on recycling!

Tons of Reasons to Love St. Vincent de Paul Recycling

	2016	lbs diverted
scrap metal		7,928,980
textiles		5,875,200
books		3,070,120
wood waste		4,998,356
glass		11,820
E-waste		1,126,440
shoes, belts, purses		143,000
plastic		190,414
polyurethane foam		1,435,461
paper/cardboard/magazines		110,000
media		57,816
wax		83
styrofoam		63,586
total materials reused/recycled		25,011,276
mattress recycling: total units		301,355

To view our 2015-16 financial report visit www.svdvp.us

Appliances: In Oregon major appliances, propane tanks, and fire extinguishers do not go into landfills. St. Vincent de Paul accepts these items. Serviceable units are cleaned/repared for resale or donated to households in need; the remainder are responsibly recycled and any remaining gas removed. In 2016, more than 3,000 appliances were repaired.

Aurora Glass: Recycled window glass has few applications, but the Aurora Glass foundry uses it to create architectural accents, gift products and custom awards. **Dogma Pet Beds:** These pet-sized real mattresses made from recycled mattress materials and stuffed with soft batts of recycled cotton.

Mattress Recycling: Who knew 50 years ago that St. Vincent de Paul, with its interest in used mattresses, would become a national leader in mattress recycling? With operations in Eugene, and Oakland and Woodland, California, St. Vincent de Paul in conjunction with the Cascade Alliance, has helped establish mattress recycling programs nationwide.

Retail Sales: St. Vinnie's operates 15 retail thrift stores and a used car lot in Oregon. The stores create jobs and training, and give new life to perfectly good used, damaged or overstock items. Household necessities are either given directly to those in need or sold, providing revenue for our charitable outreach. Stores operations support more than 400 jobs.

Styrofoam Recycling: St. Vinnie's accepts clean block Styrofoam and shreds and compresses it into "logs" for shipping, primarily to manufacturers of lightweight architectural accessories like cornices. Styrofoam peanuts are utilized in-house or resold in our thrift stores.

In 2016 63,586 pounds of styrofoam was recycled.

EcoFire: Utilizing post-consumer fabric and paraffin, EcoFire is a reliable fire starter that can be used for campfires and wood-burning stoves.

'I wish there could have been a place like

Homeless teens urge support for Youth House project at fundraising launch

At a recent fundraising kick-off at the former Cascade Presbyterian Church in south Eugene, speakers ranging from Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis to philanthropist/activist Tom Bowerman exhorted a standing-room-only crowd to give generously to help convert the church into a refuge that will provide up to two years of housing and social services to homeless high school students in the Eugene-Springfield area.

The audience warmly applauded each speaker but saved its most enthusiastic and emotional response for two formerly homeless young women who serve on a youth advisory council to The 15th Night, a coalition of organizations that combats youth homelessness and is a partner in St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County Youth House project.

"I wish that when I was young and my life was in the midst of chaos and was falling apart that there would have been a place like this for me," one of the young women, 21-year-old Jamica, told the crowd. "I believe that I would have had a fighting chance to get my

high school diploma, experience safety and security, and it ultimately would have saved me from a lot of unnecessary pain, heartache and trauma. It makes me hopeful for the future girls that are in positions like I was, that they will have the St. Vincent De Paul

homeless high school students from local school districts in an 8,000-square-foot former church at 3350 Willamette St. In exchange, student-residents must remain in school until they graduate.

Members of the Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center, located at the nearby Village School, performed Zimbabwean music at the event and SVDP Public Relations Director Paul Neville noted the musical group had been asked to play because of the center's offer to teach music to future Youth House residents. "They're just one of dozens of people who have offered to help the kids who will stay at this Youth Home," he added. "I've heard from

musicians, painters, high-tech executives, neighbors, teachers, master gardeners – you name it."

