



Compassionate Living

A newsletter of the Community Compassion Fund of McMinnville Cooperative Ministries

The CCF is organized on behalf of McMinnville Cooperative Ministries by the ministry team of Terry Hall, Candace Keillor, Lyle Pehan, Ron Pittman and Joyce Wolcott. Please visit our website at <http://www.mac-coop.org/ccf.php>.

A NOTE OF THANKS...

“To: The CoOp & contributors to the Community Compassion Fund,

In times of difficulty we all like to know we have those who love and support us. Given the current economic climate, it is especially warming to know that complete strangers are willing to give of themselves and their resources.

Had it not been for the recent financial support I received from you to help pay my rent I would probably no longer be able to continue living in my home of the past six years.

To all who contribute, and lend their support to those truly in need, I thank you. With heartfelt thanks,

– A CCF client”

Helping those most in need

By Candace Keillor

“To Whom It May Concern,

It has just come to my attention that McMinnville Cooperative Ministries, the church to which I regularly and faithfully contribute my hard-earned dollars every week, has this thing they call a Community Compassion Fund. Isn't this just a nice way of saying they're taking my money and handing it out to the first person who walks through the door with a phony hard-luck story? I say this is a waste of good money. What say you?

Signed, Pinching Pennies in Yamhill County”

Dear Penny,

I understand your concern. But never fear. The Community Compassion Fund is intended to help only the poorest of the poor in our community. We are very careful about whom we assist. You might be interested to know something about our verification process for screening potential clients.

When people apply for assistance, they sign a Release of Information Waiver, which allows us to send their names through our community-wide network, to find out who else may have helped them and to learn more about their current situation. We check the applications against our own extensive database as well as the archives at the News-Register. We contact parole officers, landlords, utility companies, and other agencies. We require a job search record from those who request a bus pass. We check all references including other churches. Only after this process is complete can the applicant be recommended for assistance.

Then the partnership process begins. This means that if the client needs more assistance than the CCF can afford, we arrange for other donors throughout the community to chip in and help. (Don't overestimate the amount of money you and your friends are giving to the CCF, Penny—donations have to be specifically designated, or they don't get to us.) Once funds from all our partners are secured and disbursed to the landlord, utility company or whatever, the client is given information on money management and referred to any agencies, churches or other resources that may help her get back on her feet.

You can be confident that the Community Compassion Fund sees to it that your generous donations go only to those who are truly in need, those we are sure you yourself would feel good about helping. Thank you for your interest, and please continue giving generously to this vital ministry of hope!

“Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” – Matthew 25:40