



St. Vinnie's Voice

Winter 2024 News from the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc. www.svdP.us

SVdP answered the call in crisis

Freezing rain, snow, and stubborn sub-freezing temperatures largely froze most Willamette Valley residents in their tracks during a January arctic blast that lasted for much of a week. But just as the world seemingly came to a halt, St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County (SVdP) sprung into action so it could continue to deliver critical human services, support affordable-housing residents, and provide life-saving emergency shelter despite significant obstacles.

SVdP's emergency response during the worst of the storm — which also forced the costly closure of all St. Vinnie's stores for four days — would require many pages here to recap. Suffice it to say that SVdP's front-line staff and managers from across departments, along with the ever-committed Egan Warming Centers volunteers, went above and beyond their typical call of duty to serve our most vulnerable neighbors during a true community-wide emergency.

In many cases working overtime or outside their usual job duties, SVdP staff came together on short notice to operate an emergency shelter at Wheeler Pavilion in Eugene for more than 250 unhoused guests; shuttled clients and other staff safely between sites during the most treacherous driving conditions; delivered bottled



During the recent ice storm, staff from across SVdP departments worked overtime or outside their usual roles to sustain the organization's vital community services when they were most needed.

water, generators and other supplies to residents of SVdP housing across a wide area affected by the storm; created temporary warming spaces at properties without power; and cleared downed trees, ice and other hazards required to keep clients and residents safe and eventually make it safe to reopen SVdP's stores and offices. And that doesn't include the heroic efforts

of Egan volunteers, who operated four warming shelters for three challenging nights before extending past the program's usual protocol to protect guests from a continuing life-safety threat even during daytime hours.

Through it all, SVdP proved itself once again as an indispensable community resource, come freezing rain or shine.

DID YOU KNOW? On Jan. 16-17, SVdP's Eugene emergency shelter shielded 250+ people from the cold.

Letter from Leadership:

Receding & Gathering Storms

From the Desk of SVdP Executive Director Bethany Cartledge

In the wake of our recent Willamette Valley ice storm, I want to share how proud I am of the entire St. Vincent de Paul staff and Egan Warming Centers volunteers for their heartwarming and quick response to an urgent situation. They took action in countless, selfless ways to protect our shelter guests, affordable-housing residents, and other community members. They all have my immense gratitude. And in the weeks since, many voices in the community have expressed similar appreciation for SVdP's ability to nimbly respond in times of crisis.



One of the many things we learned from this weather emergency is that good partnerships and planning can make any emergency response more effective. We are now engaged with many partners, from city and county governments to other service providers, to make sure we collectively prepare as thoroughly as possible to face the next inevitable challenge.

As we saw throughout the January ice storm, weak

spots in the community's social safety net are exposed when that net is stress-tested during a widespread and long-lasting emergency. Patching those gaps and quickly responding to emerging needs is something we've long excelled at here at SVdP — largely because we've had the moral and financial support of community members like you. We continue to need your support, more than ever, in fact. In the short term, we need to offset the financial hit we took when the storm caused us to close our thrift stores for four days; we lost our primary source of operating revenue just as the scope and cost of our services greatly increased. Even when it's business as usual, our retail and recycling income accounts for about half of our budget. The rest is covered by grants and private donations.

In the long term, we foresee a growing need for support and new partnerships as we work to address social realities that are as volatile as the weather. Our front-line services and shelter staff now see rising waves of unpredictable behavior and violence among clients, amplified by the pervasive influence of fentanyl. But we remain undeterred in our efforts to alleviate homelessness and poverty, and committed to finding new approaches to evolving needs.

One of my priorities in responding to this storm of another form is to forge a new partnership with an organization that provides addiction treatment and support. I want to return those critical services to our Highway 99 facilities in Eugene to provide wraparound support to the people we serve. This is one example of the kind of investment and planning needed to improve long-term outcomes for our most vulnerable neighbors. We see many other current needs changing in the community, including rapidly growing demand for:

- Services to help unsheltered families in need of child care.
- Services to an aging unhoused population, which now includes more 55-and-older women.
- Services to support victims of domestic violence.

With all of that said — I do have hope. I feel especially heartened by the way our team recently mobilized to deliver care to a community in crisis. With your help, we'll also make it through the next gathering storm and be better prepared for those still far over the horizon.