In late 2016, SVDP purchased the former Cascade Presbyterian Church with a \$625,000 federal HOME grant awarded by the Eugene-Springfield Home Consortium. Since then the agency has conducted a private fundraising campaign that has laid a solid foundation for the next phase. Donations to date have totaled more than two thirds of the total cost of the \$1.8 million project.

The Youth House has had strong support from the beginning from surrounding neighborhood associations, including the Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association in which it is located. "Actually, neighborhood officials were the first to contact us about this location," Neville said. "It's the opposite of the NIMBY (Not in My Back Yard) syndrome, and it reflects this community's remarkable level of compassion."

The number of homeless high school students in the Eugene-Springfield area – and Oregon – has increased in recent years. State officials estimate there are more than 21,000 homeless students in Oregon's public schools, a number that has surged over the past three years. On any given night in the Eu-



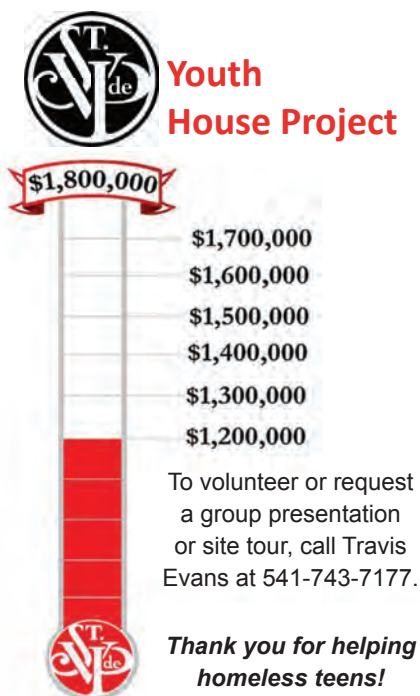
Jamica describes a childhood in chaos.

home as an option to have a real shot at life."

St. Vinnie's Executive Director Terry McDonald recalled how he was contacted nine months earlier by local neighborhood association leaders about using the former church to help the community's growing homeless population, and he outlined the blur of activities that led to his nonprofit's acquisition of the former church and the development of plans for the Youth House project. He also acknowledged project partners including Hosea Youth Services, the Eugene, Springfield and Bethel school districts, Directions and The 15th Night Coalition.

Major project donors John Alvord and Bowerman cited St. Vincent de Paul's history of applying innovative approaches to fighting poverty and homelessness, and urged people to support a project they hope will serve as a model for similar efforts throughout Lane County and the state. Speaking on behalf of the Barbara Bowerman Fund of the Oregon Community Fund, Bowerman announced a \$50,000 challenge grant that will allow donors to double their donations to the project.

When it opens in December 2017, the facility will provide up to two years of free housing and social services to



this for me'

gene-Springfield area an estimated 400 homeless high school students struggle to find a place to sleep. "Some of them end up couch-surfing at friends' homes and some end up on the streets where they are vulnerable to violence, drugs and a thriving human-trafficking trade along the I-5 corridor," Neville said.

"This is a drastically underserved population that has few public or private resources available to them," Neville said, adding that studies show that high school dropouts are six times more likely to end up in prison and three times more likely to be unemployed than those who graduate.

When completed, the Youth House will include 13 efficiency units for student-residents, a community space, kitchen, laundry, counseling office and computer lab. A resident manager will live on site, and students will be assigned a mentor who will commit to working with his or her assigned youth for at least a full year. A casework services manager will help youth connect to social services and work with students to create individualized life plans.

