

*A publication of McMinnville Cooperative Ministries
McMinnville United Methodist ~ Trinity Lutheran*

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A year of Living Compassionately

What has the Community Compassion Fund been up to in 2009?

In January we helped Yamhill County count the homeless – we were the drop-in site with the most number of people counted! This was an important step in determining level of services needed.

From January through March, we hosted a day warming center for the homeless – providing food, games, hospitality and friendship.

In February we participated in the County's Homeless Connects Event – to connect the homeless with services such as haircuts, DHS, medical care, employment office, legal aid, etc. The CCF was publicly acknowledged for producing a comprehensive community resource directory. Thanks to CCF volunteer Hanna DeMaster, the directory is also now available in Spanish.

Every Monday we host the Community Compassion Brown Baggers – a group of sixty churches, organizations and public agencies that meet to pray and to plan how to fill resource gaps in the community. Of course we all remain connected via email throughout the week to help prevent fraud from scammers and to locate resources to fill gaps. A partial list of our community partners is on our website (<http://www.mac-coop.org/ccf.php>). One cannot say enough wonderful things about the power of community to bring about change in our community.

In March, the Logos youth blessed the CCF and other local front line ministries with four x 50 gallon bags of toilet paper kits. Why toilet paper? Would you believe that food stamps cannot be used to purchase this important product?

In April, Candace began writing monthly newsletter articles about compassionate living. This series covers a wide range of topics about how we are serving (or how we might begin to serve) the less fortunate in our community.

In May we helped avert a housing crisis by writing to our congressmen about the 54 families who were about to lose their housing vouchers.

We are known as a place that is friendly to the homeless. On any given day this past spring, you would have seen several homeless folks debating the Sunday sermon notes provided in a holder in the hallway.

In July we helped launch the county's new social services hotline: 211. To date there are 94 agencies listed who are providing 157 services to Yamhill County residents. The Community Compassion Fund is second only to Saint Vincent DePaul in the number of referrals, ahead of the Salvation Army and YCAP. This is surprising since we are a second tier organization – only filling gaps left by the main social service providers.

In November the quilters started providing the CCF with quilts to give out to families in need. The first family to receive a set of these lovely quilts had three little children. Dad is on duty in Iraq and Mom is holding down the home front.

Compassionate Living

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100 Hygiene kits were created by the congregation under the organization of the Well Met team. These were given to the CCF and other local organizations that need them for their clients.

In December, the Linfield Employees Association and Students held a TP drive at one of the football games for the CCF. This gave us 95 rolls of TP to get out into the community.

In the arctic freeze of early December, we were the only organization in town to step up and provide a day-warming center.

We have become one of the last remaining places in town where a person who is out of work can get a bus pass to help look for work as far as the bus will take her (Salem, Newberg, Hillsboro and soon, Tigard).

What about the numbers? We gave out 117 monthly and 90 daily bus passes to help the unemployed find gainful employment.

We gave out \$25,000 to help 500 carefully screened and selected families and individuals – thereby preventing homelessness, helping families move into their first stable living situation, providing life saving prescriptions, heat during a cold snap, a hot water heater, a doctor visit, a car tire and several birth certificates and Oregon ID cards for employment purposes.

We have had many interesting Life conversations with clients, including hundreds about living a more simplified life, practicing gratitude as a way of life, and finding God in all of the messiness of life. We gave out an economic tip sheet to over 500 folks to give them various options for cutting expenses.

The CCF is organized by the CCF Ministry Team of Terry Hall, Candace Keillor, Lyle Pehan, Ron Pittman and Joyce Wolcott.

Our faithful intake volunteers are Bill Wood, Cathy Long, Karen Hartsock and Jeanne Rahier. They are backed up by our front office staff person, Jenn Brewer. These brave souls provide one of the most valuable services to our community – they listen. True, they also help clients fill out our application form, but mainly they listen compassionately to people in great distress. By so doing, they relieve some of that angst that is prevalent in our community these days due to unemployment and illness (fear of H1N1). If we relieve the pressure from just one person – who knows how many other folks might be affected? That person's family, friends, others they meet at the grocery store? A little kindness goes a long way.

We could not do this ministry without all of you, our faithful donors, prayer partners, and volunteers!