St. Vinnie's Voice

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

2890 Chad Drive
Eugene, OR 97408
541-687-5820; www.svdP.us

Bethany Cartledge
Executive Director
bethany.cartledge@svdP.us

Terry McDonald
Emeritus Director
terry.mcdonald@svdP.us

SVdP's Community Engagement office produces St. Vinnie's Voice. Joel Gorthy, Editor: joel.gorthy@svdP.us

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

Justin Schmick, Chair
Louise "Molly" Westling, Vice Chair
Ruben Garcia, Secretary
Trudie Atkinson, Vice Secretary
Jennene Norblad, Treasurer
J Edwin "Eddie" Roberts • Paul Atkinson
Laurence Hamblen • Myron Williamson
Felicia Mondragon • Zepha Wright
Marina Medina-Garcia • Wendi Frisbie

Get St. Vinnie's Voice by mail!
Scan to sign up for SVdP mailing list:



Manufacturing momentum builds at HOPE

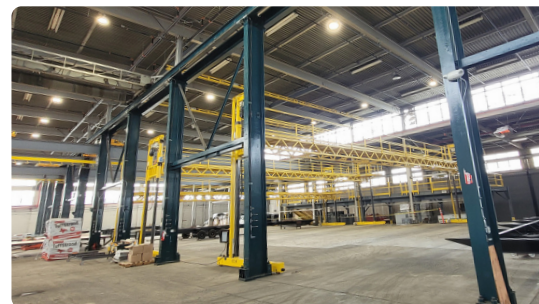
The HOPE Community Corp. team is thrilled to have finished all major building renovations and upgrades to the production space at 888 Garfield St. in Eugene. This has included refurbishing and adding overhead cranes, installing a mezzanine and three work platforms, and building office and meeting spaces.

The last major property upgrade will be the building of a 3,000-square-foot chassis shop which will be used to fabricate our own frames for the homes. We anticipate completion of this around April and will obtain our permanent occupancy permit through the City of Eugene after that.

Production of the first certified single-wide homes began in mid-January, as the HOPE team works through the in-plant inspection process.

This is roughly a month-long process where inspectors will come in and observe every aspect of our home construction all down the production line, and certify we as a plant can put out safe and legal homes.

We have been working hard over the last month or so with our team to make sure we have our initial supply line of



Top: HOPE Community Corp.'s first prototype ready for transport to Oakridge Mobile Home Park.
Bottom: New office/meeting spaces and work platforms inside HOPE's updated Eugene factory.

materials and equipment established and ordered, as well as putting together safety and training manuals for each production station. The next few months at HOPE will be focused on working out any bugs in the new production line and becoming as efficient a manufacturer as possible.

HOPE also worked closely with SVdP to deliver a prototype singlewide

home to Oakridge Mobile Home Park. Transporting a completed home 45 miles on a two-lane highway and bringing it into the park over rough and irregular roads with no damage to the home was a significant milestone on HOPE's road to sustained production.

– *Tyler Jacob, Project Coordinator,*
email tyler.jacob@svdp.us

SVdP gave more than \$350,000 in voucher items in 2023

St. Vinnie's is more than just a thrift store — not because of what we sell, but because of what we give away. In 2023, St. Vinnie's provided more than \$350,000 worth of goods from our stores to those in need. That averages to about \$30,000 worth of goods every month. These include much-needed items like furniture, clothes, and a variety of household materials. We can do this thanks to our voucher program through SVdP's Lindholm Social Service Office.

Community members in need can contact our social services program manager to apply for an in-store voucher (call 541-689-6747). We work with a network of local churches which then connect with individuals and award vouchers based on needs assessed during a home visit.

The voucher program is one of the many ways that we stay in line with the original vision of St. Vincent de Paul organizations. While donations

and purchases in our stores help fund our human-services programs and pay our staff a living wage, the voucher program allows us to help those who may not normally be able to shop for what they need.

Before we grew into a large non-profit serving thousands statewide, we were a humble salvage bureau offering free and low-cost items to those in need. The voucher program continues that mission.

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!



Meile Construction continues work on St. Vinnie's Cottage Grove store in this Jan. 23 photo.

St. Vinnie's 14th, southernmost store to open in Cottage Grove this spring

Early this spring, SVdP will cut the ribbon on a new retail location in Cottage Grove, Ore. The latest "St. Vinnie's" will be our first new location since 2022, when we opened the doors at 888 Garfield St. in Eugene. It will be the 14th and southernmost store in St. Vinnie's Oregon network, and the seventh outside of Eugene-Springfield.

