



The ADVOCATE

The Devereux Center Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

In the past 11 months,
we have provided...

- 3,600 showers
- 1,400 loads of laundry
- 10,000+ volunteer hours



OUR NEEDS

- Outerwear
- Sleeping bags
- Tents
- Tarps
- Men's jeans
- Feminine hygiene items
- Call for more ideas



DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

We have enjoyed hosting Easter Seals and TANF trainees the past few months. Tannie is helping us with book-keeping and grant writing. Sean is continuing work that he started as an intern with us when he was a student at SOCC in web design and social media. We also welcomed several Star of Hope volunteers who were valuable in several areas, cleaning, sorting donated cans and bottles as well as some landscaping work.



We started actively tracking our clients and the services we provide a year ago. We were shocked to discover that we have logged more than 10,000 volunteer hours this year, offered 3,600 showers, and washed and dried more than 1,400 loads of laundry. We average 200 unique individuals each month (meaning that these people come multiple times but are only counted once). We have had more than 1,400 clients in the past 12 months.

*"It has been nearly two years...and in that time,
we have grown tremendously."*

It has been nearly two years since I had the privilege of becoming the director of the Devereux Center, and in that time, we have grown tremendously. We now have three sets of laundry machines. Volunteers are actively assisting clients with their needs, including assisting several clients establish Social Security Disability claims, helping establish care with a primary care physician and more.

We have several partner agencies that come to the Center on a regular basis which helps clients access information and services that were previously a challenge. Coast Community Health Center, Waterfall Clinic, Bay Area First Step and Oregon Law come on a regular basis. Several other agencies come as their schedule allows.

Banner Bank generously donated \$500 for our Open House in September. We enjoyed great food prepared by our kitchen staff, headed up by Frances Williams. Visitors enjoyed tours and time to discuss questions or concerns with our staff. It was wonderful to share our vision with so many people.

Tara Johnson, Director

RECENT GRANT AWARDS

We were recently selected by Meyer Memorial Trust as a grant recipient for our new Second Chance Housing Program. This project will enable us to select a few clients that we believe can be successful with some life skills training and case management. The funds will go toward helping clients overcome obstacles that make finding and keeping housing a challenge. We will offer classes like budgeting, communicating with landlords and more to make sure these 'friends who live outside' will have every opportunity to succeed.

As a component of this, the Devereux Center will seek individuals who own property that would be willing to lease to us and permit us to find the tenants and maintain the property.

We are also pleased to announce that the Johnston Foundation awarded us a grant for general operating expenses. This will help with a small kitchen upgrade and funds to keep our doors open: insurance, power bills, and more.

We were also chosen as the recipient of the Community Impact Award from Oregon Pacific Bank. There were more than 20 applicants and we are honored that they viewed our Warming Center Project worthy of the award. We will have opened for six nights so far and are grateful for the community support. We average 40-50 people per night. Last year, our warming center was opened 43 nights and provided warmth, safety, food and a dry place to spend the night for those who live outdoors.

Pacific Power Foundation also awarded us a grant for our Warming Center Project as well. The funds donated allowed us to paint the new, larger area and install some amenities that will assist the volunteers as well as the guests.

We are so grateful to each of our donors, whether through a grant or a private donation. We work diligently to be good stewards of each dollar that is given to the Devereux Center.

MOVING AHEAD

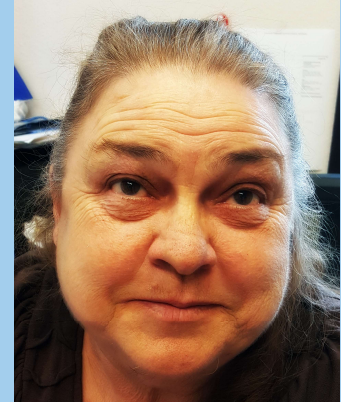
We were part of a team that hosted the Homeless Summit in April at the Mill Casino. The Summit was well received and we have had a couple of follow-up meetings. MOVING AHEAD is the title for these follow-up events. We desire to make sure that we are moving the homeless needs of our community ahead and not allowing these needs to stagnate.

The Housing Component of this group has worked tirelessly under the direction of Char Luther and Marcia Hart to secure funds for a much-needed housing study. This study will show us where we need to focus our time and energy as well as enable builders to seek appropriate funding. We applaud the efforts of this group!

If you want to get involved, please join us at our next community meeting on January 25, from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Pony Village Mall.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

SANDY BARTON



The day-to-day operations of the Devereux Center can often feel like choppy waters, but Sandy keeps a firm hand on the wheel, steering this ship to keep us sailing smooth. Miraculously, she finds the time to volunteer to do this while also managing the People's Place.

Having gone through a period of homelessness with her daughter and grandchildren, Sandy brings considerable knowledge and understanding about our clients' situations, making her an invaluable treasure to the Center and those we serve.

Sandy does far more than we could possibly list here. Thank you for all of it, Sandy.

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