



SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

Philomath Community Services INC

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As winter has finally come to a close, it is refreshing to see the new, bright green grass shoot towards the sun. Daffodils are in bloom, blossoms are appearing on the trees, and the end of rain jackets and heavy overcoats is in sight. At the same time, as old challenges are overcome, new ones arise. Please read on for our latest updates:

PCS Responds to the COVID-19 Virus Emergency

Philomath Community Services is definitely facing some challenges. Currently, our volunteer base is doing well, but we are limiting access to our facility to reduce the amount of possible exposures.

Linn Benton Food Share is our main source of quality products, and our gratitude to them is immense!

PCS is currently changing our style of operations in response to the COVID-19 virus. We're doing what we can to sanitize our work areas and practice the recommended hygiene protocols from the county, state and federal health authorities.

As of March 17, 2020, Philomath Food Bank has changed to a pre-packed box/bag system of food pickup at the door with a nice assortment of nonperishable foods, as well as fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy and meat. Bread is very limited. Food Bank offers monthly emergency food boxes.

Philomath Community Gleaners is changing to a pre-packed box/bag system this Saturday, March 21, with a nice assortment of non-perishable foods, and fresh produce, some dairy and meat as well. Bread, again, is very limited. Our Gleaners offer weekly food boxes during this emergency. Delivery service is already established for Adoptees (households unable to meet the monthly work requirements to be a Gleaner), but there may be more households who require food delivery to reduce their possible exposure to the virus.

New clients of Food Bank and new members of Gleaners will be welcomed and given food. We will follow-up on completing their applications as time and resources permit. Much of the population of Food Bank clients and Gleaner members are in the vulnerable age group.

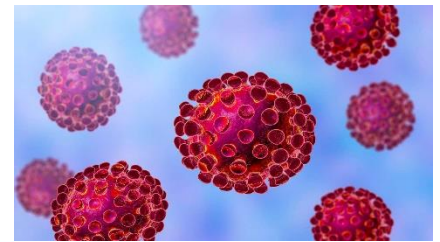
Our June's Kids Closet has closed as of March 12, until further notice to focus on the priority needs of our community. However, if there is an urgent need for something in the Closet that we can offer, client may contact me, Jean at 541-231-8871.

Lupe's Community Garden is planning to set some regular hours for volunteers to help get some exercise and do some productive gardening. Weeding and garden plot preparation are underway, and planting will soon take place. There will be a procedure to limit the number of volunteers so they can be spaced well. More on that when a plan is set.

PCS would like to be able to help our partner agencies as well, if the need arises. We would love to help anyone who needs food, but we would need emergency funding and sources of food for PCS to extend our services beyond our program commitments.

Please make it known that PCS is ready to help our community in this emergency situation in whatever capacity we are able, one day at a time.

We will get through this together! Keep well!



Plant Sale Postponed

The Sunday Plant Sale scheduled for April 5th at the Mary's River Grange (24707 Grange Hall Road in Philomath) has been postponed. Please keep your ears peeled for the new date. Proceeds will benefit Lupe's Community Garden of PCS. There will be many vegetable starts. Hopefully we will be able to come together and kickstart our gardens before too long!



Clothes-sorting Work Party

On January 20th, Coach Silva and the Philomath High School girls' basketball team volunteered at PCS, helping to sort clothing for June's Kids Kloset. The assistance from the team shaved months of work off of our efforts to reorganize our clothing storage area. The team was a great help in sorting through our entire stock of teen clothing, doing an amazing job in short order. It was a pleasure to have the team volunteer. Thank you!

Hygiene Items Donation

Sea-Bird Scientific in Philomath is a company with many talents, from developing sensors for measuring the ocean's properties to supplying key items to those in need. Seabird recently gifted PCS with 12 hygiene baskets, including lotion, deodorant, paper towels, laundry detergent, toothpaste, and toilet paper.



Call for Help!

As many people may be facing unemployment through the COVID-19 crisis, we warmly welcome any support in the form of individual monetary donations (no food, please, given the potential for contamination.) We are focusing our financial resources on basic needs, which is primarily food at this time. Donations are acceptable via check or PayPal at this link: <https://www.philomathcommunityservices.org/donation-page/>

Website Experience?

We are looking for support with our website management and other IT functions. If you think this is a good fit for you, please contact us vis our [online contact form](#) or email at volunteercoordinator@philomathcommunityservices.org.



Massive Donation: A Walk-in Fridge!

Heritage Natural Finishes, a new company to Philomath, has gifted our organization with a large walk-in refrigerator. This is an extremely valuable piece of equipment, which will enable Philomath Community Services to maximize the quantity and duration of our food storage. Photos show the unit disassembled on pallets.

Chris Workman, City Manager, suggested PCS to Autumn Peterson as a possible recipient of the cooler, and he engaged two city crewmen to accomplish the moving of the cooler, in pieces to a storage facility. Jake Thompson, of Thompson Timber graciously offered to store the unit in a warehouse for a few months while PCS finalizes plans and funding for the installation of the unit at the PCS facility at 360 South 9th Street. Thanks to all for a great collaboration of Philomath partnerships!



Samaritan Awards

Last month, we honored two of our volunteers at the 2020 Samaritan Awards held at the Philomath High School. Glenda (pic at bottom left) was awarded the 2020 Samaritan Award for her hard work volunteering with June's Kids Kloset. She is a smiling face in JKK that not only shows up twice a week to sort donations, but she takes clothes home to repair. Bardon (pic at bottom right) was awarded the Senior First Citizen award for his service to Philomath Community Services in various roles throughout the organization. **Congratulations** to you both!



✿ Have a wonderful spring! ✿

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