



The Advocate

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

JUNE 2017

VOLUNTEER WITH US

- Assistant Cook
- Graphic Design
- Fund-raising

Our Needs

- Sugar, Dairy Products
- Men's Pants sizes 30, 32, 34
- Sleeping Bags
- Shoes and boots
- NEW socks
- Female Hygiene Items
- Hair Brushes

Director's Update



The new year has brought a few changes to the Devereux Center. Starting

January first, we were able to be open 5 days per week! This has been a huge help to our clients. The funding was for 5 days open January through March, then 4 days per week April through October. We will return to being open 5 days per week in November and December, when the weather turns wet and cold again. We thank Western Oregon Advanced Health (WOAH) for the grant that allows us to be open more days than in the past, and look forward to making an even greater impact in our client's lives with our extra days open. If you would like to underwrite a day, it takes \$500 to keep the Devereux Center doors open each day.

The Warming Center continues to be a fantastic addition to the Devereux Center's services, as our weather has been unfriendly much more often and longer than anyone expected this year. We have been open 8

nights in 2017, the most recent being March 19. This date is far later than anyone anticipated the Warming Center being needed.

New volunteers and staff help make running the Devereux Center much easier. Barbara started volunteering as an office assistant in January. Carolyn began answering phones and helping with office duties in March, freeing Barbara to begin working on developing the Advocacy Program. Diane has been a great help in the Clothing Closet, as have Jay and Jamie.

We welcome volunteers, and could use many more. Please call and talk to Barbara or Sandy if you would like to volunteer in any way at the Devereux Center. Email is also a great way to keep in touch: ndccoosbay@gmail.com

THE DEVEREUX CENTER IS CURRENTLY OPEN MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY FROM 9 AM – 2 PM



Volunteer Positions Available

ASSITANT COOK

Our assistant cook helps prepare hot breakfasts and lunches for Devereux clients, visitors, and staff. This person needs to be available from 6 am until 1 pm on the days they help. While there is no monetary pay associated with this position, the rewards of feeding hungry people and knowing you are helping are great!

FRONT DESK CLERK

Our front desk clerk greets everyone entering the Devereux Center; checks in clients; sorts, files, and distributes mail; assists with donations; helps with organizing showers and laundry. Light computer use is necessary for this position; we will train this volunteer if needed. This person needs to be available from 8:45 am to 2:15 pm the days they volunteer.

Please contact Sandy if you are interested in our volunteer positions!

Homeless Camp Clean-Up

On March 28 and 29, 2017, the Coos Bay City Codes Department implemented a homeless camp cleanup in the Empire area of Coos Bay. They advertised their intent a couple of weeks in advance, hoping that the homeless camped there would move out before the cleanup date. The clients we serve who live in the area were scrambling, trying to find other places to put their makeshift homes. Tension was high, adding more stress to our clients' already stressful existence.

At the request of the Coos Bay City Management, on the days of the cleanup the Devereux Center hosted an Information Fair, inviting local agencies to have representatives available at the Devereux Center to assist our clients. Participants included Oregon Coast Community Action (ORCCA) Housing and Veteran Services, North Bend Coos Housing Authority, Coast Community Health Center, and Bay Area First Step. Thirty plus clients took advantage of the agencies that were represented, learning more about services that are available to help them in various ways.

One of the best results of the Information Fair is that our partner agencies recognized the opportunities for their agencies and the need of our clients for their services. Going forward, we will have several agencies on site at least monthly to help connect clients with services. Waterfall Clinic will be at the Devereux Center every other Monday to help clients sign up for the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) and access other services. The ORCCA Vet Specialist will be here at least once a month to build relationships and connect our veteran clients with services. Staff, volunteers, and clients at the Devereux Center are very happy to have the support of our partner agencies on site to help our neighbors without homes!

Homeless Summit

Friday, April 15, 2017 a Homeless Summit for Coos County was held at The Mill Casino. Spearheaded by Tara Johnson, the Summit drew 200 people who were given insight into the current homeless situation in Coos County and then had the opportunity to discuss various aspects of homelessness and how we can move forward in alleviating homelessness. Eleven topics, ranging from short, transitional and long-term housing to food, transportation, health care and public relations were available for breakout groups; many of the groups already had plans to meet again by the end of the day. A meeting to continue working with all the groups was held May 16, with 70 people attending. We are excited to see the interest and forward momentum in the community for revitalizing Coos County's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Our Volunteer of the Month is a new program to recognize contributions by our volunteers.

June's Volunteer of the Month is Frances Williams. Frances is being recognized for her unwavering dedication to feeding the Devereux Center clients. She is here 4 to 5 days per week, cooking 2 hot meals every day.

Frances likes to volunteer because "I like to be around our clients. I like to come in and fix them a good breakfast and lunch."

Frances has been volunteering for the Devereux Center for about 6 months. Prior to volunteering here, she prepared meals for homeless people one day a week. She also volunteers for the Special Olympics and Hollywood Dreams.

THANK YOU, FRANCES, FOR COOKING FOR US!