

Volunteer

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gel established St. Joseph Shelter, a transitional housing program for homeless families, in 1988.

They started a food bank along with the shelter and operated it out of Scharbach's garage for its first years.

Over the years she became synonymous with the food bank.

"When she comes today she'll probably have bags of clothes in the back that neighbors have dropped off," said Sister Angela Meister, formerly the program director of Mission Benedict.

When Mission Benedict moved to the basement of St. Joseph, Scharbach went along with it.

Volunteers have come and gone, but Scharbach has been the constant.

"When I first started working here, that used to be our clothes sorting room down there and she came in every day,

practically, and worked on sorting the clothes and neatening them up and getting them ready to go out," volunteer Marilyn Johnson said.

"And then she'd help in the food room when the food came in, stocking shelves and things. It's only been the last couple years that she's gone to sitting down at the desk and signing people in, but she is 99, almost 100."

The past few years Scharbach has had to use a walker.

Though she isn't carrying around cases of food or moving boxes of clothes, she is no less valuable to Mission Benedict.

"Having Verna sit in that chair every week makes other people want to volunteer," said Laura Scarbro, program coordinator at Mission Benedict. "They think to themselves, 'Well, if she can get here twice a week to volunteer, so can I.'"

Scharbach is not a flashy person and has had the same humble Ford sedan for years. Until recently she drove herself

wherever she needed to go.

For years she went to Salem in the mornings to participate in a dancing program at Center 50+, but would leave early on Wednesdays and Fridays so she could make it back to Mt. Angel in time to volunteer at Mission Benedict.

Now one of her daughters, Susan or Nancy, drive her to the food bank twice a week.

In 2012, the Mt. Angel Chamber of Commerce named Scharbach the volunteer of the year.

What she cares about, however, is the friends she'll see each time she comes to Mission Benedict and making new friends with the mission's clients.

"She's community minded and really believes in helping the poor," said Nancy Scharbach. "She's kind of an odd duck. She spent her whole life here. She got married when she was 17. She still lives in the same house that she and my dad built. She's kind of remarkable for her openmindedness."

Scharbach grew up in Mt. Angel in a

time when going to town meant hitching up a horse to a buggy.

She has been volunteering since her 50s.

She started at the Mt. Angel Community and Senior Center and added in Mission Benedict about 30 years ago.

"Somebody asked me to be the boss one time and I said I don't want to be no boss, I want to be a follower," Scharbach said.

A few years ago, Scharbach had a fall and was asked not to volunteer with the Mt. Angel Senior Center anymore.

Scarbro said Scharbach was afraid she would be asked not to come back to volunteer with Mission Benedict due to her age.

But Scarbro has a special present at her 100th birthday party at Mission Benedict on Friday. It was a contract to spend the next 35 years volunteering there.

bpoehler@StatesmanJournal.com or Twitter.com/bpoehler

Market

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dle man."

Duda's travels in southern Germany inspired her to approach city leaders about hosting a farmers market here.

"I love the markets over there. They are so fabulous," she said.

At their May meeting, city councilors approved the Wochenmarkt concept that Duda presented with retired restaurateur Tom Maurer. The council went a step further, voting to insure the market so individual vendors don't have to.

"That's why we went the route of making it a city-sponsored event," Mathiesen said.

So a Wochenmarkt vendor can show up on any given Thursday with an approved application and \$15 and sell for the day. No seasonal commitment is required; the market's committee members – Duda, Maurer and Shanigan – want to flex with the unpredictable nature of harvest.

Besides her experience in charming European markets, Duda also knows the fertile Willamette Valley is full of commercial farmers who sometimes find themselves with extra crops.

"My husband works in farming, and I know there are a lot of big farms out there," she said. "There's so much that, sometimes, it goes to waste."

Herself a baker, Duda typically brings to market her home-baked goods, such as bread and cookies, and annual and perennial plants from her day job at the Happy Bee in Woodburn.

In the booth next-door, Maurer sells his own baked treats. Formerly the owner of Burger Time in Mt. Angel, he learned to cook the eatery's pies when his wife fell ill.

"I learned to bake when I could still call her and ask all those funny questions like, 'What should I do about the piecrust sticking to the rolling pin?'" he said.

She died more than a decade ago, but Maurer never stopped baking. At last week's market, he sold slices of pie, cabbage rolls, chocolate cookies, coconut macaroons, zucchini bread, chocolate chip bars and more. His buyers were mostly local, so lively chatting accompanied business transactions.

Nearby, berries and jam were on sale at two booths, Samoilov Farm, from Mt. Angel, and South Barlow Berries from Canby.

Partway through the morning, mother-daughter team, Kathy and Maddie Buhr, arrived to sell lemonade for 25 cents per cup. They'd been recruited by a Mt. Angel librarian, who proposed the business venture to 12-year-old Maddie.

To learn more about the new market, log on to <http://www.ci.mt-angel.or.us/general/page/new-mt-angel-wochenmarkt-weekly-market>.

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Address: P.O. Box 13009, Salem, OR 97309

Phone: 503-399-6773

Fax: 503-399-6706

Email: sanews@salem.gannett.com

Web site: www.SilvertonAppeal.com

Staff

News Director

Don Currie
503-399-6655
dcurrie@statesmanjournal.com

Advertising

Terri McArthur
503-399-6630
tmcArthur@Salem.gannett.com

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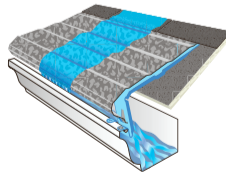
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