

# St. Vinnie's Voice

Spring 2018 Newsletter &  
2017 Annual Report

## The Race for A Roof

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... and our activities  
report for 2017 on  
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## At 60-plus, SVDP seeing profusion of growth

As usual in the Willamette Valley, spring has announced its arrival with the splashy blooming of plum, cherry and dogwood trees whose flowers contrast with the monotone of winter. Here at St. Vincent de Paul, there has been a similar profusion of growth – a reassuring sign that after six decades this agency continues to respond nimbly and effectively to community needs.

In south Eugene, a former church has been transformed into the SVdP Youth House for homeless, unaccompanied teen girls. This beautiful facility will soon house young women between the ages of 16 and 18, providing them with two years secure housing in which they can live rent free, receive services and community support and pursue an education. Meanwhile, construction will begin later this year on a second youth house located in the Bethel area. The project has been made possible by a \$2 million donation from CBT Nuggets and will serve homeless, unaccompanied teen boys.

Less than a mile away from the Youth House in another former church on west Amazon, work is underway on "The Annex," where First Place will provide a residential program for families experiencing homelessness. Made possible by an anonymous \$2 million donation, this project will move our 27-year-old Interfaith Night Shelter program to this complex, creating 18 apartment units for short-term residential housing and making it the new home of First Place's trauma-informed preschool program. We also plan to build a neighborhood community facility that will be accessible to both neighbors



Our fearless leader, flanked by the Jacobite heroine Flora MacDonald and the Castle Wynde in Inverness, Scotland.

and residents.

Other additions include The Myrtlewood, a four-story building that is under construction in downtown Springfield and that consists of 35 affordable apartments for very low income residents. At our administrative headquarters on Chad Drive, we have added a warehouse and are making system-wide strategic operational changes intended to make our business operations more profitable so we can continue to expand our services to meet the growing need for social services in this community. And in Northern California, SVdP is expanding its DR3 mattress recycling operation with a new facility in Stockton.

Tolstoy wrote that "Spring is the time of plans and projects." Nowhere is that more true than here at St. Vincent de Paul.

Terry McDonald

## New chief of staff finds SVDP inspirational, mind-boggling

*(Editor's Note: Here is a message that Pete Kerns, St. Vincent de Paul's new chief of staff, sent to the agency's employees after starting work in March. Pete recently retired as chief of police in Eugene and spent nearly three and a half decades working in the city's police department.)*

Dear Colleagues,

You know the career advice, "figure out what you love to do then find a way to get paid for it." I feel I've never "worked" a day in my life. All the jobs I've held -- farm worker, box boy, dishwasher, cook, logger, warehouse employee, and police officer -- involved toiling beside people I respected while making visible progress on meaningful work. And, the most meaningful work has been serving others when the service was impactful to individuals' lives

Growing up in a household where our parents helped others, improved lives and created enduring community change apparently had an effect on their eight children. My siblings include a college professor who, on the international stage, encourages governments to improve our environment, a Catholic priest, nurses, a pre-school



Pete Kerns is finding his place in SVDP's timeline of service.

teacher and journalist. And all are volunteers in their communities and parishes. j

I thoroughly enjoyed the excitement, danger and rewards the police profession offered, particularly as I grew to appreciate its potential to help people. As police chief my most pressing responsibilities were to provide for the safety of all members of our community, for the safety of our officers, and, perhaps just as important, to foster a police culture of empathy and

compassion.

As I walked on the job every day of my 34 years with the Eugene Police Department I was thoroughly grateful and thrilled to be a part of such an important government enterprise. And I knew when I came here to serve with all of you I would feel the same. Learning the history of St. Vincent de Paul, appreciating the depth to which all of you deliver on our mission, and seeing the terrific scope of the organization's service is inspirational and mind-boggling. This is a dynamic, thriving and exciting place to be and my first days on the job have helped me recognize how fortunate

See **NEW CHIEF**, page 3

# SVDP Youth House is ready for its first residents

Less than two years ago, south Eugene neighborhood leaders asked the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County (SVdP) to acquire the former Cascade-Presbyterian Church in south Eugene and transform it into a facility to help the homeless, the St. Vincent de Paul Youth House will soon open its doors to 13 homeless, unaccompanied teen girls. The program will provide residents with two years of secure housing and casework with the aim of preparing them to live independently and successfully as adults.

"Thanks to extraordinary and unwavering support from the community, we've completed this project in a remarkably short period of time," said Terry McDonald, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul. Earlier this year, SVdP announced the completion of a successful drive to raise the \$1.86 million needed to pay for the project.

In late 2016, SVdP purchased the former Cascade Presbyterian Church with a \$620,000 federal HOME grant awarded by the Eugene-Springfield Home Consortium. Over the following year more than 500 individual and business donors and 20 foundations provided the funding needed to remodel the 8,000-square-foot church. The Youth House, which will accept its first residents later this month, includes



It's been all uphill, but the Youth House will soon be occupied.

