



In this Issue:

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- Continuing to introduce Department Heads and Members of Board of Directors
- Donations and Fundraising Activities—Past and Future
- A section for and about our everyday volunteers who literally keep the Kitchen, Closet, Produce Stand, Pantry and all areas running smoothly

La Pine Community Kitchen

From the Kitchen provides specialized information to our volunteers, the Board of Directors, donors, potential donors, and other interested parties.

Executive Director's Message

You hear the news on TV and radio and you see it in the newspaper: 34% of Oregon families are currently receiving unemployment benefits. Here in Central Oregon, unemployment reached 16%, and our number of homeless citizens is growing. We do not have to convince you that this economic downturn has had a damaging effect on many in our community.

Amidst the current economic crisis, requests for emergency food have been escalating across the state as well as here in our own back yard. This year, we have seen a 43% increase in the demand for our services; and our donations and fundraisers, along with those for other non-profits in Central Oregon, have been impacted. So far, as a whole, we've been able to meet the increase in need, but there have been days when we've been forced to close our Pantry because supplies are depleted due to the increased demand.

We would not have been able to do what we have without your generous donations, hard work and dedication. I want to thank every volunteer here at the Kitchen for all that you do to serve your neighbors in need and to remind you that this Kitchen would not be here without you.

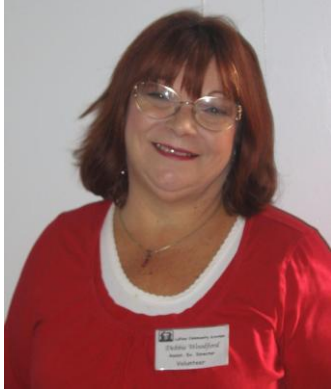
On a personal note, I would like to thank the Community Kitchen Board of Directors for their hard work and for the assistance they have given me this year. We've gone through some major changes—changes that were not always easy—but changes for the betterment of the Community Kitchen. On January 3rd, we will be starting our ninth year! Working together with board members, volunteers, and support from our community, we all can make the La Pine Community Kitchen a place of warmth and safety for all who come here.

Numbers Since Last Newsletter

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Meals Served	1293	1288	1512	1422	1396	1232
Food Boxes Distributed	195	187	195	194	248	202
Clothing Items	314	341	1159	128	1061	**

** Numbers not available

Department Heads and Board Members

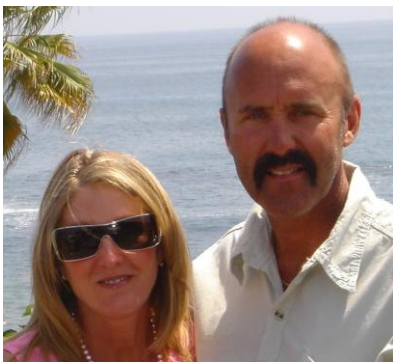


Assistant Executive Director Debbie Woodford and her husband Steve moved to La Pine only 14 months ago, and within 2 months, she was already volunteering at the Kitchen. She's been promoted to Assistant Executive Director, and what a Godsend her services have been for everyone who works in any job anywhere around the Kitchen . . . and especially for Chris Riggs who recently was able to take a week's vacation, and to feel confident that everything would still be running smoothly when she returned.

Debbie and Steve have 3 grown children, and they're blessed with 6 grandchildren. Debbie says that not living quite as close to those grandchildren as they did while they lived in the Eugene-Cottage Grove area is about the only complaint she has about living here.

Debbie has done cooking in restaurants and catering services most of her adult life; and before she retired, she was cooking for sorority or fraternity houses at the UO campus in Eugene. All of that experience is to our benefit, and compliments continue to pour in regarding the tasty meals being served at the Kitchen these days.

When **Eldy and Carol Swendsen** moved from Yamhill County to La Pine 2 years ago, it seemed only natural that this newly-retired couple would end up working hard to help those less fortunate.



After their marriage 13 years ago, Carol kept busy raising their 4 children while Eldy ran his own company (Swendsen Concrete). However, prior to their marriage, Carol sat on the Allocation Committee of the United Way, along with volunteering for other non-profit organizations and political campaigns.

Wanting to help in her new community, Carol responded to an ad in the **Frontier Advertiser** asking for volunteers at the Kitchen. She worked helping the cooks, serving, and cleaning. Seeing a need, she recommended that Eldy be asked to join the Board because of his construction experience. In addition to lending his expertise on various projects, Eldy makes frequent trips to pick up tons of supplies at a NeighborImpact distribution center in Redmond.

Shortly after Eldy joined the Board, Carol followed and she promptly became very active, especially helping coordinate volunteer activities, then joining the grant-writing committee, chairing the fundraising committee, and being elected Vice President of the Board when a vacancy occurred.