To find out more about the Community Compassion Fund and how you can become involved, visit our table during the Ministry Fair in the Social Hall on Sunday, January 10,th or our website at <http://www.mac-coop.org/ccf.php>. We look forward to serving with you in 2010!

Attitude of Gratitude

Dear Coop,

Thank you for your continued generous support to McMinnville Area Habitat for Humanity. Your recently received check will be credited to the Apostle Build which will help offset construction costs that are still coming in. We appreciate the financial and volunteer support we regularly receive from you. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a committed body of support from the church community. You truly set the standard for participation and support whether it be financial or through volunteers who are members of your church. We look forward to a continued partnership with your congregation.

– Marianne Mills, Executive Director, Mac Habitat for Humanity.

Dear Supporters,

Please accept our appreciation for your recent donation to Lutheran Community Services NW of Yamhill County. This donation will help us continue to provide sliding scale counseling and parent education in Yamhill County. On behalf of LCSNW staff, board and the individuals who benefit from our services every year, I want to sincerely thank you for your continued generosity and support. Your gifts are making a positive difference in our community.

In Peace – Jordan Robinson, LCSNW Director

Let's get to the bottom of this...

- Have you ever felt "Pampered?"
- Has someone showed you the Luvs?
- Do you appreciate the warm and friendly Huggies you get from others?



People in our community with babies and toddlers who are getting assistance with their monthly food bill are having trouble financially keeping their children in diapers and keeping an adequate supply of wipes. Food stamps and WIC coupons cannot be used for purchasing these types of necessities.

Please bring new J diapers and wipes and place them in the food drive containers during the month of January. Size 4 and 5 diapers are especially needed. These items will be distributed appropriately via the Community Compassion program. If it is easier for you to donate money, please mark your contributions "Soft Baby Bottom" fund.

Any questions? Contact Michael or Laura Hampton, 503.472.4243, or lmzhampton@verizon.net

Sue Buel needs for January

We are continuing to collect hats and gloves for the children at Sue Buel during these cold months. We continue to need snacks as well. Financially we are still supporting the school uniform fund. The Change the World Offering for January is being designated for a fund to meet special needs of the students such as buying glasses, shoes, etc. In December, the boy scouts donated 40 boxes of snacks. The women's groups from both congregations provided money to purchase coats for children who needed them. We also purchased toys and clothes for children on the giving tree. Thank you to all of you for your support of this partnership.



M&M Ministry Spotlight

Inspired today to love and serve all people in restoring all of creation to God's loving embrace.

Dale Dehm visited with M & M in December to tell us about the garden ministry. Dale told us the idea of a garden came about when he lost his farm, but not his desire to watch food grow. He had thought it would eventually develop into a community garden but that hasn't materialized yet. Dale sees the garden as God's gift to the people of the church and YCAP who distributes the produce to local families in need. 5300 pounds of food were grown this past year. At about 50 cents a pound, that equates to \$2,650 worth of fresh, nutritious veggies! Each year Dale experiments to find ways to grow more food. He doesn't want to use chemicals and though he rotates the crops each year, he is concerned that the ground needs a rest. One thought is to let the land lie fallow for a year. Another thought is to cultivate a second area and then rotate the crops. When we asked what MCM could do to help him with this ministry, he said he would love to see a steering committee formed to organize the community garden. If you're interested, please contact Dale (503-472-2955). He is very passionate about this ministry and would love to talk with you about it.

We will continue to help grow this ministry through our support of time, talent and finances.

Women's Retreat

Sisters in Community: around the world, locally and in our own small groups we are sisters, sharing joys and sorrows, challenges and blessings. How do we make the burdens lighter for one another and the celebrations more glorious? Come to women's retreat and see . . . January 29th through 31st At Camp Magruder. Cost is \$65 (scholarships available).

Advance Planning: Book discussion

One of the special activities offered will be a book discussion, Saturday afternoon, on the book *Half the Sky*, by Nicholas Kristof. If you are interested in participating in this discussion, please read the book before Retreat weekend.

Registrations forms available on the literature tables at the church, in the office, or at www.mac-coop.org. For more info, please contact Susan Dehm (sdehm@onlinemac.com). Registration forms may be turned in at the Church office or mailed to Susan.