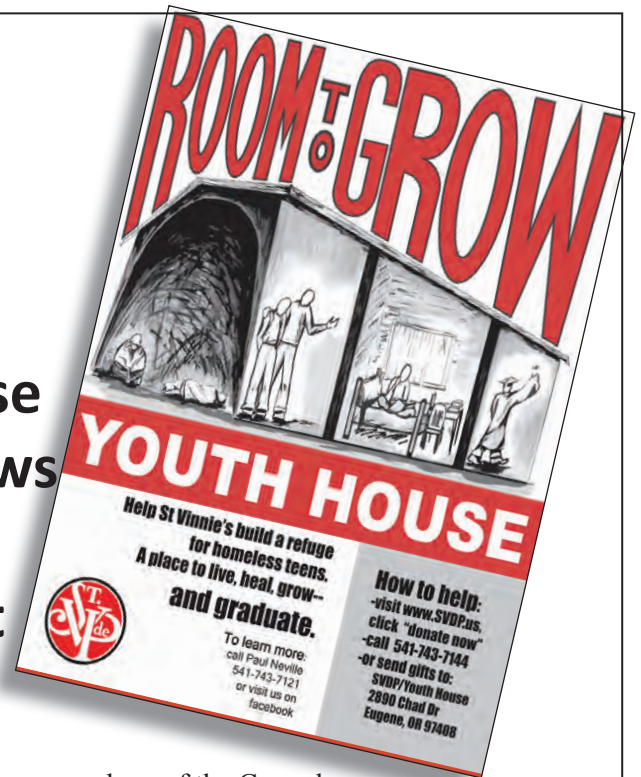
Neville said the agency hopes that contributions will enable SVDP to complete the project without borrowing. "That would allow us to move forward more swiftly with plans to replicate this project in other locations.

TO DONATE:

Supporters can contribute on line through St. Vinnie's secure website at www.svdps.us; mail checks designated "Youth House" to SVDP, 2890 Chad Drive, Eugene, OR 97408, or call Neville at 541 743-7121 or Paula Berry at 541 743-7144. To request a presentation about this transformative project or more information, call 541 743-7121 or email paul.neville@svdp.us.

Also, check us out on Facebook at "SVDP Youth House" and on the web at www.svdps.us/news/article/homeless-youth.

Youth House poster shows transition from street to success



It was difficult for some members of the Cascade-Presbyterian Church to leave their long-time home in south Eugene and move downtown but that decision has been eased by the knowledge that St. Vincent de Paul is turning the former church property into a refuge that will provide housing and social services for homeless high school students.

Now called the City Church and meeting Sunday mornings at the Hi-Fi Music Hall in downtown Eugene, the church has maintained a close relationship with St. Vinnie's, as the nonprofit moves forward with plans to remodel the 8,000-square-foot building at 3350 Willamette Street and open its doors to its first student-residents in late 2017.

"We feel great about what is happening with the church," says Heather Schulte, a Eugene artist who attends the City Church with her husband and three children. "We're excited to see that our former home will still have an impact on the community and will help its young people to thrive."

Shortly after St. Vincent de Paul purchased the church last year, Schulte contacted St. Vinnie's and volunteered her services to help raise funds for the remodel. She offered to design a poster that explains the project's mission and asks people to contribute.

The result was a vibrant and unique poster that is now on display in businesses and public areas throughout the Eugene-Springfield area. Under the heading "Room to Grow," it shows homeless teens sleeping on the street and then finding housing and support at the Youth House. The final frame shows a youth marching with a diploma held high at a high school graduation. The entire journey occurs within the outline of the building that for many years was the home of Schulte's church, the Cascade-Presbyterian Church.

"I just believe in St. Vincent de Paul's mission in creating the Youth House," Schulte said. "The poster is a way I can participate and promote positive change in our community."

Jason's story continued from page 5

the-rough along to leadership roles in the organization.

"I always thought I'd just be a low-income father who can't afford to take my kids to Disneyland," Jason said. "Now I'm going to be able to be the father I always wanted to be."

Jason says he's proud to work for a company with the values St. Vincent's staff show on the job every day.

"I know this company helps many people who are not able to find work due to certain situations. Individuals getting out of the criminal system, and not being able to find employment because of their past mistakes. However, what I have seen and went through myself is St. Vincent de Paul helps many

people transition back into the working environment, giving those who are eager to work a second chance."

Special thanks to REDF and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for providing start-up funding for the DR3 Woodland mattress recycling facility.