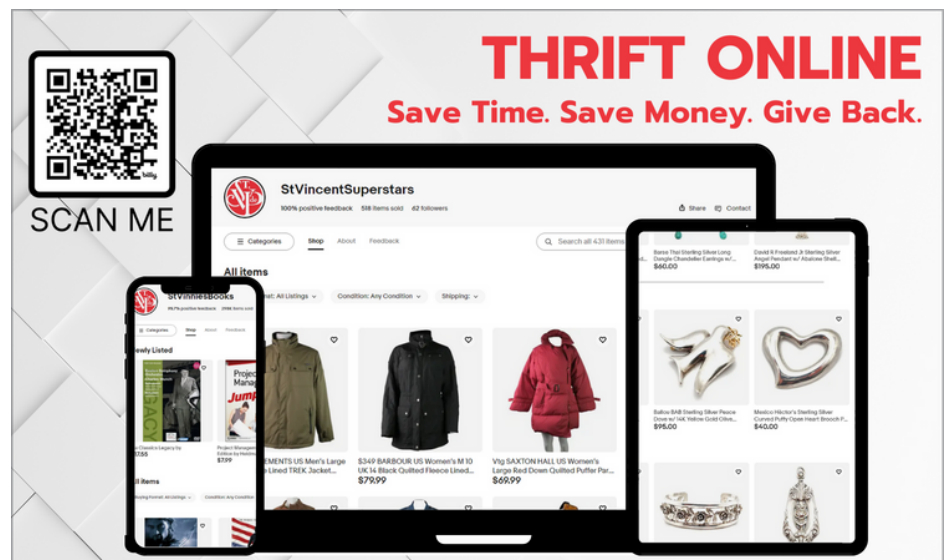
This store will be the flagship of our modernization efforts and set a new standard for what purpose-built St. Vinnie's stores can be. It will feature a new point-of-sale system, digital monitors, and a floor plan designed with shoppers' comfort in mind.

But why Cottage Grove? Opening a store there aligns with SVdP's goal to bring vital human services and high-

quality/low-cost materials to rural communities. We also formerly operated a store in the town from 1986 to 2000, so this actually marks St. Vinnie's return to "the Grove."

Our stores and donation sites serve as a resource hub for those using our voucher programs to buy clothes and furniture, or who need access to quality items at below-market prices. Our stores also provide meaningful employment for communities; our staff are paid fairly and have access to many benefits they may not find in other retail settings.

Our service network is enhanced with each new store we open, and we are thrilled to again be part of the Cottage Grove community! See you soon at 185 Thornton Road!





Sharing the wealth of experience accumulated through 50 years of retail operations and 30 years of recycling initiatives, Cascade Alliance — an arm of SVdP of Lane County — stands as an invaluable resource for nonprofits aspiring to embrace an environmental stewardship model. Our commitment involves harnessing waste streams to secure stable funding for organizations dedicated to making a positive impact in their own communities and beyond.

In our continuous journey, we are thrilled to announce the expansion of our network to include 23 member nonprofits across the country. This growth reflects our shared dedication to fostering positive change and sustainability.

We are proud to share that Cascade Alliance, drawing knowledge and strength from SVdP, has played a pivotal role in facilitating more than seven truckloads of material donations to several of

our partners throughout the United States. From Spokane, Wash. to Atlanta, Ga., and all the way up to Ithaca, N.Y., our collaborative efforts have made a tangible impact by directing valuable donated materials to the communities where they are most needed. We are excited about the possibilities for even more such contributions in the future.

We, as a division of SVdP, also recently had the pleasure of hosting our esteemed partners from St. Vincent de Paul of Portland during their visit to our Eugene offices. These visits provide an opportunity for our partners to witness firsthand the inner workings of our retail-thrift stores and various other operations. The exchange of ideas and collaborative efforts underscore the strength of our network and the shared commitment to our environmental and community-focused mission.

To delve deeper into this impactful SVdP project and learn more about our various initiatives and nationwide network of partners, please explore our website at www.cascadealliance.us. Together, we can continue making strides toward a sustainable, socially responsible future.

— *Rolando Rojas, Cascade Alliance Coordinator; email rolando.rojas@svdp.us*



SVdP's Eugene mattress-recycling facility.

