

THE BULLETIN

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COURTESY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES OF LANE COUNTY, INC

Catholic Community Services partners with Lane County Human Services Commission to address chronic homelessness



Volunteer Murl Kelly serves up pizza to CCS guests. On January 25th, CCS hosted unsheltered homeless community members in a joint effort with the Human Service Commission.

Committed to ending chronic homelessness in Lane County over the next 10 years, Lane County Commissioners, in collaboration with the cities of Eugene and Springfield, United Way and more than 150 organizations and individual donors, staged an event to gather Lane

County's homeless for a "one stop shop" of services and referrals to meet their basic needs. Over 1,000 homeless adults and youth visited at the Lane County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall on February 8, 2007 for an unprecedented day in which 250 community volunteers assisted them to find services—from Oregon Health Plan benefits to housing assistance—from hundreds of human service providers gathered under one roof.

Pearl Wolfe, the event's co-chair, credited the event as one that "created a sense of community that will impact both the attitudes and community priorities for years to come." CCS participated in this exceptional event as both a provider at the Fairgrounds and as one of the agencies that, two weeks before, assisted the county in its annual tabulation of the number of homeless in our area and announcing the upcoming Project Homeless Connect event.

At the Fairgrounds, CCS' Service Center Manager Stephanie Talbot set up a booth that assisted the homeless with applying for DMV identification cards, often needed to obtain employment. Staff worked with individuals to complete the process from start to finish,

including providing them with the necessary fee to pay for the application.

Talbot explains, "Often people have nothing and the first step is to search online to find the application to order their birth certificate from the county where they were born. They are assisted through the entire process. We print out the application, ensure it is properly completed, provide an envelope and stamp, write the check and provide an address where the client can receive the reply. The fact that the service is so comprehensive is what makes it work. Often people lose paperwork, do not have a secure place to receive mail or just can't afford a stamp so the full-service scope of our assistance removes these barriers."

Counting the Unsheltered Homeless

CCS was invited to participate in the count of unsheltered people in Lane County because it is one of the primary contact points for these community members. An accurate count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons illustrates the significant need of community services for these people, and it supports better informed planning for necessary resources and funding of agencies to provide adequate services.

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CCSLC Mission Statement:

Inspired by Christ's love for all humanity—particularly those of us who are poor and vulnerable—and honoring the sacred in each person, Catholic Community Services of Lane County seeks to instill hope by offering support to people struggling to meet basic human needs.

We work with individuals and families, lovingly serving our neighbors, and calling people of good will to join us in building a more just and compassionate society.

“Project Homeless Connect created a sense of community that will impact both the attitudes and community priorities for years to come”

Chronic Homelessness

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On January 25, CCS set up our spacious Springfield Community Room for unsheltered homeless persons invited as guests for the afternoon. The gathering was successful thanks to the many community partners who organized and staffed the event in collaboration with CCS.

Margaret Mazzotta and volunteers from the Crime Prevention Unit of the Eugene Police Department organized donated clothes and bedding. Janet Beckman, the homeless liaison for the Springfield School District, arranged for extra chairs, clothing racks and hangers. Susan Harrison from the Veteran’s Ad-

ministration brought over a hundred hygiene kits and donated clothing items. Her colleague Dan Rupe was on hand during the event talking with folks, serving coffee and just generally helping out. Whitebird’s Norman Riddle delivered 50 pizzas that were provided at a discount from Pizza Pipeline. Ken Wedin, from the Human Services Commission’s Community Action Advisory Committee, greeted visitors and helped them fill out raffle tickets.

Sixty-three people attended that afternoon. They each received \$5 gift certificates donated by Burger King, and each guest filled out raffle tickets for nights in motel rooms and new back-

packs. Gently-used bikes were raffled off too.

Talbott describes some highlights of the gathering, “The 63 folks that came had a great time. They ate pizza, joked and talked, and enjoyed the company of community members they had not met before. The raffle was exciting, everyone was eager to win the great prizes.

There was a heartwarming moment in the evening when one of the winners for a night in a motel room declined her prize. She said she had a place to stay and we should give the motel stay to someone who needed it more. The room erupted in applause in appreciation of her generosity.”

From the Desk of the Executive Director

When I looked outside my office window this afternoon, I saw Tim Moran of the Springfield School District Community Transition Program and his crew of student volunteers weeding and preparing the garden beds for spring planting.



Ed Monks
CCCLC Executive Director

At the far end of the garden lot, the blueberry bushes have healthy green buds that promise a good harvest. As I surveyed the tube frame vaulting high in the sky, I imagined the climbing sugar snap pea vines that will soon twist tightly around it. The new planting of the garden is representative to me. It signifies the foundational work necessary to receive benefits months from now.

Please take a look at the cover article in this newsletter that describes some important foundational work that CCS is taken part in under the sponsorship of the Lane County Human Services Commission. In support of the Commission’s commitment to end chronic homelessness in Lane County, we participated in Project Homeless Connect, a day long event that gathered over 1,000 homeless people at the County Fairgrounds to receive services and donations contributed by area businesses and service agencies.