RJWF-SVDP partnership fosters jobs, health

St. Vinnie's looks forward to another year of partnering with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to mentor anchor organizations in other communities who want to emulate our model of sustainable job creation through materials management and waste diversion. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the fourth largest foundation in the nation, focuses on fostering a culture of health nationally and has worked with St. Vincent de Paul for the past five years. The ongoing support has allowed us to create a network of like-minded agencies known as the Cascade Alliance. Together we have developed businesses that created 90 jobs, generated \$7 million in gross revenue and diverted 17 million pounds of materials from the waste stream.

St. Vincent de Paul Needs Your Assistance:

Theron Atkinson Food Room

In cooperation with FOOD for Lane County, St. Vincent de Paul provided more than 15,600 food boxes last year. More than 3,000 holiday food boxes were given to families in need, thanks to the tireless efforts of Betty Snowden and supportive businesses and volunteers.

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, contact Ashely Hensley at (541) 743-7147 or at ashely.hensley@svdp.us.

To Donate

We appreciate donations of:
Non-perishable food
Backpacks

Blankets
Non-prescription medicines
Personal hygiene supplies
Baby supplies
First aid equipment

In 2016 St. Vinnie's

Social Service Office distributed the following:
clothing & furniture vouchers: \$455,000;
rental assistance: \$24,000; utility assistance: \$12,000; propane for heating: \$6,000;
prescription medications: \$18,000.

Where Will Summer Take You?

Whether you shop or donate at home or on the road, you'll find a growing number of St. Vinnie's retail stores in northwest Oregon, including the newest at 445 Lancaster Drive NE in Salem.

Albany**: 2220 Pacific Blvd SE; (541) 928-1559

Boutique: 555 High St., Eugene; (541) 344-2115

Chad Drive: 2890 Chad, Eugene; (541) 743-7117

Division**: 201 Division Ave., Eugene; (541) 762-7837

Florence*: 2315 Hwy 101; (541) 997-8460

Junction City**: 333 Ivy St./Hwy 99; (541) 234-2672

Oak Street: 100 E. 11th, Eugene; (541) 868-0200

Oakridge: 47663 Highway 58, Oakridge; (541) 782-4484

Salem**: 445 Lancaster Dr. N.E.; (503) 400-7550.

Seneca**: 705 S Seneca, Eugene; (541) 345-8036

Thurston**: 4555 Main St., Springfield; (541) 747-5811

West 11th: 1870 W 11th, Eugene; (541) 844-1945

Q Street**: 199 Q St., Springfield; (541) 746-7784

The Dalles*: 505 West 9th; (541) 370-1231

Car Lot: 1175 Hwy 99 N, Eugene; (541) 607-4541

** Open 9-9; * Open 9-8; Others open 10-6



Have some fun. Save some money. Do Something nice for your neighbors.



St. Vinnie's at 2315 Hwy 101 in Florence.

Enterprising Scouts donate needed items and their cookies, too

The members of Girl Scout Troop 20221 decided to use their \$155 from this year's cookie sales to help meet the huge need for basic hygiene supplies at St. Vincent de Paul's First Place Family Center.

Here's the icing on the cake: The enterprising Scouts



KEZI reporter Amber Wilmarth with the Scouts of Troop 20221.

also donated boxes of cookies that they sold then solicited back for the First Place families. Sweet!

In early April at First Place, the six fifth-graders and troop leaders Sheri Childers and Kathie Fischer presented shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, razors, diapers, baby wipes and laundry soap; AND a full case of assorted cookies.

"We're excited to present these donations, and we hope that this blesses the kids and families who are served at First Place," Childers said. She added that troop leaders look forward to having the Scouts visit First Place and meet the parents and children who are without housing or are "precariously housed."

First Place meets families' basic needs while providing the case management needed to move forward. First Place is also a place for parents and their children to rest and be together in a safe, supportive environment.

First Place

--- continued from page 4 ---

to gain ground from the start, progressing against all odds unless something changes.

