



A program of  
**Catholic Community Services**

PO Box 20400 Keizer, Oregon 97307-0400  
ccswv.org

## From the Archives



Pictured is Benedictine Sister Adele Mansfield, OSB, the first administrator of St. Joseph Shelter. Sr. Adele was a woman of vision and a hard worker in the service of others. A woman of faith, she believed in the dignity of each person. Casa Adele, housing for migrant farm workers and their families was completed in 2013, and was named in honor of the late Sr. Adele. Sr. Adele served as the Shelter's director from its founding in 1988 until she passed in 2001.



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## Erica's Story

The road to homelessness is not an easy one to travel. It can involve tough choices that don't seem like choices at all. For Erica, homelessness was safer than staying in her own home.

After escaping a domestic violence situation, Erica and her two children, Josh and Zyansty, found themselves homeless. For several years, they bounced back and forth from family members' couches to living in Erica's van.

"I was always worried about my kids getting taken and never seeing them again," Erica said.

Living in a state of desperation and fear, she constantly questioned her instincts. "Do I put them in school or do I not put them in school? Are they going to take them from me? Am I loving them right? Am I taking care of them right?" she wondered. "Of course I wasn't, but I was doing the best that I knew."

*"I was always worried about my kids getting taken and never seeing them again"*



Erica and her children, Josh and Zy, recently graduated from the St. Joseph Family Shelter TLC program

Erica hit rock bottom when her children were taken from her and placed in DHS custody. "I was in the dark, and I just prayed and prayed and prayed," she said.

After a period of separation and many trials and heartaches, Erica heard about St. Joseph Family Shelter and enrolled in its Transitional Living Center (TLC) program. "I immediately went there, and I got my kids back the same day," Erica said. "It was like 'Wow, how is this happening?' My belief is that it was all the praying. God had to get my attention and He did."

Over the course of several months, Erica worked hard to get her life back on track. She took parenting classes and was put in touch with a parenting coach. She learned how to grocery shop, meal plan and cook for her family. Her children worked with a volunteer tutor to get caught up in school. The family received mental health services, and Erica successfully completed alcohol and drug counseling.

Erica recently graduated from the TLC program, and she and her children moved into their own place in August.



## Volunteer Spotlight

Sr. Marilyn Schroeder

Seeking volunteer service after retiring from teaching, Sr. Marilyn Schroeder heard about St. Joseph Family Shelter and thought she might be able to help the families living there. She met with CCS Volunteer Coordinator Heidi Frederick and discovered there was a need for a tutor. Soon after, Sr. Marilyn began working with the children at the Shelter. (Continued on page 5)





## The Annual

# St. Joseph the Worker Dinner

St. Mary Parish, the Benedictine Sisters of Mount Angel and CCS hosted the 15th Annual St. Joseph the Worker Fundraising Dinner in Mount Angel in May. This year's dinner raised over \$70,000, which was doubled by a generous matching grant from the Richard and Joanna Kreitzberg Fund. The Mount Angel Abbey was recognized with The Caritas Award for its generous monthly contributions to Mission Benedict. Kathy Eder-Deshon received the 2019 Outstanding Community Service Award for her exceptional leadership in the coordination of the dinner.

Guests of the dinner each took home hand-knitted pot holders courtesy of Mission and Shelter volunteer Loretta Cook, who knitted all 150 pot holders for the dinner attendees!

The dinner also featured a fun beer and wine pull drawing. Guests purchased a cork with a number and received a gift bag with the corresponding number. The gift bags were filled with local beer, wine and coffee. Beer and wine were donated from several local vineyards and breweries including Willamette Valley Vineyards, Goshie Hop Farms, Benedictine Brewery and Hanson Vineyards.

### Special thanks to...

Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer for her leadership, support and guidance; Fr. Philip Waibel for his leadership, support and the use of the Parish Center; Kathy Eder-Deshon for organizing the dinner; St. Mary Parish volunteers for preparing the meal; Mount Angel Knights of Columbus for bartending and Sr. Marietta Schindler and the Junior Catholic Daughters for serving. The dinner was made possible with the support of many businesses and individuals. Please join us in thanking our sponsors listed to the right.



CCS Deputy Director Josh Graves with Kathy Eder-Deshon, award recipient for her outstanding service

## CASA's Sister Adele Scholarship Fund

CASA (Community and Shelter Assistance Corp) of Oregon established the Sister Adele Scholarship Fund in 2005 in honor of Sister Adele Mansfield, OSB of the Queen of Angels Monastery in Mount Angel. She served on CASA of Oregon's Board of Directors from 1990 to December 2001 and helped to ensure housing for farmworkers through the opening of Casa Adele in Mount Angel.