14 apartments, a large, high-ceilinged community space, kitchen, laundry, counseling office and computer lab. A resident manager will live on-site, and full-time casework services managers will help youth connect to social services and work with students to create individualized life plans.

The SVDP Youth House for teen

girls is a collaborative project involving the St. Vincent de Paul, Hosea Youth Services, Direction Service, the 15th Night community movement, the Eugene, Bethel and Springfield school districts, the cities of Eugene and Springfield, HUD, Food for Lane County and other agencies. Hosea will manage day-to-day operations at the youth house, and Direction will provide comprehensive casework services for residents with an emphasis on health and education.

Eugene, Bethel and Springfield school district officials estimate there are more than 400 unaccompanied homeless students enrolled in local high schools, and those teens are at extreme risk of dropping out of school. Hundreds more have left school and are living on the streets, where they are vulnerable

**See YOUTH HOUSE, page 4**

## Cultivating residents' life skills is goal for Youth House manager

I was never one of those kids who had a consistent answer for what they wanted to be when they grew up. I think I typically swung from being wildly sure I would be a whale trainer, to convinced I would be a dentist (an aspiration that died with my first chemistry class, by the way). Moving into adulthood, my dreams didn't narrow too much. As a result, if someone tried to track my career path over the last decade, it might look pretty similar to one of those metal balls bouncing around in a pinball machine.

I was born and raised in Eugene, with the privilege of being able to enjoy many of the amazing things about this place. After a few years at the University of Virginia, I came back and finished up my undergrad degree here at the U of O. It wasn't until I returned that I realized I had a bit of a soft spot for this place and the people here. A few years of work with the community and a Master's degree later, I'm now lucky enough to come on board with this incredibly special project as the Residential Program Manager at the Youth House.

There is an estimated 2,200 homeless or at-risk youth in Lane County. As a community, we've acknowledged that this number is too high and something must be done. In response to the growing need for youth housing for home-



**Megan Hooley, Hosea Youth Services.**

less or at-risk youth, we are opening the home to youth who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless, between the ages of 16-18, and identify as female.

My role in the home will be managing the day-to-day activities and schedules of the youth. This will include providing classes and activities for the youth to engage in and helping them navigate their daily schedules. Each youth will be expected to continue to pursue their high school education, but we will work to provide additional opportunities and support for them to get the most out of their time in the home. The primary goal is to create opportunities for the youth to build the skills and abilities they will need for adult life, away from the streets. If you would like to apply to volunteer for the home, please contact me at: [meganl-hooley@gmail.com](mailto:meganl-hooley@gmail.com)

-- Megan Hooley

## New chief \_\_\_ from page 2 \_\_\_

I am to be a part of this agency's crucial work.

As Terry McDonald's chief of staff, my job will be to free him of some of the need to manage the day-to-day operations of SVdP so that he can focus on leading us in the continuing growth and stability of our very complex organization. My first order of business is to understand all of what we do and how we go about accomplishing it. I'll work alongside our team of department heads and will steadily identify the work I can take on that will liberate Terry to lead in the way that has made this one of the largest and perhaps most impactful non-profit organizations in Lane County.

Thank you for all of your great work, and for welcoming me so openly.

-- Pete Kerns



## Planets align for grad new to Oregon, homelessness

*This Vietnam veteran found his dream state a 'pretty scary place'*

Imagine yourself a new college graduate emboldened by a steady income, leaving the security of birthplace and family in Illinois for Oregon and fresh air, clean water, and artistic opportunity out West.

Sounds like a kid, doesn't it? But when he followed his dream to Oregon Michael Brotzman was well into his sixties, a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, and the father of two grown sons. Instead of slipping seamlessly into a new community and wood sculpting, Michael couldn't find housing, spent his savings on campground fees, and became reliant upon the Eugene Mission for food and shelter.

Stunned by his abrupt change of circumstances and loss of independence, Michael reported to Shannon Smyth, veteran case manager at the Eugene Mission. He recommended that Michael look into St. Vincent de Paul's programs for veterans.

That brought Michael to the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program (SSVF) headquartered at 2890 Chad Dr. SVDP has administered the Veterans Affairs Department-funded program in Lane County since 2011, and since 2015 for Linn-Benton-Lincoln counties where services are contracted to the Community Services Consortium. In 2017 the programs assisted 246 and 78 veteran households, respectively.

SSVF's first priority is to serve every homeless veteran who wants to get into housing, and to provide or refer to wraparound services to help ensure every veteran's success as a tenant. To that end, SVDP partners with the Eugene Mission and other entities that serve veterans.

Like many from the Vietnam era, Michael's military career left him with little sense of direction and much to forget. His final

assignment had been on a destroyer escort ship involved in the infamous Mayaguez Incident at the close of the Vietnam War.

