

Needs List Varies Through the Winter

People always call around the holidays and want to get our needs list. It changes almost every day and we keep it updated on our website. However, during the holidays there are a few things we can always use. They are needed all the time. Listed are items in high demand:

- Bus Tickets
- Gift Cards for Target, Fred Meyer, Payless Shoes
- 30 Gallon Garbage Bags
- New Blankets and Pillows

Food items are usually changed on our needs list daily as we receive various amounts from grocery stores and donors. Also, we love receiving turkeys and hams during the holidays and store them in our freezer for use during the year.

Adopt a Family During the Holidays



We start receiving calls to adopt our families at the shelter in September. It's wonderful that the community is already looking for ways to help families staying at the shelter. The downside is this: We never know who will be living at the shelter at Christmas time until a few days before Christmas! Families are moving in and out all the time. Although people want to be specific, it's hard to give them names and ages until a week before Christmas. However, we have a

list of items that can be purchased for the holidays. Although they are generic, we generally allow the families to "shop" for their family and wrap the items the week before Christmas. This works well and families are happy to choose and wrap the gifts. It also makes things more equitable for everyone living in the shelter. No one family gets way more than another.

The Good Neighbor Center is a DBA of the East Washington County Shelter Partnership Council. We are a 501 (c)(3) organization.



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Tigard, Oregon 97223

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Supporting and Empowering Families

Good News

From the Good Neighbor Center

Volume 12 Issue 2

Winter 2011

New Executive Director Takes the Helm of Good Neighbor Center



After a three month search the Board of Directors has selected Jack Schwab as the new Executive Director of the Good Neighbor Center, replacing Sydney Webb, who is retiring after ten years at the helm. Board Chair Jim Strickler said, "As sorry as we are to lose Sydney, we are pleased that our process led us to Mr. Schwab."

Jack and his family have been members of the community since 1981. For fourteen years he practiced law with Charles McClure in downtown Tigard. More recently, he worked as a professional administrator and fundraiser for several organizations, including Northwest Medical Teams, Holt International Children's Services, the World Forestry Center, and the University of Portland. He also teaches part time at Mount Hood Community College. Jack is a past president of the Tigard Area Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Rotary Club of Tigard, 1993 First Citizen of Tigard, and former interim Mayor of Tigard. Jack also was instrumental in establishing the first Severe Weather shelter in Tigard in 1995.

"Jack and I have been friends for more than thirty years," said Sydney. "Having Jack on board to continue the mission of the Good Neighbor Center is wonderful. I am looking forward to retirement and confident that Jack has the skills to take GNC to a whole new level of excellence."

Mr. Schwab started the first of October. Ms. Webb is set to retire after the board meeting in November.

Need Our Address?

We have a secure mailbox at the Tigard Post Office. Our mailing address is:

**Good Neighbor Center
P.O. Box 230878
Tigard, OR 97281-0878**

Private Donations Needed

As the economy sputters and falls, so have the private donations to Good Neighbor Center. This last year was the first year we have collected less than \$70,000 in donations by individuals and families. We need to bring the numbers up. We are going to use our website and social media to reach out to more "friends of Good Neighbor Center".

Although our newsletter will start being published online instead of expensive mailings, we are hoping that people will remember us in their annual giving cycle. People can donate online through our website, send a check in the mail or stop by GNC and receive a receipt on the spot. No amount is too small. With help from supporters, we can be back over \$70,000!

Family Shares Their Story of Homelessness to Success

The Roberts Family Story
(in their own words)

When we first moved to Oregon, times were already proving to be difficult. Even though I was able to get an apartment, it would prove to be too much to keep up with. I am a single mother of two wonderful boys, never got child support, and didn't have any family support as well. I wanted badly to better our lives and get a degree so I started going to PCC. I had to first get my GED, which I did, and then I started working on my prerequisites for x-ray technician. Well, as I juggled work, school, and being a single mother trying to be home for her boys, the bills became too much of a strain and my oldest was rebelling. I was spreading myself out too thin and needed to be at home with my boys. I also had to do something before I got another eviction on my record. God knows I didn't want that again. I had nowhere to go and was losing everything, my job, our belongings (although not much), had to quit school, and my oldest son was running away for the first time. My heart was broken and I was scared. I felt I had nowhere to turn and was on my own.