The Sister Adele Scholarship provides assistance to qualified individuals from farmworker households.

CASA selected 20 students to receive the 2019 Sister Adele Scholarship. Local recipients of this year's award included Magaly Cortez-Marales, Monica Cerda-Ortiz, Susana Cerda-Ortiz and Yuridia Reyes.



## Thank You, Sponsors!

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*Save the Date!* 16th Annual  
**St. Joseph the Worker Dinner**  
Sunday, May 3, 2020 • 5:00PM  
*St. Mary Parish, Mount Angel*

### Volunteer Spotlight continued...



"I saw there was a need that I could help fill using my teaching experience. I could use my time to help others. It was an opportunity to help bring out the best in others in their educations and even help the children develop their sense of self-worth and feel good about themselves in their learning," Sr. Marilyn said.

"The most rewarding thing for me when I'm tutoring these children is to see the light in their eyes and their excitement about learning," Sr. Marilyn said. In addition to volunteering with the families at St. Joseph Family Shelter, Sr. Marilyn also volunteers at Mission Benedict. "On Fridays, I go and shop with the folks who come to Mission Benedict. That's a great experience too, to interact with those people and see their gratefulness is wonderful," she said. "We have a great time!"

The families served by St. Joseph Family Shelter and Mission Benedict are among the most vulnerable in our community. It is the mission of the ministries to welcome all as if they were Christ and come alongside these families so that they know they are not alone.

"I think when someone comes in from the outside and spends their time helping others, it makes a big difference in the lives of those being served by the shelter and the mission, because volunteers don't have to do it. They do it because they care so much about the people," Sr. Marilyn said. "And after you meet the families living at the Shelter, you can't *not* care. We volunteers just want to help as best as we can. The community does have a healing power for the people. You can't *not* be healed if you have the love and care that I see at St. Joseph Shelter."



# A Letter from the Sisters



Dear Friend,

As we enter into the season of gratitude, we are in awe of the generosity of this community as the holidays draw near.

The ability to provide safe, stable housing for homeless families at risk of losing their children, the continued availability of emergency assistance, including food, clothing and household goods through Mission Benedict; the provision of affordable housing for farmworkers and their families through Casa Adele - all of these things are blessings to our community.

St. Joseph Family Shelter, with its comprehensive services to reunify and strengthen families, addresses homelessness at the root of the problem.

Thanks to our partnership with Catholic Community Services, the Shelter now offers more services than ever before. Families receive wraparound services, including parenting, budgeting and nutrition classes, counselors on site who are available to both the parents and children, and access to Mission Benedict. As of November 1, St. Joseph Family Shelter has served 21 adults and 23 children through its Transitional Living Center program, and 700 families (2400 children and adults) through Mission Benedict.

These vital ministries need your support to flourish. On behalf of all those served on the St. Joseph Family Shelter campus, we ask for your continued financial and prayerful support.

Blessings to you and yours,

Sr. Dorothy Jean Beyer, OSB

Sr. Jane Hibbard, SNJM



- ☐ My check is enclosed.
- ☐ I would like to give using my credit card: \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ American Express  
(\*Please fill out card information on reverse side.)
- ☐ I would like my payment deducted automatically from my \_\_\_ checking \_\_\_ savings  
(\*Please fill out auto debit portion on reverse side.)
- ☐ Please contact me about volunteering.

#### Giving options:

- ☐ One-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Monthly gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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for \_\_\_\_\_ years

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You can also make a secure donation online at [ccswv.org](https://ccswv.org) or contact [communications@ccswv.org](mailto:communications@ccswv.org) for more information.



# Christmas Box

## Holiday Food Drive

*The holiday season is fast approaching...*

As a partner agency with Marion Polk Food Share and Oregon Food Bank, Mission Benedict served more than 2,500 people last year. At Christmas time, in partnership with St. Mary Parish, the Knights of Columbus and others, the Mission provides more than 150 Christmas dinner boxes for families in need. The most needed items for Christmas are:

- Evaporated milk
- French fried onions
- Cans of beans
- Jello
- Juice

### Ongoing Needs...

Batteries

Personal Hygiene Items

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste

Bedding sets

- Sheets
- Blankets
- Comforters

New pillows

Pots and pans

Towels

- Bath towels
- Hand towels
- Wash cloths

Clothing

- Undergarments
- Pants
- Shirts
- Shoes
- Coats

Small kitchen gadgets

Silverware



St. Joseph

FAMILY SHELTER

MISSION BENEDICT & CASA ADELE

*Caring for those in need and welcoming all as Christ*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please charge my card      Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

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