Back in Illinois, Michael attended college alongside his youngest brother but admits he squandered time while his brother built a career. Michael sold furniture among other odd jobs before enrolling in veterans' training programs that provided a financially viable path to his earning an associate's degree in culinary science. He had an affordable apartment in a senior complex, but wasn't prepared to 'die in Illinois,' or give up on wood sculpture.

Viewed online, Oregon beckoned as a place of adventure and freedom. Up close, its housing crisis and skyrocketing homelessness shocked Michael.

SSVF Co-Manager Leonida Hileman can assure veterans that her staff will do its best to get them into housing, but given the upfront costs and scarcity in all categories it might take some time.

So what happened next shocked Leonida and everybody concerned, "almost like another eclipse," she said.

At the time of their initial meeting, she had gained the ear of a landlord on the Oregon Coast who had a place for someone willing to live in Florence, and able to pay rent.

That was music to the ears of a man of 63, now six weeks' homeless and with hope fading. Said Michael, "I was at a pretty scary place."

On that same day he and the SSVF team drove to Florence, and Michael got the keys to a mobile unit that sure needs an artist's touch but exudes something more precious."

Without a home, "you appreciate things that are really important," Michael said. "You miss privacy and having your own dwelling where people can't go without your permission.

"You miss the dignity of having your own home."



**Michael Brotzman**

### **We Appreciate Our Trusted Advisors:**

#### **Finance Committee**

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**Darrel Speisschaert**

### **Veterans address their lives; SSVF team lives for addresses**

Michael Brotzman's six weeks without housing, described above, was short compared with the wait of many who turn to St. Vincent de Paul's Supportive Services for Veteran Families program. The story of a veteran we'll identify by initials, K.S., is typical.

This 52-year-old U.S. Army veteran enrolled in SSVF in 2015 and received help with interim housing while qualifying for a Section 8 voucher. Unable to gain income or find qualifying housing during the life of the voucher, K.S. spent additional months in campsites and eventually at the Eugene Mission. There, K.S. summoned the faith to give SSVF another try.

K.S. acquired another Section 8 voucher and enrolled in St. Vincent de Paul's Second Chance program that teaches best practices in all areas of rentership and guarantees the success of its graduates. Within three months of returning to SSVF K.S. was housed, nesting like a bird, and moving forward with help from a benefits specialist to

**See SSVF, page 5**

## **Youth House** \_\_\_\_\_ from page 3 \_\_\_\_\_

to violence, drugs, sexual abuse, and a rampant human-trafficking trade along the I-5 corridor.

St. Vincent de Paul plans to begin construction later this year on a second youth house for homeless teen boys at a yet-to-be-announced site in the Bethel area. The second youth house project will be funded by a \$2 million pledge to SVDP by CBT Nuggets, a Eugene-based online IT education company.

(\Donations to the Youth House project can be made by sending checks (made out to "SVDP" and designated "Youth House Project" to St. Vincent de Paul at P.O. Box 24608, Eugene, OR 97402. Donations and monthly pledges can also be made on our secure website at [www.svdp.us](http://www.svdp.us) (click on the "Donate" icon and then the box "Homeless Youth Housing") or by calling SVDP Development Director Paula Berry at 541 743-7144.

**Request our E-news at [askme@svdp.us](mailto:askme@svdp.us)**

## Found: Home. *Many agencies helped make it possible.*



Finding home was a family project for the Websters, from left, Andrea, Elva, John and our writer, Samantha.

*(Editor's note: With dedication and help from an amazing nonprofit community, families do move forward. Here's a youthful perspective from Samantha Webster, daughter of John Webster who chairs the SVDP Housing Advisory Board.)*

My family lived at St. Vincent de Paul's Oakwood Manor for more than eight years, but now we're in our own house! Here's our story.

Our apartment had two bedrooms and one bathroom for four people. My sister and I shared a room, with me on the top bunk, as I am the oldest. Our parents worked five days a week during school hours, my father for Habitat for Humanity, and my mother as a seamstress.

Over the years many people, especially Resident Services Coordinators (RSCs), contributed time and effort to helping my family and others at Oakwood. Once a week they brought in supplemental food like fruit, fresh vegetables, bread, and other

essentials from Food for Lane County. Sometimes we even got desserts!

Christmas was amazing at Oakwood. My sister and I got to make our wish lists, and on Christmas day our gifts came in a reusable laundry basket along with other things that helped my family, like laundry detergent, soap, towels, etc.

RSCs organized activities and trips to keep us busy on summer days. We went swimming, saw movies and even had a quartet from the Eugene Symphony at Oakwood. I was excited to hear professional musicians as I also play an instrument.

Because of the help we received, my family was able to buy a house. We saved for a downpayment through the Individual Development Account program administered by the Neighborhood Development Corporation (NEDCO), and looked everywhere to see what we could afford. By this time my father had his current job with an engineering firm.

In the end we found a great place while on a family walk in a quiet neighborhood near our school, but the place was a mess, having been abandoned for more than six years. Even so, we could see its potential to be perfect for our family. We decided to get it and fix it up.