"The bottom line is that things are getting worse for a large segment of our society," Wise said. Helping the middle class is a popular concept and needed, but "there hasn't been much real attention paid to folks who are hourly working class and those raised in multi-generational poverty."

"It isn't that homeless and at-risk families are not trying to move forward, it's that the opportunities for advancement and a stable life do not fit the lives and skills of more and more people."

'Mindset of poverty' part of retreat at St. Alice Church

William Wise, director of First Place Family Center, will give his popular presentation on the mindset of poverty at the 2017 Lane County District Council retreat. Anyone with an interest in the topic is welcome to attend.

The retreat will be Saturday, June 3 from 9 a.m. to about 2:30 p.m. at St. Alice Church. Activities include a celebration of Mass with Fr. Ken Olsen, music by Paul Neville, and lunch.

District Council members represent the larger army of St. Vincent de Paul volunteers who visit the homes of people who seek assistance. When home visitors arrive at the door they are called upon to "put judgment in your back pocket," as some say.

That's not so easy when a person asks for essential help yet has items in their home that a frugal person on a limited budget wouldn't necessarily buy. Even longtime

volunteers are taken aback by the sight of a big-screen TV looming over children who need shoes.

William Wise will be at the retreat by popular demand, to remind SVDP volunteers and all who are interested

how people with limited resources and especially from generational poverty perceive themselves and make decisions. He is a student of Dr. Donna Beegle of Tigard, who made her way out of generational poverty and now travels the country helping people set aside judgment, open lines of

communication, and create opportunity.

Opportunity? Seize it, but please RSVP by May 26 to Judy Hunt at 541-743-7136 or judy.hunt@svdp.us.



William Wise

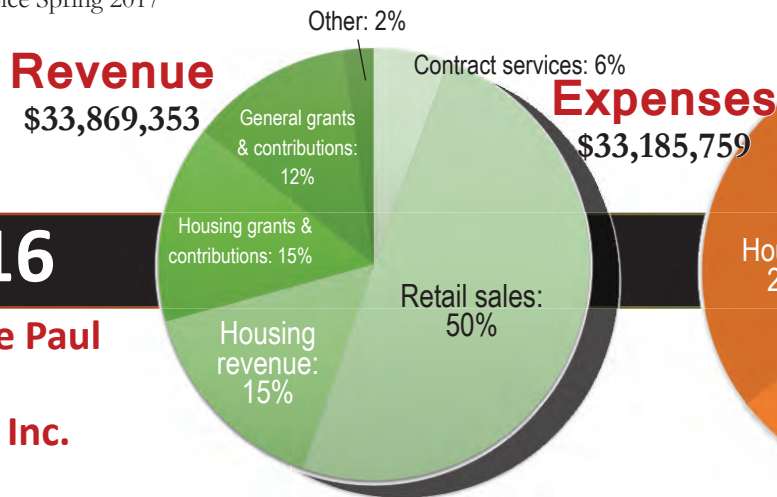
Keep up on social media with
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Visit us at www.svdp.us

Annual Report For 2016

**St. Vincent de Paul
Society of
Lane County, Inc.**



With YOUR Help, Safe Shelter in 2016

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 Family Center, 27 families (44 adults and 45 children) stayed in Overnight Parking, representing a total of 8,776 person nights of shelter.

In addition, Eugene had 41 Overnight parking sites for individuals with a total of 65 parking slots. Seventy-five people are currently staying in these slots, and a total of 150 people enrolled in the program during 2016. Meanwhile, Springfield had five Overnight Parking slots that typically house between eight and 10 people per night.