The work to meet the Commission’s goal to end chronic homelessness in the next ten years is exciting and challenging.

The work requires perseverance and dedication to the long term goal that can result in addressing some of the social injustices which increase the number of homeless and hungry people in Eugene and Springfield.

You will also find a couple short articles on CCS Board member Tom Hannah and CCS staff person Bonnie Duke, two individuals who have been committed to, and foundational in, the work of CCCLC over the years.

The spring brings the promise of renewal and new beginnings. I want to thank the hundreds of you on behalf of the thousands of people helped by your generosity each year. We are committed

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Meet the Board: Tom Hannah

Investment broker and financial planner Tom Hannah accepted the invitation to sit on the CCSLC Board of Directors over 6 years ago, joining in 2000. With well over 30 years in Finance, Tom's professional perspective has been invaluable to CCS as he has served as Board President, on the Board's Personnel Committee and on the Finance Committee.

No stranger to the challenging administrative issues of large organizations, Tom offered his service to CCS after participating on several boards of directors for both non-profit agencies and corporations, including 10 years on the McKenzie Willamette Hospital Foundation, as well as time on the Board of the Oregon Mozart Players.

His business savvy is partnered with a commit-

ment to charitable work grounded in his religious tradition. Tom explains what it means to him to engage in the mission of CCS when he writes, "All Christians are called by Jesus to 'feed my lambs', but not all of us have a chance to perform that service directly. CCSLC gives us all an opportunity to participate in the charitable work Christ demands of us – via personal volunteering and making cash contributions. How better to honor Christ's commandment to "love thy neighbor" than to support CCSLC's work?"

A native of Washington State, Tom grew up in a large Catholic family in Olympia and Tacoma. He has had the opportunity to travel extensively, including a tour of Vietnam while in the Air Force. His education included study at the University of Washington,

and led to a degree in Business Administration in 1981 from the University of Maine. Post-graduate study led to his certification as a Financial Planner in 1987.

Tom, his wife Janet and their children Eve (16 yrs) and Sam (13 yrs) live in the Northeast Eugene area and are parishioners at St. Paul's Catholic Church. Tom also has three adult daughters Ursula, Lisa and Heidi, whose own families have blessed him with six grandchildren and one great-grandson. When he can make the time from his many pursuits, he enjoys an interest in aviation and Catholic apologetics. Unfortunately, in such a busy life "neither passion", he laments, "gets much attention".



Tom Hannah
CCSLC Board Member 2000-present

"How better to honor Christ's commandment to "love thy neighbor" than to support CCSLC's work?"

The Faces of CCS:

Springfield Community Service Center's Bonnie Duke



Bonnie Duke
Springfield Energy Assistance Programs

Springfield Community Service Center is a bustling place most days during the fall and winter as hundreds of energy assistance seekers come and go to appointments.

Applicants visit CCS to complete the paperwork necessary to determine eligibility. The long corridor to the staff offices is often filled with patient families and individuals, toddlers "reading" the cardboard picture books collected there for their use, and staff hustling back and forth to the copy machine. Over all the

activity, one can hear joyful laughter coming from somewhere down the hall, and immediately recognize that Bonnie Duke is in.

As the Lead Intake Worker of several energy assistance programs, Bonnie helps participants navigate the multiple forms required to receive assistance from the County as well as several public utilities in the area. And she does an impressive job. This year, from July 1 to March 8, Bonnie met with 753 individuals

from local households and assisted those households in relief of over \$174, 200 in energy credit.

She has been with CCS for over 6 years, starting out as a relief worker in at the Eugene Community Service Center to help with the large number of utility assistance applicants her first year. The agency sent her to Springfield temporarily the following year, and she has been there since.

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Eugene, Oregon
97402
541-345-7424



A Catholic Charities and United Way Agency



Desk

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to serving our neighbors with careful stewarding of the resources you entrust to our care. You continue to be the foundation on which we stand.

God Bless.

Bonnie Duke

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"I love my job!" Bonnie exclaims. "Things can get nuts, and sometimes people are not at their best, but there are so many great people that I get to meet."

Bonnie's warm and friendly approach to

the work she does with participants colors her growing leadership in the agency. She chairs the Diversity Committee, a group dedicated to insuring respectful policies and practices in the services CCS provides, in its relationship with its employees, and in its partnership with the larger Lane County community. Recently, she accepted the responsibility as the agency's Network Administrator. She enjoys working with computers and is eager to develop her skills to support staff as they make work adjustments in response to new technology.

Before making a job change into social service work, Bonnie worked as a cake decorating instructor for Wilton Industries for 12 years. No surprise that her colleagues look forward to what Bonnie is bringing to staff potlucks during the year! Bonnie commutes to Springfield each day, living in Elmira with her husband of 38 years, "Duke". Bonnie and Duke have two daughters and two grandchildren, a boy and a girl.

EVENT VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

to help plan an unforgettable evening on **July 12, 2007**, when Catholic Community Services will hold its **Annual Dinner/Auction** to benefit the needy.

There are a variety of jobs and a variety of time commitments available, including decorations, food, entertainment, and invitations.

For more information or to sign up contact Catholic Community Services

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