It took more than two months of repairs, painting, and tough cleaning before we could get all moved in, but it was worth it! We have our own comfortable home close to our school and, most exciting, my sister and I have our own rooms! We got to choose colors, furniture, and how we wanted to decorate.

Looking back, life in SVDP housing was OK. The people my family met, and the opportunities given to us by them, made our lives even better. They helped my family grow and succeed in our dream of having a place of our own to call home.

Thank you, St. Vincent de Paul and NEDCO, for all your help.

- Samantha

## SSVF \_\_\_\_\_ from page 4

access Social Security benefits.

SSVF serves low-income veterans and veteran families that are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. Services provided by the 13-member SSVF team include case management, housing search assistance, temporary financial assistance to obtain housing, referrals to assistance programs, and access to a benefits specialist to obtain benefits and healthcare, and to increase income. Staff work alongside veterans to develop plans for housing and moving forward, and provide ongoing case management to ensure success.

SSVF's VA funding has been renewed for 2018, and staff are resolute about housing veterans. They have to be. Long considered high-risk tenants, veterans with income wait as long as 60 days for a roof overhead.

In the meantime veterans who have met the SSVF eligibility requirements address their lives in myriad other ways, from

working on Social Security and/or V.A. benefits, updating job-search skills, taking St. Vincent de Paul's courses for renter rehabilitation, and financial management and matched savings. Some vets have old debts to pay off, others need basic identification documents.

Depending on timing and their own needs and goals, SSVF clients can end up in St. Vincent de Paul's VetLIFT housing, in SVDP family units reserved for veterans, or anywhere SSVF financial help can be applied.

Do you have a place in Lane or a nearby county that could be the long anticipated home for a veteran? It's a no-strings-attached call to find out.

SSVF Co-Manager Leonida Hileman said her staff likes housing opportunities that are under \$675 per month. She can be reached at 541-743-7140 or by email at [leonida.hileman@svdv.us](mailto:leonida.hileman@svdv.us).

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**We'll take your  
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truck, boat, RV  
or motorbike and  
drive good!**  
**541-  
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## LANDFILL DIVERSION IS US.

*That's [www.svdp.us/](http://www.svdp.us/)  
Here's what didn't go  
into landfills in 2017*

TEXTILES  
**7,480,000 lbs.**  
SCRAP METAL  
**8,786,652 lbs.**  
BOOKS  
**3,749,480 lbs.**  
WOOD WASTE  
**7,060,000 lbs.**  
GLASS  
**15,820 lbs.**  
ELECTRONIC  
WASTE  
**1,098,000 lbs.**  
SHOES/BELTS/  
PURSES  
**164,307 lbs.**  
PLASTIC:  
**218,786 lbs.**  
POLYURETHANE  
FOAM  
**1,649,345 lbs.**  
PAPER, CARD-  
BOARD, MAGAZINES  
**126,390 lbs.**  
MEDIA  
(CDs, videos, etc.)  
**66,431 lbs.**  
STYROFOAM  
**73,060 lbs.**  
**TOTAL POUNDAGE  
DIVERTED FOR  
RE-USE OR  
RECYCLING:  
30,488,270 lbs.**  
**MATTRESSES  
RECYCLED  
353,000 pcs.**

## St. Vincent de Paul proudly reports...

**Affordable Housing** -- St. Vincent de Paul provides more than 1,400 units of rental housing in three counties. The Myrtlewood in Springfield is set for completion in fall 2018. SVDP continues its efforts to save

**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 34 families in 2017, and has helped more than 700 families. Ninety percent of the families enrolled in Connections have moved on to stable housing.

**Living Independently Following Treatment (LIFT, LIFT-Plus)** -- The LIFT programs provide supportive housing. Participants have clinically assessed co-occurring

mental illnesses with addictions and are in recovery. In 2017, LIFT served 11 individuals, eight families and 14 children. LIFT-Plus, specializing in addiction and DHS involvement, served 23 families.

**Resident Services Program:** Resident Services provides 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)** -- In 2017 46 people attended VIDA financial literacy classes and 41 people graduated. Fourteen participants graduated from the Individual Development Account (IDA) program, while 16 people opened new IDAs. Individual financial coaching was provided to 106 people.

**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 2017, both SSVF programs helped a combined total of 324 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. In 2017, VetLIFT served 86 clients.



## St. Vincent de Paul Board of Directors

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St. Vincent de Paul Society  
of Lane County Inc  
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# School-to-Work gives students positive direction

Completing high school with the security of a stable and loving home is hard enough these days. Add some complications and a teen's academic aspirations can quickly fall by the wayside in favor of survival.

It happened to 17-year-old Madison when family problems forced her to leave home during her junior year, but she landed in a safety net that included her grandparents, an act of Congress, and St. Vincent de Paul's School to Work Program. Her only regret now is that someday she'll have to leave her job at St. Vinnie's to fulfill her goal of becoming a labor and delivery nurse.