Update on Oregon's new stewardship law

SVdP is poised to expand its pioneering mattress-recycling business in Oregon, as soon as a stewardship organization is appointed to implement the statewide recycling program approved with the passage of Oregon Senate Bill 1576 in 2022. Currently, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is working with one organization on revisions to its initial proposed plan, with expectations for a program ready to start in late 2024 or early 2025. To learn more, listen to this recent "GreenState" podcast episode featuring interviews with SVdP's Terry McDonald and DEQ's Rachel Harding: bit.ly/DEQMattressPodcast.

How St. Vinnie's recycles EPS (Styrofoam)



STEP 1

Clean blocks of white No. 6-marked expanded polystyrene (EPS), aka Styrofoam, are dropped off at any St. Vinnie's location that accepts donations.



STEP 2

St. Vinnie's truck drivers pick up all of that bulky but lightweight material and transport it to SVdP's main recycling facility in a West Eugene warehouse.



STEP 3

Recycling workers feed the EPS blocks into a "densifier" machine that shreds and heats the porous material to compress it into a much different, reusable form.



STEP 4

The resulting dense bricks of polystyrene are stacked, stored and ultimately sold to manufacturers who will make new products from the material.

Where in Eugene to access SVdP services

SVdP MAIN CAMPUS

2890 Chad Drive; 541-687-5820

What's here: Nonprofit's headquarters are home to general administrative offices, many SVdP departments, and a front desk/lobby open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. Access point for SVdP Property Management/housing waitlists, human resources and hiring, and general program questions.

EUGENE SERVICE STATION (ESS)

450 Hwy. 99 N; 541-461-8688

What's here: Primary Eugene day shelter for individual adults who are experiencing homelessness, offering food, clothing, laundry, showers, supplies, and other forms of stabilizing assistance. Also the entry point for Dusk to Dawn, Safe Parking Program and other SVdP night shelter options.

LINDHOLM SOCIAL SERVICE OFFICE

456 Hwy. 99 N; 541-689-6747

What's here: Access point to a variety of programs and services available to help low-income households in Lane County. Office is next-door to the ESS.

FIRST PLACE FAMILY CENTER (FPFC) and NIGHT SHELTER ANNEX

4060 W. Amazon Drive; 541-342-7728

What's here: Day-shelter services for unhoused families with children; FPFC is also the access point for the Night Shelter Annex and First Place Kids programs, which are both onsite.

VETERAN SERVICES

1870 W. 11th Ave.; 541-743-7107

What's here: Ground floor of the Lamb Building is home to SVdP's Veteran Services department, where staff serve veterans and their families by providing case-managed support in crisis and helping households with stabilization into permanent housing.

Scan for more SVdP services info!



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

Williams Place, new veteran housing, slated for summer 2024 completion

SVdP is developing 10 single-residency units of transitional housing on Green Lane, in north Eugene's Santa Clara neighborhood, for veterans who are experiencing homelessness. A partnership with the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) Grant and Per Diem Program, Williams Place is named in honor of the late Anne Williams, SVdP's former housing programs director. Construction is scheduled for completion in June 2024.

On-site resident services, including case management, will be included with the goal of connecting the residents to services and benefits, increasing incomes, and supporting their transition to permanent, stable and affordable housing.

Williams Place's single-residency design means SVdP can provide a more welcoming and appropriate non-congregate setting for the most vulnerable veterans. Compared to their non-veteran peers, unhoused veterans with heightened rates of service-related trauma face unique barriers to accessing supportive programs, including emergency shelter settings where they can experience safety and privacy.

With 10 one-bed/bath units, case-management office and laundry



Interior and exterior photos show progress on SVdP's Williams Place as of Jan. 26.

facilities, Williams Place will serve the unique needs of individual veterans. The program will also provide an innovative solution to Oregon's larger veteran housing crisis by supporting as many as 60 each year into permanent housing and connecting them with local resources, medical and mental health care, and the benefits they are entitled to through the county, state, and/or VA.

You can help SVdP provide more housing and help for those who served. Please visit www.svdP.us and click "donate." Thank you!

SVdP: A Year of Service, by the Numbers



239,045

Meals served to clients of SVdP day- & night-shelter programs



6,953

Individuals helped by Homeless & Emergency Services dept.



526

Families helped via day services at First Place Family Center



119

Families kept safe, warm and united at Night Shelter Annex



2,059

Residents in affordable housing*

* Current total; doesn't include some resident turnover in 2023.



501

Veterans and family members served*

* Veteran-specific programs, not including general programs.

Just a few of the ways SVdP served the community in 2023!

