



# St. Vinnie's Voice

Autumn 2023 News from the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc. [www.svdp.us](http://www.svdp.us)

## Excitement builds for startup of HOPE factory

**H**eading into fall 2023, HOPE Community Corp. is finalizing building renovations and gearing up for manufacturing to begin at 888 Garfield St. in Eugene. Work has included installing new overhead cranes, constructing office spaces and meeting rooms, and outfitting an ideal production floor for efficient manufactured-home building.

A nonprofit that will operate alongside SVdP of Lane County to build affordable housing for low-income Oregonians, HOPE is expected to begin production in November. The eventual output goal is four finished units per day as HOPE and SVdP ramp up this innovative nonprofit manufacturing answer to Oregon's affordable-housing crisis.

Increasing buzz about HOPE has built in recent months. In July, U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, along with dozens of community partners and other state and local officials, toured the factory and walked through HOPE's first finished prototype home. During his visit, Sen. Merkley applauded this "whole community collaboration designed at developing real quality homes that can be available at a much, much, lower price. This is an exciting development!"

Then in August, Lane Educational Service District (ESD) hosted a



**Clockwise from top: HOPE President Terry McDonald (right) leads a July 16 tour for U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (left) and other guests; high-school students sign letters of intent for a trades apprenticeship program at HOPE; and visitors enter HOPE's first completed prototype home.**

special ceremony for high-school students signing up for a construction and trades apprenticeship program at HOPE. In this unprecedented partnership, with the ultimate goal of developing a future workforce, 30-50 Lane County high-school students will spend two hours a day working at the HOPE factory to learn building processes and gain hands-on experience in many different trades.

Sen. Merkley also praised this effort: "If they're going to learn the joy of making things with their hands and the possibility of careers in those fields, we need schools to have programs like this that create that opportunity."



### Hear more: HOPE podcast

We explore more HOPE updates in a new Vinnie's Voice podcast episode: [bit.ly/HOPEprogress](https://bit.ly/HOPEprogress).

## Letter from Leadership:

## Never Quite 'Out of the Woods'

By Executive Director Terry McDonald &amp; Deputy Director Bethany Cartledge

Presuming one is figuratively "out of the woods" is never a good idea, especially when it comes to fire danger and the growing tendency for our literal woods to go up in smoke. Yet autumn is here and we are guardedly optimistic about our prospects for making it largely unscathed through the 2023 fire season here in Lane County — at least when you compare our summer here with other regions afflicted by destructive fires and other disasters.



Now that the smoke of another fire season has largely cleared, the path into the season ahead becomes more illuminated. You can say the same thing about many things in our post-pandemic world, even COVID-19 itself, which remains a threat especially to those most vulnerable. And yet, the threat is more clear and elicits less fear after all the ways we already prepared, partnered, and persevered through dark and chaotic times.

In the relative calm we hope will linger this autumn, we're striving to look far ahead, beyond the woods of today and into the smoky skies of our tomorrows. We're first

taking a close look at who SVdP currently serves and how we can enhance those services, then anticipating who in our community will need our help in a future filled with new challenges. For example, we're exploring how to expand shelter opportunities for the elderly, disabled, and those escaping domestic violence, and child care for low-income and homeless families.

We're also giving thanks for the essential community partnerships that make it possible for us, as Lane County's largest human-services nonprofit, to help so many vulnerable neighbors. These include invaluable funding relationships with public entities at every level, including the City of Eugene, Lane County, and the U.S. Veterans Administration. We also realize, as much of the pandemic-era public crisis funding for emergency shelters and services has expired, that we need to collaborate in creative ways with both existing and new partners. We need to identify new ongoing funding sources, and we need to inspire new supporters who, like you, will choose to invest in the health of our shared community through SVdP.

We know that the path ahead will be long, winding, cloaked in smoke or washed out at times. We also know that we can devise new ways to help each other through our disasters and differences in the face of need, because we've done it before. We have a lot of ideas and a lot of ways for you to pitch in, including through donations to our future-focused McDonald Community Vision (MCV) Fund. We invite you to read more in the following pages.