Madison experienced rough sailing at times, living in crowded quarters with limited resources, but educators had her back, including the staff of ECCO, the 4J district's alternative school, which espouses a philosophy of equity, community and self-advocacy while offering pathways to career and technical education. One of several specialists who advocate for homeless and at-risk students in the Bethel, Eugene or Springfield districts, 4J's Deborah Dailey suggested School to Work as a way for Madison to cover expenses while earning her diploma.

For one, Madison's work hours would be limited to half time and scheduled around school until summer when she could go full-time. According to Dailey, a job can enhance a student's focus, increase the motivation to graduate, and reinforce a sense of schedule.



**For now, this future nurse delivers customer service and joy at St. Vinnie's.**

She didn't promise an additional family, but Madison says she found one at St. Vinnie's on Division where she made a tentative entrance. "I didn't want to mess up, and I wanted everybody to like me," she said.

And mostly she wanted to be happy. "You don't want to be unhappy in the work environment because then you would be miserable," Madison said wisely.

But the welcome at Division was warm and helpful, especially from shift supervisors. "I received lots of positive energy," she said. In addition, St. Vinnie's multi-faceted customer base has made her conversant on many levels.

Madison is living independently and has mapped out her immediate future. She'll get that diploma and continue to work at St. Vinnie's while in pursuit of the nursing

degree.

That's music to the ears of educators like Dailey, but even students who stay in the workforce do so with increased self-esteem and confidence. "Earning a wage helps students feel more independent," she said. "It gives students a positive direction to move in."

So for the near future, Madison will be in her happy bubble. "I love working here," she said. "Even my grandparents say, 'Wow, you are so lucky.'"

"Not many people can say they love going to work."

## Looking for YOUR Happy Place?

*Try St. Vinnie's!*

### **Albany**

2220 Pacific Blvd SE;  
(541) 928-1559; open daily 9-9.

### **Boutique**

555 High St., Eugene; (541) 344-2115, open daily 10-6.

### **Chad Drive**

2890 Chad, Eugene; (541) 743-7117, open daily 10-6.

### **Division**

201 Division Ave., Eugene; (541) 762-7837; open daily 9-9.

### **Florence**

2315 Hwy 101; (541) 997-8460; open daily 9-8.

### **Junction City**

333 Ivy St./Hwy 99; (541) 234-2672; open daily 9-9.

### **Oak Street**

100 E. 11th, Eugene; (541) 868-0200; open daily 10-6.

### **Oakridge**

47663 Highway 58, Oakridge; (541) 782-4484; open daily 10-6.

### **Salem**

445 Lancaster Dr. N.E., Salem; (503) 400-7550; open daily 11-7.

### **Seneca**

705 S Seneca, Eugene; (541) 345-8036; open daily 9-9.

### **Thurston**

4555 Main St., Springfield; (541) 747-5811, open daily 9-9.

### **West 11th**

1870 W 11th, Eugene; (541) 844-1945; open daily 10-6.

### **Q Street**

199 Q St., Springfield; (541) 746-7784; open daily 9-9.

### **The Dalles**

505 West 9th; (541) 370-1231; open daily 9-8

[www.svdv.us](http://www.svdv.us) & Facebook

## Matsens proof change is possible

The Matsen family is set for early graduation from the Connections Transitional Housing program and a move from their SVDP apartment into a house. It's the same town but a world away from First Place Family Center, where less than



**The Matsen family, lighting up a snowy night with glowsticks.**

two years ago, saddled with rental debt, they made their home on the gravel parking lot. Now they are prospective homebuyers through the Home of Your Own program.

Transitional housing, specifically SVDP's Connections program, made all the difference. Having a functional, affordable place to live allowed the Matsens to achieve good credit while Krysta began studies toward a degree in human services. Both Ryan and Krysta are Celebrate Recovery leaders. Their three sons are thriving in school and sports.

For Krysta, two moves are pending – one to the house and the other to either the University of Oregon or Northwest Christian University for further study. Ryan has been working all along and recently got a promotion.

Daunting life challenges led Ryan and Krysta to homelessness, but they are living proof that with support, opportunity and hard work, change is possible.



## Lane County District Council

**President: Charlie Burnham**

**Spiritual Advisor: Roger Grinstead**

St. Vincent de Paul helps people, but volunteers do the legwork! Those listed below direct groups that make home visits, deliver food boxes, and raise money to pay their share of clothing and housewares given from St. Vinnie's stores.

**Thank YOU:**

**St. Alice**

Diane Soik

**St. Catherine of Siena**

Kay Beach

**St. Francis Xavier**

Rodney Linton

**St. Helen**

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Susan Santos

**St. Michael**

Betty Modin

**St. Paul**

Steve Schuler

**St. Peter**

Tom Schopp

**St. Thomas More-  
Newman Center**

Paul Atkinson & Sid Baum

**Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help**

Andrea Choate

## Got ideas? Grant writer is all ears

Eugene is a community that I know and love. Having grown up in south Eugene, and as a graduate of the University of Oregon, I've had many exposures to the incredible work of St. Vincent de Paul—I shopped in the thrift stores, volunteered at First Place Family Center, and my younger brother worked in the book department.