"When asked "Why the Community Kitchen?" Carol's response was, "because my family were recipients of food baskets when I was a child." We're extremely lucky that our Kitchen is one of her special projects within the La Pine Community.

What One Woman Started and How Our Community Responded . . . Never underestimate the power of only one person. A few weeks ago, our Pantry was bare; there was enough food for only one box to be given out on the next scheduled Pantry day just 2 days away. Carol Swendsen attended a Christmas Basket Committee Meeting Wednesday evening and mentioned how distressed she was because no one would be able to receive food on Friday as the shelves were bare and there wasn't enough money in our treasury to buy food. Generous committee members handed cash and checks to Carol, and they told friends and neighbors of our plight. Carol mentioned the food shortage when she went to a beauty salon . . . again, more checks and cash; and then, during the next 2 days, the wonderful people of La Pine started showing up at the Kitchen with bags and boxes full of food, and checks and cash continued to come in. Some Board members were attending a Leadership workshop, and Jim Fleming needed his truck to haul the generous donations of cans and boxes to the Kitchen. By the end of the weekend—in only 4 days—the Kitchen had taken in almost 1,000 pounds of food and approximately \$2,000 in cash and checks. **Thank you** to all who heard of our distress and thanks for telling others and for helping your less-fortunate neighbors . . . and thanks Carol for starting the ball rolling.

What Else is Happening?

Grant-Writing Committee – Chair Frank Schultz reports

The Grant-Writing Committee prepared and submitted nine grant proposals requesting more than \$75,000 in external funds from government and private agencies in 2009. Six of the nine proposals were funded (with one pending), which provided more than \$38,000 in income to the Kitchen. These resources are essential to the mission of the Kitchen in meeting the needs of the citizens in our community. We are grateful for the efforts of the Grant-Writing Committee and for the support of our donors.

Fundraising Committee – Chair Carol Swendsen reports



Riders head out on the trail for the Poker Ride

Our largest fundraising event this year was a Tack Swap Meet and Poker Ride held at Ghost Rock Ranch in June. There were 73 riders with additional people who attended for the swap meet. We raised a total of \$3,346, and we also collected 350 pounds of canned goods.

Our food booth at Frontier Days brought in \$640 plus an additional \$87 from sales of tee shirts left from the Poker Ride.

Other events, including a Business Fair, a recycling program, fundraisers at All about Me, Bronze Beach, Hair Nook and a Kitchen breakfast plus additional personnel helping with the Cascade Lakes Relay have brought in additional non-perishable food items and more than \$3,000. Just this past week, we made over \$700 when Debbie and her crew catered a dinner to honor those who worked on the La Pine Streetlight project sponsored by the Ford Foundation.

Volunteer Recognition



Our Volunteer of the Month for June was Joanne Barham, who started working at the Kitchen a little over a year ago; she helps wherever she's needed 2 days each week. She and her husband Clay have been in the La Pine area for 5-1/2 years, after moving from California and Nevada. Joanne previously did volunteer work with her local PTA while her children were in school, and she and Clay provide a foster home for retired greyhounds. We're glad that she's chosen the Kitchen as the place to spend her time, and visitors are always glad to see her smiling face.

No Photo Available

The men and women of the The La Pine Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints were July's Volunteers of the Month. This dedicated group of volunteers—not always the same people every week—are totally responsible for food preparation, serving, and cleanup every Thursday. What a blessing these generous people are for our Kitchen and for our community.

Our Volunteer-of-the-Month program was discontinued in August, as it was becoming increasingly difficult to choose only one outstanding volunteer each month. In the future, all volunteers will be honored at a dinner each year. Watch newsletters and the bulletin board for the date and time of the 2010 dinner.

Board of Directors

Elected Officers

Jim Fleming President
Carol Swendsen Vice Pres.
Sheila O'Malley Secretary
Clyde Evans Treasurer

Members-at-Large

Fred Crouch
Marjorie Proffitt
Del Rothrock
Frank Schultz
Lois Schultz
Eldy Swendsen
Jennifer Wells

Ex-Officio Members

Chris Riggs Exec. Director

Monthly Calendar

Table with 3 columns: Activity, Time, and Day. Includes Lunch Hours, Emergency Food Boxes, Produce, Pet Food, Closet Hours, Volunteer Meeting, Board Meeting, Department Head Staff Meeting, and NeighborImpact Meeting.

Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming Events

- Thursday December 31 4:00 p.m. Bend's First 1000 Lights Walk
Saturday June 5, 2010 LPCK Benefit Poker Ride & Auction

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