

## Facebook Contest Nets Seattle's Best Coffee



Sabrina Tirado, staff member at GNC, decided to nominate GNC for a coffee room makeover sponsored by HGTV and Seattle's Best Coffee. In April, we received word that we were one of four finalists in the USA! We needed to have people "like" us on Facebook and vote on Seattle's Best Coffee's website. Unfortunately we didn't win the \$5000 and coffee room makeover, but we got \$500 in

Seattle's Best Coffee for the shelter. For GNC, it was a great experience and our first attempt at using the social media to get the word out to have people vote for us. Each month we are learning more and will continue to use the web for fundraising and also for keeping people informed about activities that are happening at the shelter.

## A Ride and A Night Out on the Town



Every three months, Grand Central Bowl in Portland dispenses a limousine and picks up GNC families for an evening of food and fun. Residents get a chance to

be treated to pizza and then they get to bowl. "It's really something special," says Heidi Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator. "Riding in the limo gets everyone excited and then the evening begins. The children love the ride and the parents can take their family out to some place special and forget that they are living in a homeless shelter," continues Heidi.

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

# Good News

From the Good Neighbor Center



supporting and empowering families

Volume 12 Issue 1

Summer 2011

## Summerfield Ladies Golf Charity Steps Up to Help GNC Once More



From L-R: Juan Carlos, Jim Webb, Sydney Webb, Sandy Brewer, Chair of Summerfield Ladies Golf Charity Event, Michelle Bashaw-Reber. Juan and Michelle gave a short testimony about their stay at the Good Neighbor Center.

When Sandy Brewer called to inform Sydney Webb that the Summerfield Ladies Golf Charity had selected GNC as the recipient again this year, Sydney knew that it was a miracle. This was the third year that the Summerfield Ladies have chosen GNC and that is very special. GNC's board stepped up to help find items for the silent auction and there were two former residents at the banquet to talk about how their lives were changed after they left the shelter. "Those ladies are so gracious and work so hard to make this tournament a success, it's fun to be a part of the excitement," said Sydney. At the end of the dinner, Sandy presented GNC with a check for \$9500! Hooray for the Summerfield Ladies!

## Blue Sky Web Design Picks GNC for Creative Assist

Rich Mayo intended to retire, but got involved in website design and fundraising online. Since then, his company has picked a nonprofit every year to assist. This last fall, he started working with GNC to get us into the cyber realm so that we can reach more volunteers and donors. Heidi Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator has taken on the task of getting us on Facebook and is learning to maintain our website. Next steps are now creating a video and also getting our newsletter online. The team at Blue Sky has been a great resource and in a few more months we will be able to reach out to donors and volunteers with up-to-date information and opportunities to assist the shelter. Thank you Blue Sky Web Design!

## Summer School Underway

Colette Gillies and Katie Hysell did their homework this last winter and landed free tickets to several venues for our Summer School Program. However, when June rolled around there were only a couple of school age children at the shelter. The population of clients at the shelter has been surprising with the numbers of children equal to last year, but ages mostly under five.

"When you plan for Summer School, you use the numbers from the year before," explains Colette. "However, this is the first year we have had only a couple of eligible students. Last year we averaged 8-10 children per week." However, this hasn't stopped the enthusiasm. Children attending the program have had field trips to the Zoo, OMSI, and the Japanese Gardens. Also included were trips to nature parks and swimming at the nice warm pool in King City!

East Washington County Shelter Partnership Council, Inc.

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**Client Manager**  
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**House Coordinator**  
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The council meets the fourth Thursday of the month. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Address: 11130 SW Greenburg Rd.  
 Tigard, Oregon 97223  
 Phone: 503-443-6084

Website:  
[www.goodneighborcenter.org](http://www.goodneighborcenter.org)

## 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**



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## Jumping to New Heights

When Sky High Sports opened up across the street from GNC, they were great new neighbors. They introduced themselves and wanted to figure out a way for the kids at the shelter to have the opportunity to participate for free. Working with Heidi Anderson, Volunteer Coordinator, they arranged for the children to come once a month. However, because there were just a few kids each week, they decided to make Sky High Sports available to the school age children once a week. Since then, children have been jumping once a week.



Not only did Sky High provide the resource for our kids to jump, but they did a one day fundraiser that brought in \$869! The picture of the staff with the check shows the enthusiasm of the staff in helping with the fundraiser. Currently, they are helping with a drive for socks and underwear for back to school for our kids. Thanks, Sky High!

## Rotary Club of Tigard Assists with Back to School Backpacks and Shoes

For the 10th year, the Rotary Club of Tigard is making sure that the students at the Good Neighbor Center are heading off to school prepared. Not only did they raise money to buy backpacks and supplies, but they provided gift cards for shoes for each one of the kids. Children who are former residents of the shelter and are in housing locally, also are receiving the backpacks. This generous donation saves parents approximately \$150.00 for each child.