Now, please savor the golden light and clean air of this welcome autumn, but remember that we're never quite out of the woods even when the smoke seems to have cleared.

## 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 vulnerable 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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# Sharing the St. Vinnie's way with the world

Given the long and meaningful relationship we've had with discards, it would be a shame if any of SVdP's amassed institutional knowledge around turning trash to treasure went to waste! Naturally, we wouldn't let that happen.

SVdP's leadership is in the midst of a busy travel itinerary up and down the West Coast, across the country, even across the pond to Scotland. The run of conferences, speaking and networking events reflects SVdP's commitment to helping other nonprofits and municipal entities build sustainable social enterprises. As one of the biggest U.S. social-



service agencies sustained in large part by earned income from its own businesses — including retail-thrift stores and the nation's largest mattress-recycler — SVdP is uniquely positioned to share insights into its

decades of success at repurposing discards into sustainable revenue. We did that at recent California Resource Recovery Association and Product Stewardship Institute conferences, and will again for the Association of Oregon Recyclers this Oct. 9-11. And our executive leadership will be in the United Kingdom Sept. 30-Oct. 7 for a full event schedule — including talks at "The Next Steps for a Sustainable Scotland" symposium; meetings with Scottish and Welsh public officials; and reuniting with old friends in SVdP's worldwide waste-diversion efforts. (Follow along on social media: @SVdPLaneCounty).

## Spirit Mountain grants \$100k to help SVdP house veterans



**SPIRIT MOUNTAIN  
Community Fund**

Spirit Mountain Community Fund has generously awarded \$100,000 in support of SVdP's newest veterans' housing program, Williams Place. Guided by trauma-informed design principles for combat veterans and SVdP's nearly 20 years of experience working with this population, Williams Place offers an innovative solution to Oregon's veteran housing crisis.

Often, unhoused veterans face unique barriers to emergency shelter and supportive services compared to non-veteran peers. The National Coalition for Veteran Homelessness states that these barriers can include PTSD, substance use disorders, and lack of transferable skills for civilian employment. Veterans who are people of color (BIPOC), female, Black, Indigenous or transgender

face significantly heightened rates of service-related trauma and more barriers to accessing supportive programs, including emergency shelter settings where they can experience safety and privacy.

Featuring 10 single-occupancy units, an onsite case-management office, and laundry facilities, Williams Place is named in honor of the late SVdP housing director Anne Williams. It will

support as many as 60 veterans each year into permanent housing, and connect them with resources, medical and mental health care, and benefits to which they are entitled through the county, state, and/or Veteran's Administration.

SVdP is proud to partner with Spirit Mountain Community Fund to help end cycles of homelessness and trauma in our community.

### Thank you to all recent SVdP grant funders!

*We deeply appreciate all of our funders, many of whom provide long-term support for SVdP's many ongoing programs in the community. In addition to the recent funding from Spirit Mountain Community Fund noted above, this list reflects grants awarded since September 2022:*

#### First Place Family Center funders:

Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation  
Central Lutheran Foundation  
McKay Family Foundation  
Banner Bank

#### First Place Kids funders:

IMA Foundation  
United Way  
MillsDavis Foundation  
KidsGardening  
NW Natural Community Grant  
Early Childhood Hub of Lane County  
Juan Young Trust

#### VetLIFT funder:

Coquille Tribal Community Fund

#### Sheduction funder:

KeyBank Foundation

#### Resident Services funder:

Hunter Communications

**Thursday, October 12, 2023**

*Venue 252, 252 Lawrence St., Eugene*

- Doors open 6 p.m.
- Fundraiser dinner 6:30-9 p.m.
- Raffle drawing near evening's end (tickets \$50)

Master of Ceremonies:

- Brandon Kamerman, KVAL 13 News

Entertainment:

- Michael Sand, violinist
- Victor Doperalski, pianist
- Video, slideshows celebrating Terry McDonald's 50+ years of service

