



St. Vinnie's Voice

December 2022 News from the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc. www.svdp.us

Wrap up a **green** holiday season with St. Vinnie's help

St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County (SVdP) makes it easy to be **green** through the holidays and beyond — whether you resolve to save money, be kinder to the earth, help your most vulnerable neighbors, or all of the above!

Throughout this issue of St. Vinnie's Voice, look for the word **green** in headlines to read more about each of the following ideas to help you combat the rampant consumption, waste, and elevated levels of expense and stress that tend to go along with our modern holidays.

- Be a **green** giver. Holiday thrift-giving ideas; page 4.
- Save some **green**. Savings add up at St. Vinnie's; page 4.
- Keep the environment **green**. Recycle with SVdP; page 5.
- **Green**-light your giving spirit. Season for sharing; page 3.
- Be **green** with ... empathy. Volunteer needs; page 7.

So please read on to count the ways you can keep your holiday season **green** with the help of St. Vinnie's. At the same time, you'll help promote health, security, abundance and harmony in your community and fend off that most infamous of green grumps, the Grinch!



Store staff (along with Santa Claus) greeted eager customers during the grand opening of St. Vinnie's newest location, 888 Garfield St. in Eugene.



Learn More Online

Explore all the ways SVdP can help you go 'green' for the holidays: svdp.us/green-holidays.
< OR, scan QR code at left to go directly there.



SVdP's Preschool Promise opens

SVdP's Preschool Promise program is our newest solution to Eugene's childcare desert, providing quality, trauma-informed daycare at no cost to families. Kids enrolled in this program will have daily access to educational garden space; simple, natural toys; and therapeutic child care focused on building critical social-emotional skills. Open four days per week, the accessible Preschool Promise classroom will offer 15 local children preschool that will both support working families and close educational achievement gaps. Classes start on Dec. 5 and available spots are limited! To learn more and register for Preschool Promise, visit childhoodlane.org/preschool-promise.



DID YOU KNOW? Last year SVdP's Holiday Joy program provided gifts to 1,491 people!

Letter from Leadership:

Counting Gifts Given and Received

That classic English carol we all know and love describes 12 memorable gifts given by one's true love across "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Here at St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County (SVdP), you might say that our true love is our community — a lovely one at that. Collectively, our community truly



cares about other human beings, and proves it through ongoing financial and in-kind support of our programs and services that create stability for our most vulnerable neighbors.

With that in mind, along with the old carol that's never far from earshot during the holiday season, we are inspired to reflect on our many gifts given and received. Gifts that we receive include the

blessings of living in this beautiful place and the generous support that allows us to serve our neighbors. And while we don't view SVdP's many forms of service as gifts to our community, we consider them gifts shared for the benefit of all.

In keeping with the "The Twelve Days of Christmas" theme, here are 12 ways our love for our community takes shape here at SVdP — emergency services; shelter assistance; self-sufficiency services; supportive housing; youth/family supports; Veteran services; permanent affordable housing; job creation; retail-thrift stores; recycling initiatives; environmental stewardship; and opportunities for all to make a lasting difference through volunteerism and/or philanthropy.

These are gifts that keep on giving to all. Thank you, and happy holidays!

Terry McDonald,
SVdP Executive Director

Bethany Cartledge
SVdP Deputy Director

Pardon us a moment while we toot our own horn



At SVdP, service to our mission is more important than recognition for it. Yet, we are proud of several distinctions that highlight our progress. SVdP won "Best Non-Profit/Charity Organization" honors in The Register-Guard's 2022 Readers' Choice program, and "Best Secondhand Shop" in Eugene Weekly's "The Best of Eugene." SVdP also earned Platinum Transparency status from Candid (fka GuideStar), representing the highest commitment to sharing information with community members and supporters.

St. Vinnie's Voice

St. Vinnie's Voice is the quarterly newsletter of St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc. (SVdP).

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ABOUT US

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County (SVdP) is Lane County's largest nonprofit human-services organization. We serve those most vulnerable in our community, including individuals and families experiencing homelessness; at-risk youth; formerly incarcerated individuals; seniors; Veterans; and community members living on low incomes. SVdP manages more than 1,600 units of affordable housing and two day access shelters for those experiencing homelessness, as well as emergency shelters; offers low-barrier employment; administers many programs that foster long-term stability; and operates a variety of innovative environmental stewardship and recycling-based initiatives.

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.