"It's important for the students to go to school prepared and have some new items," says Colette Gillies, Student/Parent Advocate at GNC. "Children who are homeless just want to be like everyone else and not be singled out as 'different'."

On August 25th, there was a pizza party at a local church with pizza donated by Pizza Caboose for those children not at the shelter. Then, on Sept. 1st, children at the shelter had a similar party and



received their backpacks and shoe gift cards.

Other donations for the backpacks have come from generous drives by the Unity Church of Beaverton and St. Cecelia's Church. In addition, many generous shoppers picked up extra items from sales and brought them to the shelter.

## From My View

by Sydney Webb  
Executive Director

*Since helping the shelter get up and running in 1999, I have written the newsletter. There are plenty of subjects to write about and plenty of issues. In fact, I spend time rewriting this column several times before going to press.*

*My career began when I received an Associate Degree in Commercial Illustration in the 70's. Since that time I have learned to do graphics in three different media! It is getting harder to teach this old dog new tricks! As I write this newsletter, I am contemplating how I will learn this next reiteration of formatting. The "new way" is all done in cyberspace. So I will learn another way of doing graphics and complete this newsletter so you will be getting one in the mail and you will also be receiving one online. But as we look to ways to cut costs, there will probably only be one more coming via your mailbox. Time to move on.*

*Speaking of moving on. News of my retirement is spreading from friends, to colleagues and soon to the media. Retirement was never a word in my vocabulary! The idea of not working at a job wasn't what I ever dreamed about.*

*Enter my husband Jim. He was at a place in his life where he could retire and move to Oregon to be with me. He has encouraged me to keep doing what I am comfortable with. As I listen to him talk about his golf game of the day, talk about visiting with our kids and talk about all the things we can do when I retire, I finally decided it was time. This spring we purchased a house in Arizona so we can escape the cold and rain. I think we are now officially called "snowbirds". As the end of the year approaches, my apprehension has vanished. Although I will miss the staff who are incredible at running the shelter, I will look forward to finding a nonprofit that can use my energy and talents for volunteering to help those who need a hand up.*

*For my last request, I am asking you to donate to the Good Neighbor Center. We truly need donations of money.*

## Fundraiser by Eagles #4 Club Nets \$\$

Heidi Anderson from GNC is presented a check for \$560 from Kelly Archer, President of the Ladies Auxiliary of Eagles Club #4 in Tigard, Oregon. Each year the Eagles Ladies Auxiliary raises money for charity. This is the third year in a row that GNC has been the recipient.



## Staff Helps Staff Garlic Festival Booth

Tigard Knights of Columbus does a lot of fundraising activities and every year they bring a check to the shelter. This year, two staff members, Heidi Anderson and Rose Browning volunteered to help man the booth at the Garlic Festival for Knights of Columbus. During their shift they served 309 chicken dinners! Pictured below is the group that worked on Saturday, Aug. 13th.



The website address for GNC is:  
[www.goodneighborcenter.org](http://www.goodneighborcenter.org)

## Former Residents Tell Their Story

Two former residents have been so successful after their stay at GNC, they have been willing to have interviews and they both volunteered to speak to a large group at a fundraiser. Michelle and Juan Carlos have different stories but the same ending. Both are an inspiration with their stories of overcoming homelessness and having stable homes now.

Michelle tells of living on her own and having a job. She has a fiance, but found herself pregnant. As she experienced complications from the pregnancy, she found herself moving from apartment to apartment with friends who were less than enthused about her living with them and having a baby. She couldn't move home to her parents as they are both alcoholics and her brother, a convicted felon, lives with them. She feared for her safety and had moved from that situation. She got on the waiting list and was able to come in to the shelter four weeks before she delivers a healthy son. As Michelle explains, "I attended classes in Life Skills, Rent Well and Safe Relationships. With the help of the staff and these classes, I realized I had all the potential to become successful. I have been able to move in with my fiance, I have had a job (got laid off recently) and am now in a good position to be a great mom. My dreams have come true!"

Juan Carlos has been featured in a couple of newspaper stories about his success at overcoming homelessness to become a chef, homeowner and now a business owner. Juan found himself homeless and had his daughter taken away. To get his daughter back, he became a chef, found housing and eventually bought a house. His newest adventure is even more compelling since he bought his new restaurant without a loan! Juan credits much of his success to the classes he attended while living in the shelter. He said that learning how to budget and save changed his life dramatically. He has a fiancee, saved money and now is his own boss. Although his success can be attributed to his positive outlook and 'can-do attitude', Juan wants to point out that the Good Neighbor Center treated him with respect and helped him realize he had the power to do everything himself.

Both of these former residents have inspired those around them with their stories about how they overcame homelessness and discovered that they could do anything if they put their mind to it. Since first starting to write this story, Juan has done a remodel at this restaurant called JJ Delizioso and Michelle had two interviews for jobs. She is also starting to make plans for a wedding this next year.