Scheduled Speakers:

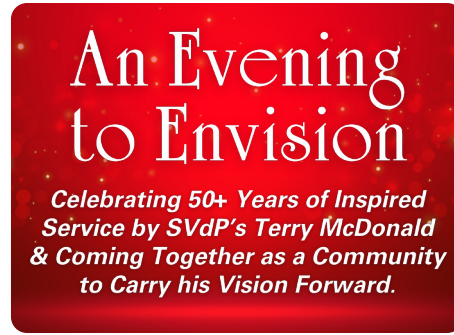
- Terry McDonald, SVdP Exec. Dir.
- Bethany Cartledge, SVdP Dep. Dir.
- Heather Buch, East Lane County Commissioner

Tickets & Information:

For up-to-date availability of limited remaining tickets (\$250 each) and table sponsorships (\$2,000/8 seats), or for any other questions, call 458-264-1865 or email [fundraising@svdp.us](mailto:fundraising@svdp.us).

*An Evening to Envision, presented by BDA Architecture & Planning, P.C., is in support of St. Vincent de Paul's McDonald Community Vision Fund.*

# Oct. 12 special event to celebrate, perpetuate McDonald legacy at SVdP



**T**hanks to COVID-19's disruptive effects, it's been several years since St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County supporters have enjoyed an opportunity anything like what's coming up Oct. 12. "An Evening to Envision" will be SVdP's first in-person fund-raising gala since before the pandemic. And what an evening it promises to be!

Not only will the event serve as an overdue celebration of Executive Director Terry McDonald's 50

remarkable years of service to SVdP (also delayed two years by COVID), it will invite investment in the future well-being of the community he has tended to for the past half-century.

Ticket sales, sponsorships, raffle proceeds and all other funds raised will grow the McDonald Community Vision (MCV) Fund. Named for Terry and his late father, H.C. "Mac" McDonald, who served as SVdP's first director, the MCV Fund will provide a flexible funding stream to allow SVdP to act with agility when future community needs arise. (Learn more on next page.)

We hope to see you Oct. 12 for a unique experience including dinner, guest speakers and entertainment — with a bit of looking back and a lot of looking forward, as we envision a better future with your support!

## Thank You, Sponsors!

An Evening to Envision wouldn't be possible without the generous support of these community partners. Please join us as we thank them for caring for their community along with SVdP — just as we support their local businesses, too!



Presenting Sponsor:  
BDA Architecture & Planning, P.C.

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Meili Construction Co.  
Lane Forest Products

Community Sponsor:  
Banner Bank

Media Sponsor:  
KVAL 13





# Terry McDonald & the MCV Fund

**D**uring his more than 50 years of service with SVdP of Lane County, Executive Director Terry McDonald has improved tens of thousands of lives through second-chance employment, emergency shelter, affordable housing, and other life-stabilizing programs. Equal parts devoted humanitarian, innovative entrepreneur, and astute leader, Terry has grown SVdP into Lane County's largest human-services nonprofit and a pioneer of "social enterprise" built on revenue from sustainable waste diversion.

Through the decades of Terry's visionary leadership, SVdP has always quickly pivoted to address emerging community needs, from emergency shelter to affordable housing. Now, as he approaches retirement and a new emeritus advisory role, you can ensure that

his remarkable impact continues to resonate by giving to the McDonald Community Vision (MCV) Fund.

This flexible funding stream is meant not only to honor the SVdP legacy built by Terry — and also his father, H.C. "Mac" McDonald — but to build a firm financial footing that will allow SVdP to endure as a catalyst for community good long into the future. MCV Fund donations will be used in many yet-to-be-determined ways, but those uses will always align with SVdP's mission of alleviating poverty, ending the cycle of homelessness, and creating community benefit.



Terry McDonald displays a photo of himself with his father, H.C. 'Mac' McDonald, in this 2016 file photo courtesy of The Register-Guard.