Dusk to Dawn Program: In the second year of a new city of Eugene emergency shelter program administered by St. Vincent de Paul, 2,233 people slept in heated tents at the Eugene Service Station. Between 65 and 70 guests a night logged a total of 9,662 shelter stays in the tents, with a nightly waiting list averaging 140 people. Also under a Dusk to Dawn Safe Parking Program, 27 patrons utilized 10 parking slots in a Lane County-owned parking lot near Autzen Stadium, producing a total of 1,979 shelter stays. Twenty-four families (38 adults and 37 children) stayed at a Dusk to Dawn for Families shelter located at the Eugene Mission

Interfaith Night Shelter: A consortium of more than 30 faith communities offering night shelter, food, recreational activities, and comfort to an average of 10 families per night, for a total of 47 families (70 adults and 88 children) and 8,814 person nights of shelter during the 2016 school year. Last year, 18 Night Shelter families found housing in the wider community. A total of 1,880 volunteers, giving over 11,369 hours of service, make the Night Shelter outreach possible.

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 2016 to March 2017, over 8,133 shelter beds and more than 15,000 meals provided at 11 host sites (see list at right) with volunteers working a total of 19,819 hours. The centers hosted 1,615 guests this year during 25 activation nights. Visit www.eganwarmingcenter.com.

Eugene Service Station (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 2016, the ESS helped more than 8,000 adults, and gave more than \$165,000 in clothing vouchers, 169,000 meals, and over 24,110 showers utilizing solar hot water and did more than 16,000 loads of laundry for its guests.

The Interfaith Emergency Shelter: "Night Shelter" is made up of local faith communities providing shelter for homeless families. For one or 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 sheltered. (See upper right)

Night Shelter Hosts:

Central Lutheran Church
Central Presbyterian Church
Ebbert Memorial Methodist Church
Emerald Bible Fellowship
Emmaus Lutheran Church
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
Faith Center Eugene
First Baptist Church of Eugene
First Baptist Church of Springfield
First Christian Church
First Congregational Church
First United Methodist Church
Harvest Community Church
Hope Lutheran Church
Living Hope Church
Northwood Christian Church
Powerhouse Ministries
St. Alice Catholic Church
St. Helen 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 Church of God
Springfield Lutheran
Temple Beth Israel
Thurston Christian Church
Unity of the Valley Church
Valley Covenant Church
Wesley United Methodist Church
Westminster Presbyterian

Egan Warming Center Hosts:

Central Lutheran Church
Central Presbyterian Church Day Spring
Ministries
Ebbert Memorial Methodist Church
First Christian Church
First United Methodist Church
Resurrection Episcopal Church
Seventh Day Adventist Church
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Trinity United Methodist Church
Valley Covenant Church

Gienia Baines's tireless work and kind heart factor in Outstanding Citizen award from LCOG

St. Vinnie's secret superhero isn't so secret anymore.

Gienia Baines was honored earlier this year as Lane County's "Outstanding Citizen" for her transformational work in the Oakridge Mobile Home Park and for what Oakridge Mayor Jim Coey called her "tireless work on behalf of the disenfranchised."

Baines received two standing ovations from an audience of more than 150 elected and appointed government officials, business and community members and public employees attending the Lane Council of Governments' (LCOG) 37th annual Member Appreciation Dinner at Lane Community College in February.

Coey noted Baines' pivotal role in the revitalization of a mobile home park that has been in a deplorable state of disrepair and so plagued by crime that tenants were fearful of leaving their homes. Thanks in large part to Baine's dogged efforts, a park that once prompted three or four

calls to police a day now prompts just three or four calls a month.

With help from community volunteers recruited by Baines, more than 300 cubic yards of debris was removed from the park, Coey noted. More than a dozen of the park's oldest and most deteriorated trailers have been removed and replaced by new manufactured homes. A laundry facility was rebuilt, and an aging home where Baines once lived as a single teenage mother has been remodeled into a community center called Legacy House.

"Gienia Baines has been the sparkplug behind all of this," Coey said.

St. Vincent de Paul acquired the Oakridge park in 2014 as part of its ongoing efforts to preserve the region's declining stock of mobile home parks. The nonprofit agency, which owns more than 1,400 affordable housing units, has acquired six mobile home parks in recent years and is in the process of adding more to its inventory.



