

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2008/2009 ANNUAL REPORT



NeighborImpact



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *Time to Help*

Hello Central Oregon! If you still have a job or your portfolio is still intact – it's time to help your neighbors. There have never been more people in pain and need than right now. Whether you think this help should be for rent, heat, food, child care, family support, homeless housing or foreclosure prevention – NeighborImpact is in your community helping people today. Write a check, donate stock, or use your credit card, but do it now!

If you need time to consider this shameless plea for your money – then go to our website – take a close look at how NeighborImpact helps – then act.

You'll be joining lots of your neighbors who understand that caring and helping go together. Neighbors who believe they too can help by making sure that NeighborImpact is a place to turn to when help is needed – a place that cares and helps in many ways – a

place that is the community's safety net.

Neighbors who understand that keeping families in their homes – with the heat and lights on – with food on the table – with a stable place for their kids to live is a far better alternative to homelessness – understand that giving young children a Head Start to learn when they enter school is better than failing.

It's my knowing all these things that has kept me and many others devoted to helping others, and obsessed with growing resources to meet the needs of our neighbors for the last 24 years.

Shameless plea for your money? You bet!

Sharon Miller

Executive Director, NeighborImpact



MORE CHILDREN GET A HEAD START

"NeighborImpact's goal is to provide families all the services that we have at our finger tips" says Keri Podell, Service Integration Administrator. "Denise (not her real name) is just one example of our service integration efforts". Denise started in Head Start in January when the program expanded to 65 additional children and their families. Denise had been on the waitlist for many months and her family was losing hope that she would have a preschool experience before attending Kindergarten. Denise's parents were concerned that she did not talk much and wanted her to go to Head Start so that she could develop more language skills. As part of program services a developmental screening was performed revealing that Denise might have some challenges. Denise's family agreed to a referral to the Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

program.

Denise was diagnosed as having severe developmental delays. Head Start staff provided Denise's family with lots of support as they struggled to accept her diagnosis and began to rebuild their dreams for her future. Staff also worked with other NeighborImpact services to get Denise's family needed education about saving on energy costs, help with paying their energy bills, as well as mental health services and family counseling. As the year wore on Denise showed marked improvement and most importantly she made new friends. At the end of the year Denise went off to Kindergarten with a plan in place to support her learning and with her new friends at her side.

Without Head Start's expansion Denise would

have not had a place in the Head Start classroom. Head Start expansion was made possible through a competitive grant from the Oregon Department of Education-Oregon Pre-kindergarten Program. The expansion not only allowed seventy three children and their families to access Head Start Services, but four of these children were identified and referred for future screening for disabilities. Furthermore five more children were identified as needing medical services, 15 were identified as needing dental treatment, 14 children received mental health services. Early screening and identification is at the heart of the Head Start program and how we have the ability to serve more children than ever. We are very grateful for this wonderful opportunity. To learn more or volunteer for Head Start contact, 548-2380 #127.

FINDING QUALITY CHILDCARE

According to Leah Knoke, Parent Specialist for Child Care Resources, "Helping parents find a safe, quality environment for their child is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job. I love hearing back from parents that they have found a great place for their children." Child Care Resources works with many parents all over Central Oregon to help them find quality child care. An example of their assistance to people was recently a single Dad that has used Child Care Resources for the past four years had experienced many child care challenges due to transportation issues. Because of losing his transportation, he had to leave his child care provider of many years and find one closer to

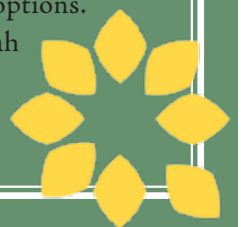
his new home. Child Care Resources was able to provide him with referrals to providers that were within walking distance of his home and had flexible hours that accommodated his work schedule.

Finding the right child care provider is often challenging, but one of the most important decisions a parent will make. Early experiences last a lifetime. Current research shows that 90 percent of a child's brain develops by age five; the quality of care a child receives from birth through preschool can make a big difference. This is where NeighborImpact Child Care Resources can help. We assist families in their search for quality child care by providing child

care information and referrals at no cost based on their specific needs. Through individualized consultation, Child Care Resources helps families become informed child care consumers.