**MCDONALD  
COMMUNITY  
VISION FUND**

## Direct donations to MCV Fund

Can't attend "An Evening to Envision" but still want to support the MCV Fund? Please scan the QR code at right and use SVdP's online donation form to easily make your gift. **Thank you!**



# KVAL NEWS 13

## Your LOCAL NEWS Leader



**Jodi & John  
MORNINGS  
5-7am**



**Brandon & Kendall  
EVENINGS  
5pm 6pm 11pm**

**DID YOU KNOW?** Many impactful SVdP projects, like Ascend Home, were funded by private donors.

## Youth & Family Services Department



SVdP's Youth & Family Services (YFS) Department hosts a variety of programs that help create stability for vulnerable youth and families in Lane County. SVdP currently operates an overnight shelter program at the Annex Night Shelter and a day-access center at First Place Family Center in Southeast Eugene. This facility serves as a central hub for SVdP's services and programs to support families experiencing homelessness.

### First Place Family Center

FPFC offers safe day respite, basic hygiene services, food services and direct service referrals, as well as technology services. For six months during 2023, FPFC offered free childcare services and parenting education classes for families at no cost. These childcare services were essential for monitoring the safety and successful physical, social, and emotional development of children accessing services at the center. This access center is essential to the safety and wellbeing of families who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the City of Eugene, and is one of the only local programs to offer this service during daytime

hours. Since January 2023, FPFC has provided day-shelter services to 231 local households that include 386 adults and 422 children.

### The Annex Night Shelter

The Annex offers safe overnight shelter to families experiencing homelessness. The facility has 22 units available for families to reside with their partners, children, and emotional support animals. During some months of the year The Annex also offers overnight shelter in six family-sized Pallet shelters located on the property. This program is a low-barrier shelter which uses a housing-first model. This means SVdP prioritizes housing and basic social services associated with survival before engaging in case-management support. Each household is assigned a dedicated case manager; receives a Front Door Assessment and weekly case-management meetings; and has access to local programs including Oregon Dept. of Human Services (DHS) workshops, tenant-education courses, and even free guitar lessons facilitated by the Kim Sticka PTSD Music and Arts Foundation. Since January 2023, The Annex has housed 58 households including 129 adults and 148 children.

### First Place Kids Preschool Promise

SVdP's Youth & Family Services Department is expanding efforts to provide free and affordable childcare options for low-income families and families experiencing homelessness. The First Place Kids Preschool Promise opened on Sept. 11, 2023. The preschool program can host as many as 15 children,



**First Place Family Center client Pookela Shore and her daughter pick up shoes donated by community members through Kicks for Kids, a recent donation drive by Les Schwab Tire Centers and KEZI 9.**

between the ages of 3 and 4, whose households meet income eligibility requirements. In 2023, SVdP has administered childcare programs at both its 1995 Amazon Parkway and 4060 W. Amazon Drive locations. SVdP intends to expand childcare services and sustain investment into this increasingly needed service for families in the community.

### The Youth House

SVdP's Youth House, located in the Southwest Hills Neighborhood of Eugene, recently transitioned its service offering to provide stable and affordable housing alternatives to young adults and emancipated youth exiting foster care. This facility, with 12 private units, is seeking referrals from community partners at Oregon DHS and Looking Glass Community Services. These referrals and the intake process are being stewarded by staff in both SVdP's Youth & Family Services and Property Management departments.





A truck docks at SVdP's warehouse in Eugene, where products await further distribution.



## SVdP's logistics and transportation network steers value from landfills

Who would expect modestly sized Eugene, Ore., to become a nationwide nexus for shipments of high-quality products discarded by some of the largest U.S. retailers? But that's what has happened, thanks to the innovative waste-diversion and revenue-generation model employed by SVdP of Lane County, an approved Environmental Partner of 1% for the Planet.

After being steered clear of the nation's landfills, hundreds of freight loads arrive every year at the doors of SVdP's receiving warehouse, accessible for long-haul trucks just off of I-5 in North Eugene. And once off-loaded with care rather than unceremoniously dumped, the many thousands of products that make up these loads power a resale engine that drives SVdP's successful brand of social entrepreneurship.