**Anna Weinman Gonzales**

In September of last year, my husband and I made an exciting decision to move our family back to Eugene after living elsewhere for 16 years. A few months later, I joined St. Vinnie's as a grant writer where I'm truly inspired to support SVdP's expansive mission-driven programs and serve our community's most vulnerable populations.

I've had the pleasure of working in non-profit development for more than a decade. I chose this career because I value the opportunity to work each day knowing that I'm making a difference in the lives of others. I'm especially drawn to SVdP because I've come to realize that the homeless and housing-burdened families we serve are not all that different from my own. With some bad luck or unexpected circumstances, unfortunate situations can push any family to the edge of poverty and cause a cascade of problems.

As a grant writer, I have a unique opportunity to learn about many facets of our agency including programs, infrastructure and personnel. My goal is to leverage relationships with current and potential funders by sharing stories about our work as Lane County's largest nonprofit human services organization. Our comprehensive programs serve tens of thousands of people annually, and our passionate volunteers help make this work possible.

My hope is that with the support of our community, SVdP can identify new funding sources and ultimately expand our community reach. If you are aware of grant opportunities within our community or beyond, I encourage you share your ideas with me and our development team.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

-- Anna Weinman Gonzales



## Company of care

Individuals dedicated to the well being and early education of children from low-income and at-risk families gathered in early January to celebrate the huge contribution of William and Diana Wise as they stepped down after a decade as directors at First Place Family Center.

With Diana (standing at the rear of the table) are: (clockwise from left) Kimberly Murphy, Early Intervention Department, UO; Kathy McGrew and Liz Twombly, Early Intervention Department, UO and Rhea Cramer and Jane Farrell, Early Childhood Cares, UO.



## Supporting Youth House residents

As the finishing touches are put on our new girls' Youth House, there is still a need for help with annual operating expenses to support the new residents. This includes on-going housing expenses, utilities, insurance, transportation, and computer support. Several churches have stepped up with multi-year annual commitments of \$6,000 each to support student scholarships.

In addition, two couples in Eugene have pooled their resources to support an additional scholarship for the residents.

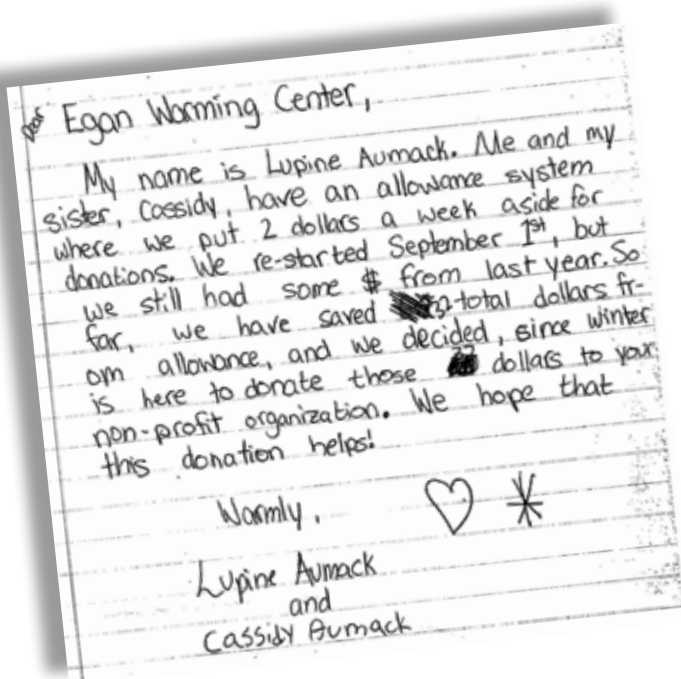
What motivated them to come forward?

Like many in the community, these donors, who wish to remain anonymous, believe every child deserves a safe place to grow up, receive an education, and prepare to become a useful member of the community. "The Youth House provides a perfect vehicle to accomplish this for disadvantaged children. Each girl will live in a learning environment characterized by support, supervision, and guidance," the donors noted. "The Youth House represents a statement of faith in the ability of our community to help local children overcome hardships and depravations and create a positive future for themselves and those around them."

Community members are also urged to volunteer as mentors, tutors, drop-in visitors, and in other capacities. For more information: 541-743-7121 or paul.neville@svdp.us

## Thank you, Eleanor & Tony

*Our Housing volunteer of more than a decade, Eleanor Mulder, died on March 10. We are grateful for her dedication and that of her husband Tony.*



Thank you, friends from Oregon Community Credit Union, for digging in on the garden at South Hilyard Terrace.

## Your St. Vinnie's volunteer adventure starts online

Help your community as a St. Vincent de Paul volunteer, or bring your group. A conveniently scheduled orientation will help you decide what positions is right for you.

### VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Monday, April 30th 5:30-6:30 pm

2890 Chad Dr., east of Costco

Call our Community Engagement Coordinator

Ashely, 541-743-7147 or ashely.hensley@svdp.us

### Current needs:

**Eugene Service Station** (Hwy 99, Open 7 days/week, Day center for homeless adults)

- Eugene Service Station: Breakfast Volunteer
- Eugene Service Station: Lunch Volunteer
- Kitchen Maintenance Volunteer
- Laundry Room Volunteer
- Maintenance Volunteer

**Atkinson Food Room** (Hwy 99, Mon-Fri Varies by position)

- Cleaning Volunteer
- Food Box Volunteer – Greatest Need!
- Food Room Volunteer

**First Place Family Center** (19th & Amazon, 7 days/week)

- Night Shelter Volunteer Church Supervisor
- Spanish Document Translator
- Interfaith Night Shelter Bus Driver – Greatest Need!
- Center Volunteers (Den Mothers)

**Chad Drive Office & Warehouse** (Chad Drive, Mon-Fri)

- Office/Admin Volunteers
- Small Item Pricing

**Retail Stores** (sites throughout Lane County and Western Oregon, open 7 days/week and evenings)

- Books/Media Volunteers
- Backroom Volunteers (donation receiving/sorting)
- General Store Volunteers – Greatest Need!

### Events/Project Volunteers

- Metamorphose Earth Day Event – April 21st 8am – 10pm – Greatest Need!
- Paella Feast – June 2018
- School Supply Drive Preparation – June 2018
- Bill Barr Memorial Golf Tournament – September 2018

Keep apprised of volunteer opportunities!

Follow/like us on Facebook:

"St. Vincent de Paul Volunteers"





Who are First Place Kids? They are the space travelers of the future...



... princess caregivers...



... nutritionists!



The playground at First Place offers security and just enough challenge.

## First Place Kids: Watching the wonders of spring unfold

Story and photos by Ilana Jakubowski

Happy spring from First Place Kids!

Housed within First Place Family Center, First Place Kids is a wrap-around prevention model for young children and their families experiencing homelessness in Lane County. Our early-childhood program serves hundreds of Lane County's most vulnerable children each year by giving them a safe, child-centered, and nourishing place for them to land while their families are experiencing transition.

We are excited to expand the hours for preschool! We will be offering a therapeutic classroom experience for children ages infant to 5 years old each weekday, Monday thru Friday 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Our therapeutic preschool program provides the kids we serve with a daily rhythm that is essential for the proper development of all young children. A familiar routine becomes especially important when children are experiencing homelessness and the trauma and stress that often accompany it. A strong, regular rhythm fosters a deep sense of security and promotes resilience.

While attending the preschool program at First Place Kids, children experience a rich daily rhythm that includes indoor free play, an artistic activity, circle time, year round outdoor

play and a wholesome lunch.

Our classroom activities are strongly tied to the seasons. We recently celebrated the first day of spring by making wildflower seed balls with the children's help. Everyone is also eager to begin working in our organic garden. A few weeks ago, we were able to plant pea seeds and are checking everyday for signs of spouting!

Here is a verse that we share with the children while we watch the wonders of spring unfold:

*In the heart of a seed buried deep, so deep,*

*A dear little plant lay fast asleep.*

*"Wake," said the sunshine, "And creep to the light."*

*"Wake," said the voice of the raindrops bright.*

*The little plant heard; and it rose to see*

*What the wonderful outside world might be.*

It is truly delightful to share moments with the children and families at First Place Family Center. The littlest ones in our community never cease to inspire everyone around them with their joy, creativity and perseverance!

*(For information on volunteering or donating to First Place Kids, please contact Ilana Jakubowski at [ilana.jakubowski@sudp.us](mailto:ilana.jakubowski@sudp.us).)*

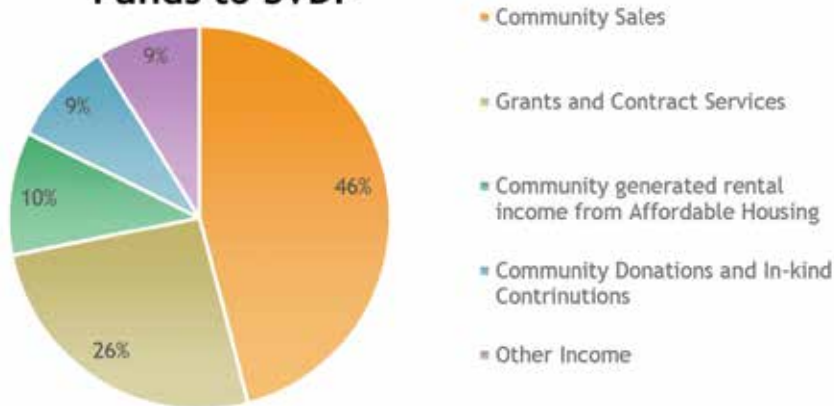
### A Moment In Time

is all we ask. Mark your calendar for this fundraiser for First Place Family Center.  
**11.1.18**  
**Venue 252**