SVdP BOARD of DIRECTORS

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

Your support funds: Self-Sufficiency Services



Many Ways to Support SVdP

Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support SVdP every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5 percent of your eligible purchases. Go to smile.amazon.com or activate AmazonSmile on your Amazon Shopping app on your phone (found under settings on your app).

Follow & Tell a Friend



@ShopStVinnies
@SVdPLaneCounty

BottleDrop

Donate your cans and bottles to support SVdP! Either donate in blue bags you can pick up from SVdP, or donate directly from your BottleDrop account.

Grow a Legacy

Consider adding SVdP Society of Lane County to your will or as an estate or life insurance beneficiary.

Become a Financial Donor



to make an
online donation
to SVdP.

Call 541-600-8454
OR mail donations to P.O. Box
24608, Eugene, OR 97402.

Learn more at www.svdp.us

Green Holidays with St. Vinnie's:

Green-Light Your Giving Spirit

There is no better time than this season of giving to honor that evergreen bit of Biblical wisdom, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

As Lane County's largest nonprofit human-services provider, SVdP gives you many opportunities to help your most vulnerable neighbors as a financial or in-kind donor. SVdP serves more than 35,000 people annually through programs aimed at alleviating poverty and ending the cycle of homelessness. So every gift of green (the monetary type), along with every item you donate at a St. Vinnie's store, helps build a better community with more quality jobs, affordable housing and life-stabilizing services.

To make an ongoing difference for local neighbors in need, you can become part of the SVdP Sustainer's Circle by making recurring monthly financial gifts of any size. For example, just \$20 a month will clothe, feed and provide showers for one unhoused individual; \$50 will do the same for a family at SVdP's First Place Family Center. Donate online or contact our Philanthropy & Community Engagement Manager: 541-600-8454 or fundraising@svdp.us.

NOTE FROM A DONOR:

"This check is my thank you for being so willing to take all my donations when I had to downsize my living quarters from a house to a senior living facility last year. It was great help to know that someone could use so many items. Thank you for all you do to help the less fortunate — it also helps us who have plenty."

We're so grateful to everyone in our community who donates to SVdP.



ROUND UP AT THE REGISTER!

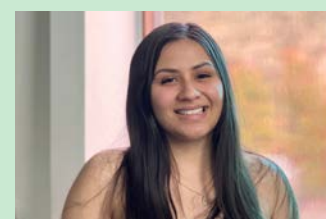
Did you know you can support families in crisis this holiday season by adding a donation of any amount at the cash register when you shop at St. Vinnie's? Through December, the in-store fundraiser will raise money for SVdP's Youth & Family Services program, which assists families experiencing homelessness.



Some recent harvest season festivities, courtesy of SVdP's caring donors!

Your support funds:

Youth & Family Services



St. Vinnie's Locations:

Know where to stop, shop, and donate!

St. Vinnie's operates 13 retail-thrift stores, one car lot, and (as of Sept. 29) an "as-is" thrift store in Oregon, covering Eugene-Springfield and the greater Lane County area — and extending north to Albany, Salem, and The Dalles. All sites (other than the car lot) are open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and most also have a drive-up donation lane. To see all location hours and donation details on SVdP's website, scan the QR code at bottom.

EUGENE:

- * 201 Division Ave.; 541-762-7837
- * 705 S. Seneca Road; 541-345-8036
- * 2890 Chad Drive; 541-743-7117
- * 2167 W. 11th Ave.; 541-284-5024
- * 888 Garfield St.; (541-313-4888)
- * 1175 Hwy. 99N (car lot); 541-607-4541

SPRINGFIELD:

- * 4555 Main St.; 541-747-5811
- * 199 Q St.; 541-746-7784

JUNCTION CITY:

333 Ivy St. (Hwy. 99); 541-234-2672

FLORENCE:

2315 Hwy. 101; 541-997-8460

OAKRIDGE:

47663 Hwy. 58; 541-928-1559

ALBANY:

2220 Pacific Blvd.; 541-928-1559

SALEM:

445 Lancaster Drive NE; 503-400-7550

THE DALLES:

505 W. 9th; 541-370-1231

Scan for
all locations
& hours!



Green Holidays with St. Vinnie's:

Be a Green Giver

You can be green by thrift-giving this holiday season — that is, buying gently preowned or like-new resale items from St. Vinnie's for at least some of the people on your gift list. With every such item you purchase, you extend its useful life and delay the need for it to be recycled or landfilled (and replaced). And no need to buy new holiday décor this year! Check out the unique items our stores have to festively deck your halls like these items below!