In fact, SVdP conducts one of the largest U.S. nonprofit waste-based businesses. It encompasses 13 St. Vinnie's retail-thrift stores in Oregon, the oldest and largest mattress-recycling business in the nation, and other recycling and manufacturing

initiatives that support hundreds of quality jobs and create revenue for SVdP's charitable programs.

SVdP has forged mutually beneficial collection partnerships with a variety of other organizations that bring volumes of used books for reselling, masses of retired mattresses for recycling — and millions of pounds of new and nearly new merchandise for passing on to customers at huge discounts from retail prices.



A St. Vinnie's truck arrives at SVdP in North Eugene, headed for the central warehouse.

SVdP pays significant freight costs to bring products by truck and rail from around the country, for resale via St. Vinnie's stores across Oregon. SVdP also employs 12 CDL drivers and maintains its own fleet of box trucks and larger semi-trucks, with access to a pool of more than 300 semi-trailers in the Northwest. They haul products daily from three sorting warehouses to stores across Eugene-Springfield and Lane County, from Oakridge in the east to Florence in the west, and as far north as Salem and The Dalles.

### Learn More Online

Learn more about SVdP's donation-handling and transportation capabilities in this blog post: [bit.ly/SVdPmoves](https://bit.ly/SVdPmoves).



### St. Vinnie's Locations:

## Know where to stop, shop, and donate!

St. Vinnie's operates 13 retail-thrift stores (with one more coming in early 2024 to Cottage Grove) and a used-car lot, 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

### COTTAGE GROVE

Coming Soon at 185 Thornton Road!

Scan for  
all locations  
& hours!



St. Vinnie's



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## News, Notes & Coming Soon from SVdP:

### **Thrifting south to Cottage Grove**

The thrifting thrills enjoyed by St. Vinnie's shoppers along the I-5 corridor can soon be experienced farther south than ever before. SVdP of Lane County will open its first retail-thrift store in Cottage Grove in the first quarter of 2024. Construction is moving forward at 185 Thornton Road, along Row River Road just east of the freeway. Follow our stores' social-media accounts (@shopstvinnies) for updates.

### **'Choice' award for St. Vinnie's stores**

Thanks to The Register-Guard readers and St. Vinnie's shoppers who voted for us in the Community's Choice Awards for 2023. We're proud to again be your choice for the best thrift store(s) in Eugene-Springfield, and we plan to keep it that way!



### **Season of Joy is nearly upon us**

It's never too soon to think about holiday spirit, and how even a small generous deed makes a big impact for someone in need. Through the Season of Joy drive this winter, your donation will help SVdP provide essentials to an often-overlooked group – seniors, namely those living in our affordable-housing properties for ages 55+. Email [fundraising@svdp.us](mailto:fundraising@svdp.us).

### **Cold season fast approaching, too**

It's also never too soon to think about the icy bite of winter, and how many of our unsheltered neighbors will need safe, warm places to go at night. If you're able to support our lifesaving Egan Warming Centers as a volunteer or donor this winter, visit [eganwarmingcenters.org](http://eganwarmingcenters.org).



**Egan Warming Centers**

### **Give as a group on a Bundle Sunday**

SVdP has revived a former tradition with local churches by bringing back Bundle Sundays. These item-donation drives make it easy for any organization to get involved with community giving. If you're interested in hosting a St. Vinnie's mobile donation center for a day at your church or business, email [askme@svdp.us](mailto:askme@svdp.us).

### **'Vinnie's Voice' now podcasting**

St. Vinnie's took a modest steps into the podcasting world a couple of years ago, but a recent relaunch has us getting more serious (and more fun, and touching, and eye-opening) with regular interviews delving into SVdP services, stores and more. Take a listen: [rss.com/podcasts/vinniesvoicepodcast/](https://rss.com/podcasts/vinniesvoicepodcast/)



**DID YOU KNOW?** SVdP-managed Egan Warming Centers activated a record 31 times in winter 2022-23.