

ST. VINCENT NEWS

FALL 2021



Letter from the President

Autumn is my favorite season. I love the cooler temperatures, the beautiful fall colors, and the leaves that decorate our pantry hallway carpet. Autumn is also harvest time and a time to give thanks for bountiful blessings.

I am thankful for our generous donors who make it possible for us to operate the food pantry and provide emergency services to those in need. I am also grateful to our many dedicated volunteers who work joyfully and at some risk to themselves serving others.

Our pantry guests are thankful they can once again choose the food they desire. At the start of the pandemic, we closed our shopping-style pantry and switched to giving out standard food boxes with only a few guest choices. Now that our staff are vaccinated and have some protection, guests are again welcomed into our pantry waiting room where they mark what they want, and their food boxes are packed while they wait.

Hunger Prevention Coalition of Bend gave us a generous donation along with a challenge to improve the nutritional value of our food offerings. We responded by procuring meat from the 1017 Project and purchasing canned vegetables, eggs, soups, and milk when they aren't available from our regional food bank operated by Neighbor Impact in Redmond.

I am grateful for the weekly donations of food we receive from our local grocers, the produce donated by local gardeners this past season, and the generous donation from patrons of Grocery Outlet's "End Hunger" campaign.

I am proud of the vital role we play helping folks in emergency situations who don't qualify for government programs or whose urgency demands immediate assistance. We are the backup for those who are one paycheck away from homeless.

Our top priority is helping families stay in their homes by assisting them with rent and utility payments. Another top priority is providing temporary shelter to those experiencing domestic abuse, eviction, or other loss of home when homeless shelters aren't appropriate or don't have space.

I am thankful for the collaborative ministry we share with nine local churches who refer people in need to us and supported us with over \$16,000 in donations this past fiscal year.

I pray that you also have much to be thankful for this fall season.

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Could you contribute toward this year's fund-raising goal of \$105,000? If so, please mail your donation to our address above. Thanks so much for your support.

Answering Request for Help

“I could tell the caller was upset listening to her message asking for help” said Cookie Benton. “When I spoke to her, she broke down in tears. I too shed some tears, so I asked to pray with her. It calmed us both.” The family, who lived in their RV, was moving from one RV park to another park when their RV broke down leaving the family stranded on the side of the road. Grandmother took in their 3 children while the couple stayed in the RV and tried to fix it. They weren’t making any progress and the weather was getting colder. St. Vincent provided them two nights in a motel which gave them time to sort out their situation with a clear head. A blessing.

Outreach Ministry- Virginia Hilderbrand

I came from Mexico. I couldn’t speak English and was ignorant of available programs and help. I worked hard to learn English and went through many programs to improve my situation. In the end I saw the need of help others who are low income and can’t speak English.

I firmly believe God loves us no matter what our differences. Discrimination is my enemy. St. Vincent de Paul was the first place that helped me.

I now am on a mission to help others learn about community programs and to raise awareness of the need of transportation to acquire food. It was my idea to bring food to those in areas of greatest need with the goal that no one should face the sad experiences I had. They should know their rights as well as the available assistance programs we have in the community.

We visit 10 RV and mobile home parks in the Prineville area with our truck. Each trip, we give out 30 food boxes, get to know their needs, and extend a friendly hand and big smile to every person.

Could you contribute toward this year’s fund-raising goal of \$105,000? If so, please mail your donation to our address to the front page. Thanks so much for your support.

Invitation to Serve – Cookie Benton

Our volunteers are a great group of people. Every day is different. We have our ups and downs, our mishaps and accomplishments. We’ve had so many changes in the past year, but I feel we have handled it well. We always find the time to have fun and share our own personal life stories with each other.”

Pantry volunteers normally work 2 hours per week on either Tuesday or Thursday, 12:30 to 2:30, or Wednesday, 4:30 to 6:30 Duties include checking-in guests, packing food orders, wheeling out and loading food boxes into their vehicle. Pantry duties outside normal hours are unloading food deliveries, re-stocking the pantry, and cleaning.

Our Emergency Services section needs volunteers willing to be trained in making home visits to people requesting assistance. These volunteers work in pairs. The work is challenging, rewarding, and requires an empathic, compassionate, non-judgmental listener.

If you are considering joining us or wish more information, please call 541-447-7662 and leave a message for Joan Holland, Volunteer Coordinator.

FY 2020-2021 Emergency Services Summary

Category	Paid	Adults	Children
Housing	\$ 43,736	185	110
Shelter	\$ 4,264	25	12
Other	\$ 1,737	8	9
Transport	\$ 410	63	26
Grand Total	\$ 50,147	281	157

FY 2020-2021 Food Pantry Summary

Households served	3,053
Adults served	6,198
Children served	1,502
Meals provided	115,500
Value of Meals	\$404,250