



**“People Helping People, it’s the right thing to do”**

People Helping People

Dear Neighbor,

November 10, 2008

During this holiday season, most of us gather with our families and celebrate our blessings. All around us we see bright lights, we hear music, and we feel warmth. As we rejoice, it might be easy for us to overlook those who sit in darkness, feeling only cold and hunger and in many cases depression. Fortunately, our community has traditionally reached out to our needy neighbors, and this year your help is more desperately needed than ever before. Many of our neighbors lack the basics—here in Philomath the need for supplemental food and clothing has more than doubled in just the last two years while prices have gone up and USDA has cut their support by half (50%). Hunger is the silent epidemic that affects everyone in our community. One out of every six families in Benton counties must depend on emergency food boxes at least once a year. The most at risk are seniors, children, disabled persons, single parents, and the unemployed. But in Oregon, the majority of people who live in poverty are working.



Philomath Food Bank (started by Nancy Flegal in 1975) provides emergency food boxes for low income families and individuals. Food boxes typically provide meals for 3-5 days and serves families west of 53rd Street in Corvallis to the western border of Benton County. Teachers report that children in their classes have to cut or skip meals at home, jeopardizing their health and learning capabilities. **If it were not for the food pantry, the only decent meal some children would get is at school.** Dot Richardson and Sara Power have done a wonderful job working with all of their volunteers to manage this program.

Philomath Gleaners is a self help program that works with Linn Benton Food Share providing supplemental food and firewood. This program requires participants that are physically able to volunteer 10 hours a month to qualify. They are seniors on fixed incomes, families with children, and people with disabilities. Last year, more than 5,500 people received a total of over 2,000,000 pounds of food (that would otherwise have gone to waste) through the fourteen gleaning groups of Linn Benton Food Share. **Gleaners pick up where farmers leave off.** Sabrina Johnson and Kim Jones are our new Gleaner Program Coordinators.

June’s Kids Klostet provides clothing, diapers, formula, layettes and other necessities to children and families. It’s the only place where many children can get back to school shoes, a warm winter coat and basic school supplies, things most of us take for granted. **In 2007 alone they served in excess of 215 families representing nearly 415 children, 2008 has also seen a tremendous increase in the need of their services.** Department head Carey Oien through her outreach has partnered with most of Philomath’s Churches to make the Kids Klostet function better than ever.

Holiday Cheer is a referral program that supplies Christmas gifts to those who have missed the opportunity to receive assistance through other organizations. We work with school counselors, senior centers and other organizations in town to find those that would not have a Christmas otherwise. Debbie Thorpe has run this program for several years.

Philomath Community Services is a 501 C-3 nonprofit organization that is staffed year round by 100% volunteers, with no paid staff. You can reach out to your needy neighbors by returning your contribution in the enclosed envelope today. Your generous gift will help our elderly and children obtain the assistance they need when they face difficult times. Nothing is more important than helping our very own when they have no place left to turn for a helping hand. You may designate your gift to any program of your choice. See donation form below. **Please help make the Holiday Season special for our less fortunate citizens.**

**On behalf of the board and our many volunteers we want to thank the community for your ongoing support.**

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Lamb, President

NOTE: We would like to remind everyone about the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 2nd at 6:00 pm at the Museum.

**Board Of Directors: Jeff Lamb, Don Gist, Ken St. Pierre, Peggy Clark, Rollie Bowers, Lupe Maginnis, Terry Osborne, Sara Power, Debbie Thorpe, Bardon McGinnis**

**CONTACT INFORMATION WWW.PHILOMATHCOMMUNITYSERVICES.ORG OR CALL 541-929-2499**

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**Yes! I want to help Philomath Community Services with my gift.**

*(Please make all checks payable to Philomath Community Services)*

- Enclosed is my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- \$25.00    \$50.00    \$75.00    \$100.00    \$500.00

Please use my gift for; (check one)

- Where it is needed most    Food Pantry    Building Fund    June's Kids Klostet    Gleaners    Holiday Cheer

- I want to help PCS, and I would like to pledge \_\_\_\_\_ monthly.

Please send me reminders monthly or annually. (circle one)

Charge my Credit Card. # \_\_\_\_\_ exp date \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature for Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

- Please call me about a gift of property or stock.    Please send information about including PCS in my will.

- I would like to volunteer    My business would like to donate it’s services.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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