



## SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

Philomath Community Services (PCS)

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As the spring sunlight cuts through the clouds more strongly each week, our little pocket of the Willamette Valley seems to awaken in vivid color—cherry blossoms, daffodils, crocuses, and daisies paint West Benton County and the surrounding region. Isn't Philomath charming?

At Philomath Community Services (PCS), we are inspired by this season's renewed energy as we continue our commitment to provide locally-based basic needs programs to sustain healthy, resilient individuals, families and communities. Thank you for being part of this mission and for being *People Helping People*! Here is a snapshot recent efforts and updates:

### Fresh Leadership

Last Spring, we introduced Jodi Russell, who we are proud to announce has stepped up to serve as the new PCS Vice President. Another big update for the Board of Directors is the welcoming of new Board Members Connor Smith and Jeremy Lucke.

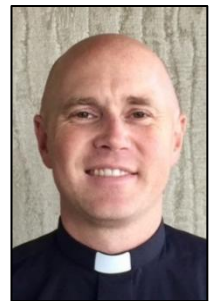
These and other PCS leaders are central to advancing our mission. Check out the [PCS Leadership webpage](#) for more info on our wonderful volunteers who serve—often behind the scenes without recognition—to direct and manage PCS programs and administration.



Jodi Russell



Connor Smith



Jeremy Lucke

### Roland the Lion Introduces PCS!

Speaking of Board Members, did you know that our Past President Jean Goul is a woman of many talents? In addition to being a key and effective volunteer, the schoolteacher and marimba artist is also a puppeteer! [Here](#), Jean's Roland the Lion introduces our programs.



## Newsletter Signup

By the way, if you are reading this but have not signed up for our newsletter, please [subscribe here](#).



## The Garden Springs Open!

Lupe's Community Garden has announced their opening date, and hours are listed below and on the [PCS website](#). This year, the Garden is also renting out plots. Here is more info in a welcome message from Natalie Cover, our Garden Program Manager:

*Spring is here, and the Garden is gearing up for its peak season. To start, the Garden hosted a fruit tree pruning clinic in early March. It was a wonderful day since it didn't rain, and half of the orchard got pruned. More events are to come as summer approaches, including children's activities.*

*Another project of the Garden is sprouting up (literally) and filling up our greenhouse with plant starts. The goal is to provide a variety of plants to both Nancy's Food Pantry clients and the gardeners in our community plots. We are taking applications from folks interested in gardening in a community setting.*

*More information is provided, along with a link to the application, on Lupe's Community Garden webpage. The Garden will hold Open Garden Hours **every Wednesday, starting April 16, from 9:30-11:00 AM**. As the weather warms up, more Open Garden Hours will be available; check the webpage for open days and times.*

*The Garden will be looking for volunteers for Work Parties and Harvest Team. Work parties will meet monthly and focus on general maintenance of the Garden, including mowing, path upkeep, and weeding. Harvest Team will meet once to twice a week during peak production in summer to collect fruits and veggies for the Food Pantry. Team members will get the opportunity to take produce home as a benefit. If you are interested in any of these projects, please email the Garden at [garden@philomathcommunityservices.org](mailto:garden@philomathcommunityservices.org).*

**Garden plots available**

Plot options include  
various raised beds or 4'x20' in-ground beds

**Apply Now**

Questions? Contact us by email:  
[garden@philomathcommunityservices.org](mailto:garden@philomathcommunityservices.org)  
Located Behind Philomath Community Services  
Building 360 S 9th St, Philomath

**Click/tap here to reserve a plot via our website!**

## **Recognizing Poverty Awareness Month**

This past January, we took a moment to remember **National Poverty in America Awareness Month**.

According to the latest from U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 37.9 million Americans live in poverty. 1 in 6 children face hunger and insecurity, and the poverty rate for families with children under 18 is 14.4%.

At PCS, we are dedicated to addressing these issues by providing essential resources like food and clothing to our community members in need.

If you would like to learn about ways that you can donate (whether through time, money, or goods,) **here is a link to more info**. Your support helps us make a real difference, thank you!



## **Holiday Cheer Thank You!**

In our last newsletter, we shared some photos and gave a report on another successful season of Holiday Cheer. In case you missed it or prefer video format, we highlight our successes in a new **video here**.

Thank you for helping us make the holiday season special for everyone!



## **In the News**

A number of news bits in the past quarter are directly related to the work of PCS. They are summarized here:

- ★ **New mayor stresses importance of community engagement**  
Philomath News | January 8, 2025
- ★ **City Council resolution brings attention to locals living at poverty levels**  
Philomath News | January 17, 2025
- ★ **Three Things: March on Hunger, book giveaway and woodturning**  
Philomath News | March 8, 2025



Regarding the resolution from January 17, we are proud of the City of Philomath for Resolution 25-01, a Poverty Awareness Month Proclamation, which is read at timestamp 18:00 of the 1/13/25 City Council Meeting **video linked here**. Tune in for the first part of the video for a visit from PCS President David M. Low and Vice President Jodi Russell.



## Food Pantry Welcome

Exciting News! Nancy's Food Pantry, a foundational program of Philomath Community Services, has a [new welcome video](#). Special thanks to our amazing Program Manager, Karen Rowe, for her unwavering dedication of service to our community, which continues to inspire all of us at PCS.



## Another Successful March on Hunger

This past March, we rallied dozens of volunteers to pass out thousands of food bags, which were filled by community members and organized at a local church. This massive operation generated hundreds of pounds of food for our neighbors in need.



Not only that, but other organizations showed leadership and care by getting involved. For example, Citizens Bank Philomath hosted a Chamber of Commerce Greeters event in March, where attendees brought canned food items. A 55-gallon drum was filled up one and a half times with donations. Pioneer Connect also ran a food drive for PCS. What wonderful community support.

We greatly appreciate our neighbors and allied organizations that support our work! Thank you to all those who participated in this year's March on Hunger! ❤️

## Well-Deserved Recognition

Congratulations to our very own Jennifer Ringwald (pictured at the right side of the photo here,) Program Manager of Holiday Cheer, for earning a Samaritan Award from the Philomath Area Chamber of Commerce for her tireless, meaningful management of the PCS Holiday Cheer program.



## June's Kids Klostet Wishlist

For those of us who are not familiar with June's Kids Klostet (JKK), this is the program through which PCS offers free clothing to children ages newborn to 18 years of age. Currently, JKK is in greatest need of the following items. More on JKK and how to donate [on our website](#).

## PCS Online

Lastly, please be sure to join us on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Nextdoor:



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🌸 *Thank you, and have a bright spring!* 🌸

*Philomath Community Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and an equal opportunity provider.*