I called a help line and was told about the Good Neighbor Center. I put myself and my youngest on a waiting list and prayed we would get a call. My oldest son decided he wanted to stay with his

friend instead of the shelter and I was ok with that because he really liked the school he was going to. I got a call about two and a half weeks later and was told to come in. I had no one to help me move anything in a very short time frame, so most of what we did have was now given away or thrown away. I went in and was approved to stay at the shelter. We literally walked in with one suitcase of clothes. While we were there, we were treated kindly and with respect. We did our chores and were glad to do so. I went to classes there during the day and also was job searching. My son went to a school close by the shelter. They had table of things to pick from that we were able to get clothes, toys and house hold goods to keep. I soon got a job at a salon and was working with staff to find an apartment for all three of us. The shelter paid for my deposit and when we left, we had a U-Haul full of furniture, beds, bedding, clothes, and dishes. My oldest son came home and I was thrilled!! The nightmare was over and we were all together. I was able to pay my rent and had confidence in myself again. We were mightily blessed from the Good Neighbor Center and we will never forget it. I have recommended GNC to many others I learned were in some trouble with being homeless and alone. The staff there is SO understanding, and caring. They truly made a difference that we are forever grateful for.

Editor Note: *The Roberts family has remained in permanent housing and Mom has remained employed. Mom has donated to the shelter and remains in contact with staff. Stories like these are what drives our mission to give a hand up, not a hand out.*

Check out our Website for Information on:

- Volunteering
- Current Needs List
- Newsletter
- Donating

www.goodneighborcenter.org

From My View

by Sydney Webb
Executive Director

After 11 years of writing the GNC newsletter, I am down to my last "From My View". It comes with mixed emotions.

I am thrilled with the hiring of Jack Schwab as the new Exec. Director. We have served together in the Tigard Chamber and Rotary Club of Tigard for many years together. He is just the man we need to take the shelter to a new level of professionalism and fund raising. Jack comes with a substantial background in legal and fund raising.

I am a little sad in that I am leaving behind a great staff whose dedication to helping the homeless is beyond reproach. They all have their own stories and I love each one of them for being so dedicated.

When a president leaves office, you wonder if he is really excited to be on his way to his "normal" life. I can assure you that I never had the pressure of a president, but I can tell you that I am relieved to be moving into my next career as a "retired community volunteer and activist". The pressure of making sure GNC was taken care of is now in good hands. Although I don't intend to write a memoir, if I had kept notes, I could have written a book of stories that everyone would have thought was fiction but was true!

Many thank yous and shout-outs go to the community and volunteers who have showed up and helped us get this non-profit on a solid ground. When I started, it was as a board member and none of the board had ever run a shelter, but through our collective experience, we have grown and made our shelter a great place for families to stay. I would like to thank all those current and former board members and volunteers for all their support and help. We kept our focus on our mission and helped a lot of families who still stop by to say hello. As a former board member Max Williams once said, "If we help one family overcome their homelessness, we have been successful." I can't agree more. Thank you all for making this career one of my proudest accomplishments.

Halloween a Blast at GNC

Since the opening of the shelter, Halloween has been one of those special days for celebrating and having a party. Over the years, many volunteers and organizations have contributed to providing costumes, prizes and dinner for residents on Halloween. This year was no different. Below are pictures of many "characters" who attended the party. Thank you Heidi Anderson, Colette Gilles, Angela Porter and volunteers who provided the "spirit of Halloween" for the event.



The website address for GNC is:
www.goodneighborcenter.org

GNC Receives First Estate Gift

William Frahler was a long time supporter of GNC. Each month he would deliver a check for the center and also bring extra goodies he received in the mail. He was genuinely concerned about homeless families. He always asked how things were going and wished us the best. Bill hated for people to be down on their luck.

This September, we received a check from the estate of William (Bill) Frahler. It is the first such gift from an estate.

It's very easy to put Good Neighbor Center in your will and we're hoping that more people will do that in the future. You can write out your own instructions, but visiting with an attorney can assure you have the right legal wording and instructions. Thank you Bill and thanks to your family for taking care of your wishes!

Foundations Make Contributions

This summer we received two foundation donations to GNC. One was from longtime supporter, Kinsman Foundation in the amount of \$10,000 that was used for general unrestricted uses.

Another donation for the Children's Program for \$10,000 came from the Lamb Foundation. It is a two year grant to assist our Children's Program. The grant is intended to keep our Summer School Program and our Homework Club Program funded for the next two years. The programs are targeted to the children at the shelter and the Summer School program also includes those children living in the area that have stayed at the shelter.

This fall we also applied and received a grant from the Macy's Foundation. Their contribution of \$1000 is being used for general unrestricted uses.

Throughout the year we also receive matching grants from foundations through their employee giving program. This is a great way to leverage donations. Thank you Microsoft, Tektronix, Standard, Macy's, Nike and Mentor Graphics. If you want to leverage your donation, check and see if there is a "matching option" at your place of work.