NeighborImpact Child Care Resources is here to help. Not only do we help parents but we help child care professionals provide quality child care through newsletters, technical assistance and training opportunities. We serve employers and community organizations/agencies through child care data, information and technical assistance regarding the importance of quality child care and employer child care options.

For more information contact Leah Knoke at 548-2380, #113.





CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

Hunger and food access are critical issues in Central Oregon communities! The recession and high unemployment rates have resulted in a 43% increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, food stamps) participation, since last year.

While the new economic climate has increased the severity of a chronic issue plaguing communities across the nation, it is in the local community-based response to this crisis that we can find hope and inspiration.

Community gardens are sprouting up all over Central Oregon. In Madras, Victory Gardens Against Hunger has contributed over 3,040 pounds of fresh garden produce to the Jefferson County Food Bank.

In Prineville, a small community faced with the highest unemployment rate in the state, the Presbyterian Church has risen to the challenge and started a one-acre community garden which

provides gardening space for food pantry clients, a work site for at-risk youth, an orchard whose fresh fruit will be donated to the food bank along with proceeds from the sale of excess produce at the Prineville Farmers Market (totaling \$700 this year).

Here at NeighborImpact we are launching a Community Foods Initiative which will expand on the vital work of our Food Bank. Recognizing the need for self-sufficiency in light of the new economic climate, we will be conducting a Community Food Assessment for the tri-county area to identify the assets and needs of our local food system. Our goal is to increase access to safe healthy foods for low-income community members and supporting sustainable local food production.

The Central Oregon community has proven resilient in trying times, initiating grassroots efforts to meet the increased emergency food



assistance needs of their neighbors. The role of NeighborImpact's Community Foods Initiative is to foster collaboration between existing efforts in order to create a sustainable local food system.

For more information contact Sydney Leonard at 548-2380 #149



"NeighborImpact is a great resource for the tri-county area because we provide so many services for people who need help with homeownership issues," says Kenny LaPoint, Homeownership Specialist for NeighborImpact's Housing Center.

In the past year, Central Oregon has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of households facing foreclosure. NeighborImpact's Housing Center offers free Foreclosure Prevention Workshops several times a month that are open to anyone who is facing foreclosure or anticipates having trouble paying

their mortgage. In addition, the Housing Center offers free one-on-one personal counseling for individuals who have attended the Foreclosure Prevention Workshop and are at risk of losing their primary residence.

In the Foreclosure Prevention Workshop, Housing Center staff addresses what to do when a person falls behind on their mortgage payments; what the foreclosure process is; what options are available to someone who is late on their mortgage payment; how to work with the loan servicer; what loan modification and loan refinances are; and how to avoid rescue scams.

The Housing Center's one-on-one default counseling enables individuals to work with a counselor to set up an action plan to address their default issues. Housing Center counselors often work with clients to help them apply for a loan modification with their loan servicer.

HELPING TO AVOID FORECLOSURE

Working together, the counselor and client interact with the servicer to try to change the terms of the client's loan to reduce the payment burden so that the owner can keep their home.

"Our counselors provide the personal support that many people are looking for when they are facing a crisis such as foreclosure, or when they are ready to embark on the process of purchasing their first home," said Laura Fritz, Housing Center Manager.

The Housing Center also offers home buyer education classes and pre-purchase counseling, a matched savings program to help people attain their goal of buying a home or creating a business, down payment assistance loans and homeowner rehabilitation loans, and many other counseling and educational services.

For more information contact Laura Fritz at 318-7506

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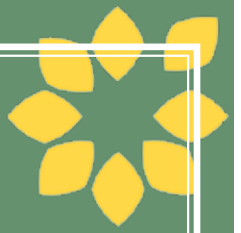
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541-548-2380 • 2303 SW First Street • Redmond, OR





NEIGHBORIMPACT PROGRAMS & SERVICES



Looking for a helping hand?