While shopping at St. Vinnie's, check out the bricks of reclaimed wax at many of our retail locations (bottom left) or SVdP's 'Home is Where the Heart is' Art Show at our 888 Garfield store. You can buy an original (bottom right) or print by one of our program participants.

Save Some Green

Your savings at St. Vinnie's will give you even more cause for celebration as you deck the halls and check the names off your list this season! A gift doesn't need any connection to the color green to be "green," of course, and every St. Vinnie's is stocked with countless thrift-giving ideas in every hue. But you don't have to take our word for it. Read what a recent shopper at our Oakridge store had to say about her furniture purchase:

"How delighted I am with my recent furniture purchase at your Oakridge Oregon store. I selected seven pieces, which came to a total of only \$935.93. Once received, I noticed by the labels that all of the furniture was [brand name omitted], and that they are all brand new. I went online and checked the retail prices for the furniture. If purchased new, it would have totaled over \$8,000! But buying the furniture from St. Vincent de Paul, I was able to afford this new, very high-quality, and upscale furniture. Thanks again to all the good folks at St. Vincent de Paul for my lovely furniture and a wonderful shopping experience."

Your support funds: Job Opportunities



Green Holidays with St. Vinnie's: Keep the Environment Green

After the holiday gift-opening tornado blows through your house, St. Vinnie's can help you keep the environment green as you clean up the mess! For one thing, you can bring all of those pesky expanded polystyrene (EPS, aka Styrofoam) packaging blocks to any St. Vinnie's donation center for recycling.

But SVdP directly or indirectly recycles much more than Styrofoam. The agency is the nation's oldest and largest mattress recycler, and through its extensive thrift network collects and resells cars, appliances, electronics, books, clothing and more. All that can't be resold is recycled whenever possible, and discarded only as a last resort.

Maybe your post-holiday cleanup will also include getting rid of older items to make way for replacements received as gifts. Perhaps your upcoming resolutions for the new year will involve streamlining and simplifying, tidying up the house or cleaning out the garage.



A worker at SVdP's Eugene recycling facility loads a machine that compresses expanded polystyrene (EPS) blocks into dense logs.

In any case, St. Vinnie's can help you keep your home clean and environment green in the new year. As an internationally recognized leader in developing waste-based businesses, we aim for a quadruple bottom line: responsible reuse and recycling of products; providing quality goods and services; providing jobs and job training; and generating revenue to fund emergency and supportive services.

A Few of St. Vinnie's Recycling Efforts:



APPLIANCES

SVdP accepts appliance donations; repairs and refurbishes those that can be resold; and recycles those that cannot be repaired.



MATTRESSES

We are the nation's oldest and largest recycler of mattresses! Now collecting at the dump, but gearing up for new Oregon sites.



BOOKS

Did you know we're the largest book seller in Lane County? Shop St. Vinnie's for your favorite authors; donate books, too. Ask about bulk donations.



STYROFOAM

SVdP is the only recycler of #6-marked EPS blocks in Lane County. Recycle a shopping cart for free at any of our donation sites! Ask about bulk pricing.



Your support funds:
Environmental Stewardship



Green Holidays with St. Vinnie's:

Be Green with ... Empathy

Few things in life can bring about transformations — think of those experienced by the Grinch and Ebenezer Scrooge — quite like placing others' needs above your own. And many ongoing opportunities exist for doing that as a volunteer with SVdP. Some most-needed volunteer roles include meal preparation and daycare teaching support at First Place Family Center as well as the volunteer-driven Egan Warming Centers. Fill out an application on our website or email us at volunteer@svdp.us to connect.

More about Egan Warming Centers

Egan Warming Centers is a program of St. Vincent de Paul program that serves as our community's low-barrier emergency winter shelter. It was named for Major Thomas Egan, an unhoused Veteran who froze to death while sleeping outside in Eugene during a 2008 cold spell.

"It's a tragic story," said Tim Black, SVdP's winter strategies & emergency response coordinator. "He didn't have a place where he could go that night where he would have been welcome ... it could have saved his life if he did."



Egan Warming Centers' volunteers make this life-saving service possible.

The warming centers are possible because of support from a broad coalition of community members, service providers, nonprofits, faith and activist communities, and local government. Together, these partners work to ensure that the sad end of Egan's life story is never repeated.