Thanks to all whose warm hearts have helped us fight winter's chill

On behalf of residents living at SVdP's Aster, Four Oaks, Stayton Manor, Hazel Court and Wallerwood apartments: Thank you for your support of Season of Joy! With a new focus on residents living in senior and disabled affordable housing, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of the individuals, churches, and businesses who said "I believe in supporting seniors."

Because you were so generous, we were able to provide essential items to every resident who applied for help. What's more, you equipped us to support families with essentials in the coming year through things like welcome baskets for new residents, or emergency supplies to help them during lean months.

Warm items support Egan guests

The gloves are on! Egan Warming Centers asked for your help and you responded quickly! Thank you to everyone who donated during December to help provide gloves and other much-needed warming items for Egan Warming Centers guests. Your warm hearts provided warm hands this winter.

Doing more in 2024, thanks to you

Nonprofits nationwide experienced a difficult year in 2023, but SVdP's supporters showed generous hearts during our year-end appeal, with a theme of "All we do is thanks to you." Thanks to your annual or additional donations between Thanksgiving and the first of the year, we exceeded our year-end fundraising goal, which means we will be able to do more in 2024 — provide more emergency services, more shelter, more supportive housing. Thank you.

Storm recovery help still needed

Finally, thanks to all who made a special donation during the recent winter-weather emergency. Having to close our St. Vinnie's stores meant we lost our biggest source of operating revenue for four days, just as we maintained (and increased) our level of services in the community. We continue to seek financial support to help offset our costs incurred during this emergency and help us prepare for the next one. To give today, visit www.svdP.us and click "donate."

— *Stefani Roybal, SVdP Philanthropy Director; email stefani.roybal@svdp.us*

Many Ways to Support SVdP

Shop, Donate & Recycle

Every donation and purchase at our retail-thrift stores funds our life-stabilizing programs.



SCAN ME

for a full list of our stores and donation sites.

Volunteer

We'd love your support as an individual or group! To start, fill out the application at www.svdP.us/get-involved/volunteer.

Follow & Tell a Friend



@ShopStVinnies
@SVdPLaneCounty

Buy or Donate a Vehicle

1195 Hwy. 99N, Eugene
541-607-4541



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



SCAN ME

to make an online donation to SVdP.

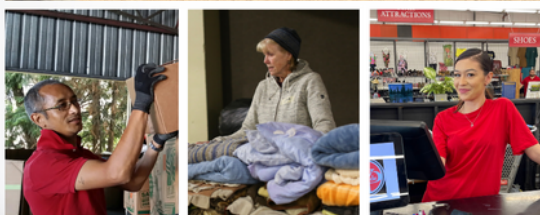
OR mail donations to P.O. Box 24608, Eugene, OR 97402.

Learn more at www.svdP.us

VOLUNTEERS

Needed!

Join our team.
Serve your community.
Meet like-minded individuals.





St. Vincent de Paul

Society of Lane County, Inc.

P.O. Box 24608
Eugene, OR 97402

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Eugene, OR
Permit No. 487



www.svdp.us | 541-687-5820
@SVdPLaneCounty | @ShopStVinnies

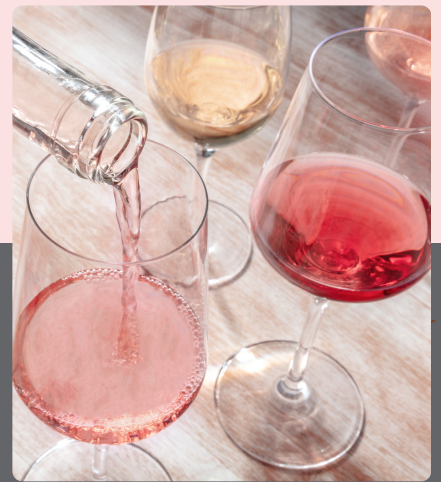
Coffee with Vinnie's 9-10:00 a.m.



**Thursday,
Feb. 29**
Topic:
**Environmental
Stewardship
& Recycling**

Enjoy coffee in the morning,
or wine in the evening, and
learn about SVdP's good
work in the community from
our most knowledgeable staff.

Vino with Vinnie's 5:30-6:30 p.m.



Guest Speakers:

- * **Bethany Cartledge, Executive Director**
- * **Daven Stetson, Recycling & Logistics Manager**

2890 Chad Drive,
Eugene, OR 97408

RSVP: 541-335-1950
or online at svdp.us

DID YOU KNOW? SVdP recycled 104,323 pounds (more than 52 TONS) of Styrofoam in 2023!