That is what NeighborImpact is all about. The following is a listing of current services and their contact numbers. Eligibility requirements vary with each service, please call for information.

Beehive Cascades

is a website offering resources, self-help content and interactive tools about things that matter most to our community. The website is in English and Spanish. It links people to local and national information about money, school, jobs, housing, health, childcare and more. Access the website at www.beehivecascades.org.

Energy Assistance

helps eligible families and individuals pay a portion of their heating costs during the winter months. It can be applied to any heating source. All applications are handled on a first come first serve basis through a mail system. To receive an application or be placed on the waiting list, you must call the energy assistance hotline. The hotline opens to the general public December 1st each year and continues until funds run out. If you are a senior, person with a disability, or have a child under age 6 in your household, you may call at any time after October 1st through April 30th. Energy Assistance Hotline is (541) 504-2155.

Emergency Services

provides eviction prevention, move-in assistance, utility shut-off prevention and information and referral to individuals and families. Assistance is based on available funding and individual's need.

Redmond: (541) 617-7291
 Bend Emergency Services: (541) 617-7291
 Madras: (541) 475-7017
 Prineville: (541) 447-6835

Child Care Resources

CCR serves parents, providers and employers with information and referral services.

For Parents – CCR provides information about child care options and guidance in selecting child care. (541) 548-2380, #113 (Spanish, #121)

For Providers – CCR offers specialized training, mentoring, individual consultation, business information, referrals, and technical assistance in starting a child care business. (541) 548-2380, 118 (Spanish, #121)

For Employers – CCR provides services to match employees' needs with available care by conducting on-site workshops on parenting and selecting care and consulting on employer-sponsored care. (541) 548-2380, #118

Family Shelter

provides short term shelter to homeless families with children. Families can stay at Nancy's House for up to three months. The program is located in Bend and can provide housing for up to five families at a time. (541) 385-0301

Food Bank Program

NeighborImpact's Food Bank is the regional supplier for the Oregon Food Bank. The program provides food to over 30 local agencies in Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties. The food bank also operates a food recovery program to increase the amount of food available and assists with local and state wide food drives. For more information or a list of locations of participating food banks, meal and brown bag sites please visit our website www.neighborimpact.org. (548) 548-2380 #108

Head Start Program

promotes school readiness in children and self-sufficiency for their families through early childhood education, parent involvement, family support, health services, social services and nutritious meals. Classrooms and programs services are available at sites in Crook and Deschutes counties. The program is free and primarily serves low-income families. (541) 548-2380, # 127

Housing Center

offers a variety of programs including foreclosure prevention classes and counseling, first time homeownership classes and counseling, down payment assistance loans, reverse mortgage counseling, financial literacy classes and counseling, home owner rehabilitation loans, and a matched saving program (IDA). Centers are located in:

Bend (541) 318-3302
 Madras (541) 475-0442
 Prineville (541) 447-6835
 Redmond (541) 316-2038

HTBA Rent Assistance

offers rent assistance for a period of one year. Participants receive case management to support them in achieving their goals. A wait list is opened periodically as capacity becomes available. Notification of wait list openings is announced in the community as they occur. Applicants must be on a wait list to be considered for the program and have income below 50% of area median guidelines to qualify. (541) 385-0301

Home Rehabilitation Loan Program

The program provides low interest home repair loans to clients that are below 80% of the area median. (541) 316-2037

Weatherization

improves energy efficiencies in homes of clients at or below 60% of the State area median income. Some of the improvements include insulation, heating systems, and windows/doors if needed. 316-2036

Energy Education

The purpose of this class is to educate households on methods to control energy expenses in their home and to promote health and safety as it relates to energy usage. (541) 316-2035

Transitional Housing is designed to help homeless families with their immediate housing crisis while providing them with the training and support they need to become self-sufficient. Families work with a Housing Advocate to develop a Family Action Plan that outlines in detail the steps the family will take to achieve their goals.

Bend (541) 317-1141
 Madras, (541) 475-7017
 Prineville (541) 416-0107
 Redmond (541) 316-2038