## Community and Grant Provided Funds to SVDP



## St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc. Emergency and Homeless Services provided in 2017

**First Place Family Center** (serving families with kids under 18, without homes or at-risk for losing their homes): 921 adults and 1,189 children received services including: 11,359 showers, 7,045 laundry loads, 6,030 diapers, 4,014 bus passes costing \$5,276; clothing vouchers to St. Vinnie's stores valued at \$50,480; 1,074 items for personal grooming, rent help of \$10,186; rent application fee help of \$349, housing deposit help of \$6,939; and 2,871 temporary mailing addresses.

**Interfaith Night Shelter** (dinner, overnight shelter for families): 44 families, 158 individuals.

**Family Dusk to Dawn** (overnight shelter for families): 13 families, 49 individuals.

**Overnight parking:** Eugene/Lane, 50 sites, 110 spots, 150 individuals; Springfield, five slots with eight to 10 individuals.

**Eugene Service Station:** 7,500 duplicated adults, \$150,000 in vouchers to St. Vinnie's stores (for clothing, camp equipment, etc.), 135,000 meals, 25,300 showers, 26,000-plus loads of laundry.

**Egan Warming Center** (2017/18 season): activated: 22 nights, served 1,687 unduplicated individuals, 7,537 shelter nights provided.

**Dusk to Dawn** (tent accommodations for adults): 95 guests per night, starting Nov. 1st and ending March 31, 2018.

**Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program:** 100 veterans gained employment.



## SVDP's Contributions to the Community



## St. Vincent de Paul in 2017

### Community and Grant Provided Funds to SVDP

Community Sales	\$ 18,424,421
Grants and Contract Services	\$ 10,427,316
Community generated rental income from Affordable Housing	\$ 4,190,478
Community Donations and In-kind Contributions	\$ 3,565,152
Other Income	\$ 3,547,962
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 40,155,329</b>

### SVDP's Contributions to the Community

Job Creation and Continued Employment	
Wages	\$ 16,078,009
Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$ 3,052,137
Recycling, Manufacturing, Retail, Warehouses, and General	\$ 8,306,150
Affordable Housing	\$ 4,444,152
Services and Community Provided Training	\$ 4,217,575
* Change in Net Assets	\$ 3,593,869
Support Services	\$ 463,437
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 40,155,329</b>

\*The Change in Net Assets (Revenue exceeding Expenses) was used towards the payment of Debt Service and for Purchases of Land, Buildings, Equipment, and Construction

### FYE 9-30-17

Debt Service-Pay Down of Principal	\$ 3,753,316
Purchases of Land, Buildings, Equipment, and Construction in Progress	\$ 1,902,172



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



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and those in need of  
consolation. In doing  
so we are humbled and  
inspired.

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## Clamshell, toaster, monster await your old springs

By Susan Palmer  
Cascade Alliance Director

Mattress recycling isn't glamorous, but it's one of St. Vinnie's success stories, with growing opportunity to achieve the triple bottom line. When California passed a mattress stewardship law a few years ago, we had already been recycling mattresses there and in Oregon for more than 14 years. Our work has continued to grow from one warehouse and 18 employees back in 2014, to four warehouses and 64 employees today. Last year we diverted more than 322,000 mattresses from landfills in Oregon and California, and anticipate we will do more than 400,000 next year.

It's difficult, dirty work, but our skilled crews make it look easy. About 80 percent of the materials in a mattress can be used for other things: the foam and quilted outer covering become the padding beneath residential and commercial carpets. The wood is shredded and used as mulch by landscapers.

But the springs can be a bit of a chal-



Stockton-based monster baler dwarfs its handlers.

lenge. They don't lose their springiness over time and cause headaches for the scrap metal processors we sell them to for remanufacture into other products.

We've experimented over the years with different kinds of metal baling systems, machines that crush the springs.

Here are versions of spring balers we've used:

- Clamshell style: bales two or three mattress springs together in a tight bundle that weighs 60 to 80 pounds.
- Toaster style: bales four or five

springs together in a rectangle that weighs around 200 lbs.

- Monster style: This baler crushes as many as 10 to 12 mattresses and creates a cube that weighs upwards of 400 lbs.

Each of our facilities is handling as many as 400 mattresses a day, so keeping up with the flow is a key to our success.

And about that triple bottom line? Last year, our mattress program kept about 1.5 million pounds of materials out of California and Oregon landfills, and employed people in jobs well above minimum wage in a social enterprise that generated a profit, allowing us to continue serving our many social missions.

We have been a leader when it comes to mattress recycling. That work is one of the reasons we received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to mentor other nonprofits in the development of waste-diversion social enterprises. That project, known as the Cascade Alliance, includes other nonprofits recycling mattresses nationwide.