Meet SVDP's Gienia Baines, "sparkplug" and recipient of the 'Outstanding Citizen' award from LCOG.

We Proudly Report...

Affordable Housing -- St. Vincent de Paul provides high-quality, affordable rental housing in Lane County and the surrounding region. More than 1,400 units of housing have been developed since 1988 and additional units will be added to the inventory this year. In recent years, St. Vinnie's has placed an increasingly high priority on the acquisition and revitalization of mobile home parks in Lane County and throughout Oregon. The agency currently owns six parks and is in the process of acquiring more.

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 served 42 families in 2016, and has helped more than 700 families. Ninety percent of the families enrolled in Connections have moved on to stable permanent housing.

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. In 2016, LIFT served 15 clients.

Resident Services Program -- Resident Services provides information and referral, educational, recreational, and community building services to assist with providing enrichment programs to assist residents in St. Vincent de Paul's affordable housing.

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 2016, both SSVF programs helped a combined total of 243 households.

Valley Individual Development Account Program (VIDA) -- In 2016 108 people attended VIDA financial literacy classes and 66 people graduated. Eleven people graduated from the Individual Development Account (IDA) program, while 16 people opened new IDAs.

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 gain job skills. In 2016, VetLIFT helped 85 vets.



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

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*Waste knots, pull tabs,
Poise.
Metamorphose, of course!
More inside.*

Precious swim dresses lost, found, Belize-bound

The eight members of the McDonald family (no relation to St. Vinnie's Terry McDonald) were busily preparing for their third mission trip to Belize, this time with no return date certain.

Amid the chaos, en route to the laundromat, a bag of homemade swim dresses fell onto a pile of items to be donated. And they were, at St. Vinnie's in Albany.

Hours later the McDonalds caught their mistake and called the store hoping to save their suits. By that time, though staff looked through several 500-pound gaylords, they couldn't find the suits anywhere.

They were so sorry. Upon hearing the story at a farewell gathering the following evening, friends of the McDonalds were dismayed.

In keeping with their faith, the McDonald ladies dress simply and modestly, so their style of female swimsuits isn't easy to come by.

But having suits was so important that the ladies spent countless hours locating special materials, altering patterns, and sewing to get garments that suited. In fact, the swim dresses had barely been worn and a couple still needed finishing touches when "the bag fell off the pile," so to speak.

The McDonalds graciously accepted the misfortune, but their friend Kristen, knowing the price paid, couldn't let it rest. She followed up and eventually stated her case to Julie Henderson of St. Vinnie's warehouse staff in Eugene.

The response was both sympathetic and realistic. Julie's crew prepares up

to 10,000 garments per day for St. Vinnie's stores, working their way through as many as 35 gaylords (x 500 lbs. = 17.5 tons of clothing). She invited Kristen to send documentation, but in her heart she gave finding the swim dresses a 25 percent chance of being found.

Already on the road, the McDonalds were able to send one dress picture, two look-alike swatches, and a picture of an original pattern that could be changed to make sense to the "search crew." Flyers were distributed throughout St. Vinnie's locations, and Julie included the swim dresses in her training for new clothing sorters.

That's how Alicia Heakin learned about the swim dresses and why she recognized them immediately when, three months after they went missing, four vibrant swim dresses and one tiny suit tumbled onto her sorting table. Upon hearing the news, the warehouse staff gathered to behold the long-sought articles and congratulate Alicia on her "find."

"I believe God put me there at the right time," she said.

"It felt like a miracle had been given," added Kristen. She got the call exactly 11 weeks after the donation date, got the suits, and got the thrill of finally getting word through to Belize with her own family gathered around, leaning eagerly toward the phone.

Mostly they heard what you'd expect from Oregonians in a tropical climate and in need of a refreshing swim. This text soon followed:

"We've never had anyone go out of their way for us like this Kristen. I just don't know what to say! THANK YOU all SOOO much!!!"

