



pacsfacts

January/February/March 2010 Volume 14, Issue 1

Keeping PACS in Its Place

PACS, PACS, PACS. It is so easy to ramble on about ourselves and forget that our mission is not about us at all. It's about helping others.

In the PACS Facts we will talk about numbers and data sometimes. But we must remember that each number has a person behind it with a unique story.

A volunteer told me just the other day. "I'm looking for a job, I need one badly. But I'm almost tempted to hope that I don't get one because I love volunteering at PACS so much. That's what is holding me together right now."

I'm tempted to hope the

same because I don't want to lose her. She's a huge help here. But we hope and pray that she finds a job, and do what we can to help her in the meantime. She's not just a number on our volunteer list. She's a person with a real need.

Stories remind us that PACS exists to help others. Of course God places the desire in our hearts to help others that He loves too. Thank you for working with us and with God to make a difference.

—Paul L. Cole
Executive Director



Reality on Main St

Unemployment in Oregon remains high at 11%.

36% of those receiving emergency food help in Oregon are children.

Nearly 1 in 5 Oregonians are expected to need food stamp assistance by 2011. (Oregon DHS projections)

Upcoming Events

PACS is closed
President's Day
Sunday, Monday, Feb. 14, 15

PACS is closed
Easter
Friday - Sunday, April 2 - 4

Volunteer
Recognition Week
April 18 - 24

Awards Dinner & Auction
October 3, 2010, 5 p.m.

Food Insecurity Rises

With the state of the economy, we're not exactly surprised by increasing food problems.

The United States Department of Agriculture shows food insecurity increasing sharply to 16.4% in 2008, from 12.2% in 2007. That is the highest level in more than 10 years. These numbers probably increased further in 2009.

The damaging effects of this problem are very real to individual families.

We see the effects at PACS every day. The crowds get bigger. Tensions run higher. Children are

fussier. And there are so many children. Food insecurity affects families with children at a disproportionate rate.

Sometimes we feel helpless. We want the jobs to come back. While there's little we can do to make that happen, we can go the extra mile to provide basic food and health care. Please pray for our staff and volunteers as they continue to work extra hard to help others.



—Brian Vistaunet
Development Associate



A record 178 families received food help on Nov. 25, 2009.

2009 in Review

If you didn't see many news updates from PACS during 2009, it was not because we weren't busy.

In fact, 2009 was PACS busiest year on record. In the food pantry, 76,051 people received food help. The health clinic saw 1,310 patients, and the thrift store was visited by 211,272 shoppers.

In late July, Robert Hastings, a former board member of PACS,



Robert Hastings returns home to his wife Cynthia after completing his 6,000 mile Ride for Hunger.

embarked on a 6,000 mile motorcycle ride across America to raise awareness about the increased need for emergency services. The Ride for Hunger raised nearly \$5,000 to

help needy families through PACS.

To ensure adequate funding for increased community needs, PACS leadership took action to streamline expenses. Executive Director Paul L. Cole, set October as the target month to eliminate the mortgage on PACS' facilities, a \$7,000 monthly payment. With the help of many generous donors, the October goal was met. The mortgage document was burned ceremoniously at the Awards Dinner and Auction on October 18, six years before the scheduled payoff date.

On November 3, PACS lost a dear friend to a tragic accident. Bernie Paulson was the husband of



PACS volunteer manager Carol Paulson. The retired singing evangelist will always be remembered for his beautiful voice and sense of humor.

There has been joy and sadness, but God has been good. We thank Him and we thank you for all you have done to make a difference during these challenging times.

—Brian Vistaunet
Development Associate



Board members turned firefighters, John Korb and Rhonda Whitney let the mortgage burn.

About PACS

PACS follows Christ's example to meet the basic needs and restore the dignity of struggling individuals.

Hours

Food Pantry: 9 - 12 M-F

Health Clinic: Call for appt.

Thrift Store:
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. M-Thu
9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Fri
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sun

Portland Adventist Community Services

11020 NE Halsey St
Portland OR 97220
503.252.8500
PORTLANDACS.ORG

Prayer Requests

These are real concerns written down by needy individuals at PACS. Please remember them in your prayers. Names are changed to protect identity.

- Ellen—prayer for my family
- Loraine—health
- Randy—help finding a job and making rent
- Mark—job request please!
- Stephanie—please pray for me to get housing
- Alfred—depression
- Robbie—help in school
- Annette—spiritual strength

