Celebrating nearly 18 years of free Sunday night meals and weather essentials for houseless guests: **St. Vincent de Paul Tigard Conference, Community Café & NEST (Neighbor Essential Supplies Team).**

The St. Vincent de Paul Community Cafe mission statement is: “To provide nutritious meals and social exchange to neighbors in need in a safe and friendly environment. We host a weekly event to serve prepared meals with compassion, dignity, and respect. We serve in a spirit of social justice and charity, without regard to race, creed, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability or religion.”

Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers and donors who have helped the St. Vincent de Paul Tigard Conference fulfill our mission statement and sponsor the Community Café’s free Sunday night meal since 2009. The program has run continuously since April 2009, missing only one Sunday due to an ice storm. Over 86,000 meals have been served free of charge in a warm and welcoming community by volunteers. We provide over 100 meals served each Sunday free to anyone who needs a meal. The weather essentials program served as Severe Weather Shelter until the Covid shutdown. Since that time the program has provided weather essential supplies to houseless guests who attend the Community Café.

The hot meals are prepared by cooks in the Francis Hall kitchen in the Parish Center. During Covid shutdown we provided the weekly meals as To Go meals. After the Covid shutdown, we were happy to get back to having social exchange that sitting down to table with others provides while still providing a To Go meal option.

During the Community Café meal, we also provide support for houseless guests in attendance with supplies distributed through our St Vincent de Paul NEST (Neighbor Essential Supplies Team) volunteers. This support is provided at the 1st Sunday Community Café event of every month with the addition of handing out supplies on the 3rd Sunday of every month October to April, due to the colder weather. NEST provides support to an average of 20 guests at each event. Items such as socks, blankets, sleeping bags, tents and tarps, along with other essential supplies for surviving in the outdoors are distributed. The cost of the food and NEST supplies are covered by Tigard’s St. Vincent de Paul Conference. Community donations help us provide these services to those in need in our community. Thank you donors.

We have volunteers who have been involved with the Community Café & NEST since 2009 and are looking to retire, and so new volunteers are needed at all levels to replace those dedicated long-time volunteers. If you enjoy working on a regular basis, we have

positions that are weekly, biweekly, monthly or every 9 weeks available. There are opportunities for working with other volunteers that include food prep and cooking of meals, serving guests, or working behind the scenes to provide supplies needed for the preparation of meals for 100 people. There is also a need to assist the distribution of essential supplies to the homeless during the Community Café hours. Additional information about St Vincent de Paul and the Community Café on the St Anthony parish website St. Vincent de Paul | St. Anthony Catholic Church | Tigard (satigard.org)

You are welcome to come to the Sunday night meal in the Parish Center, Francis Hall. The meal service is from 5:30pm- 6:30 pm and enjoy a meal prepared by our excellent chefs and see the program in operation. If you have questions or want to volunteer, you can email: communitycafe@satigard.org.

Thank you again to all the hundreds of volunteers and donors to St Vincent de Paul who have provided nearly 18 years and over 86,000 free meals to our Tigard Community.