The warming centers also continually need certain material donations — namely warm, weatherized gloves, coats and shoes — that can better equip shelter guests to survive in harsh winter weather.



Egan Warming Centers

Gloves, coats and shoes for Egan Warming Centers can be dropped off in the donation barrels you'll find inside St. Vinnie's retail-thrift locations this winter.



New podcast episode shares stories of 410 Safe Sleep Site

Listen in as we sit down with staff at our 410 Garfield Safe Sleep Site, one of two emergency shelters SVdP operates for the City of Eugene. Hear about the origin of the 410 site, the journey our residents take to transition from street to stability, and the wonderful community partners that help make our work possible!



410 Garfield staff talk services, partners, guests.

Watch on YouTube:

bit.ly/410SafeSleepVoice



< OR, scan the QR code at left to go directly to video.

Learn More Online:

bit.ly/svdpsafesleep



Your support funds:

Emergency & Supportive Services



At end of Veteran family's long journey, home awaits

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. Army Veteran Robert Palmer and his family found themselves homeless. Once they accepted the reality of their situation, Robert reached out for help. "It took me like three days to talk myself into making the phone call," says Robert, who found out about St. Vincent de Paul's Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program through the Veterans Crisis Line (dial 988 then press 1).

The Palmers were paired with SSVF Rapid Re-Housing Case Manager Krysta. Like it does for all of its Veteran clients and their families, SSVF advocated for the Palmers in a variety of ways to help them secure a stable home. During this process, SSVF also connected the Palmers



Robert and Julie Palmer and their kids are shown at their new home on move-in day.

with an array of resources available to homeless families through SVdP's First Place Family Center.

Ultimately, SSVF was able to get the Palmers into their home using Rapid

Re-Housing aid designed to help low-income individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Going forward, the family will receive two years of rental assistance through the Shallow Subsidy program.

We are so grateful that the Palmers trusted SVdP's SSVF to help them through this difficult time, and we look forward to seeing them thrive!

Read the Palmers' full story in a recent blog post on the SVdP website; see link below.

Learn More & Donate

- Read more about the Palmers' journey home: bit.ly/SSVFHome
- Donate to help Veterans and their families: bit.ly/donateSSVF

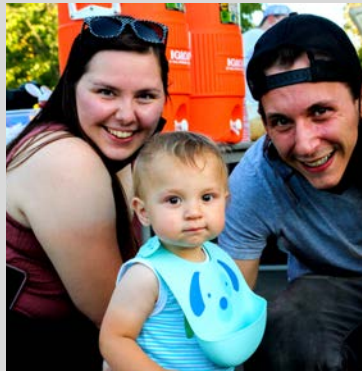


Snapshot of SVdP Services Provided:



VETERANS

323 Veterans served
 285 Veterans housed
 88% housing success!
 60 minors served
 102 chronically homeless Veterans served



FAMILIES

119 families sheltered
 718 families served at First Place Family Center
 150 kids enrolled in First Place Kids
 27,974 diapers disbursed



UNHOUSED

303,302 meals served through SVdP programs
 1,290 adults sheltered
 60,000+ loads of laundry
 2,866 individuals accessed our day centers



HOUSING

3,867 residents in SVdP affordable housing
 1,017 residents helped with housing retention
 393 residents accessed emergency food pantry

*FISCAL YEAR 10/1/21 -9/30/22

Your support funds: Affordable Housing





St. Vincent de Paul

Society of Lane County, Inc.

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*Try these 5 ways to go green this holiday season
with the help of St. Vincent de Paul!*

Save some green.

Your savings at St. Vinnie's retail-thrift stores will give you more cause for celebration as you deck the halls and check names off your list!

Be a green giver.

St. Vinnie's is your destination for eco-friendly thrift-giving – buying thrifted rather than new items for at least some loved ones on your list.

Keep the environment green.

SVdP can help as you strive to keep your home clean and the environment green, starting by recycling those Styrofoam blocks for you.

Green-light your giving spirit.

As Eugene's largest human-services nonprofit, SVdP provides many opportunities for you to spread blessings during this season of giving.

Be green with ... empathy.

By volunteering with SVdP, you can embrace kindness and selflessness in new ways as you help care for your community.



St. Vincent de Paul
Society of Lane County, Inc.
541-687-5820, www.svdP.us


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