Helping People Help Themselves

Spring 2016

Disabled, Homeless Woman Veteran Fights to Get Her Life Back on Track

 Battling health issues, Sandy had no job and no place to call home.

Thirty years had passed since Sandy had served in the Navy, working as an aviation specialist from 1983 to 1989.

After leaving the Navy, Sandy went to work for her family’s title company. During this period, she wound up in a troubled relationship that caused her health to decline. She was put on disability in 2000.

“I feel so blessed to receive the help I need. Thank you, ACCESS, for helping me and our veterans in need.” —Sandy

In spring 2015, Sandy moved to Oregon to be near her son and get help from the Veterans Administration Domiciliary (VA Dom) in White City. The Dom provided a list of resources and advised her to contact the ACCESS Support Services for Veterans & VA Families Program (SSVF). The SSVF Program helps veterans with housing, job location, food, and more.

Without transportation, a home, or a job, Sandy used the information from the VA Dom and ACCESS to start changing her life. She went to St. Vincent de Paul, where she received a bicycle and DMV voucher to apply for a driver’s license.

ACCESS found immediate housing for Sandy at the First Phoenix Home for Homeless Women Veterans. She moved in the next week. Sandy then acquired food, clothing, and essentials through a local pantry.

She used the Rogue Valley Transit District (RVTD) buses to get across the Valley during bad weather. One afternoon while she was waiting at the bus stop in the rain, the bus pulled up and the driver said, “Sorry, we’re full.”

As the bus drove away, Sandy glanced across the street and noticed Skinner Buick Auto Dealership. She rode her bike over and inquired about getting a car loan. To her surprise, she qualified for a car loan and credit card through Rogue Credit Union.

Now that she had a car, Sandy could start applying for jobs. This was a big step as Sandy had not worked since 2000.

In October 2015, she found a studio apartment that allowed her service dog and accepted ACCESS rental assistance vouchers.

“I feel so blessed to receive the help I need in order for me to get back on track.”

Continues on page 3.
ACCESS is Forty! Over the next year, ACCESS will celebrate forty years of service to Jackson County. From our humble beginnings serving meals to senior citizens, ACCESS has grown into a multi-service community action agency helping thousands of people each year. This ambitious undertaking has engaged hundreds of residents in many different roles. During our biannual recognition of outstanding contributors—the Hometown Heroes Dinner—we acknowledge the support from our wonderful donors, local businesses, and partner organizations. This year, we are delighted to celebrate the following founding supporters in honor of our fortieth anniversary: Ed Miller and Sherm & Wanda Olsrud.

Over the coming year, we will share the stories of volunteers, employees, and community leaders who helped build a safety net for vulnerable populations, creating a food banking distribution network that reaches into all corners of the county. We will highlight those who helped develop and operate affordable housing for seniors, people with disabilities, working families, and veterans. The many staff and volunteers who help residents buy their first homes and negotiate mortgage foreclosure crises also have poignant stories to tell.

Thank you to all who have been part of our story and to those who will join us in writing the next forty years!

ACCESS Executive Director

Vans with lifts and equipment needed for residents…
YOU CAN HELP THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

People in our Valley are in desperate need of vehicle transportation that helps them get to medical appointments, pick up prescriptions, food pick-ups at ACCESS and pantries, and other needed errands. If you have a used van with a lift gate in good running condition, that you could donate, please contact us at 541-779-6691. You can receive a tax-deductible donation for your generosity, while helping someone who is in need and wants to become more independent.

Cash donations are also needed as they allow us to help maintain the equipment and provide replacement batteries and parts.

YOU can help EMPOWER people with disabilities.
Thanks to the ACCESS Weatherization Team, Our Home Is Warm in the Winter!

For years, Charles and Louise struggled with high energy bills and a cold house. “During the winter,” Louise recalls, “the rooms never seemed warm enough. The floors were always cold beneath our feet.”

It was on a trip to the pharmacy that they learned about the ACCESS Weatherization Program. “We had just picked up our prescription,” says Louise. “Inside the bag was a slip of paper with a notice about local organizations that assist seniors with various services.” Louise made a phone call and was delighted to discover ACCESS could weatherize their home. “There would be a wait, possibly up to two years. We didn’t mind the wait,” says Louise.

“Immediately, we could feel a big difference. When we walked into a room, it just felt warmer. The bare floors were warm for the first time,” Louise remembers. “The ventilation fan starts right up anytime moisture or fumes are sensed in the air.”

She continues, “Those guys were the best. If I had to go out and find a contractor to do the job, I would want it to be the ACCESS weatherization team.”

They were so polite, did good work, and cleaned up after themselves—very professional.”

The true test came when Louise received their energy bill in the dead of winter. “Our gas bill was $25 less than the previous month. We are so grateful for the services ACCESS provided,” says Louise. “We would recommend to anyone in need of weatherization to not hesitate but to contact ACCESS and get on their waitlist immediately. Their services are well worth the wait.”

“Thank you, ACCESS!”

—Charles & Louise Huffman

“Thank you, ACCESS!”

ACCESS Landlord Appreciation and Educational Breakfast
Rogue Valley Country Club
2660 Hillcrest Rd., Medford, OR 97504
March 31, 2016 | 9–11am
RSVP to 541-774-4307

ACCESS invites Jackson County landlords and property managers to the Rogue Valley Country Club on March 31 for an Appreciation Buffet Breakfast and Educational Experience. ACCESS has Housing Programs in place for qualified Jackson County residents who are eager to succeed and now have the support they need. ACCESS and partner organizations have grants to assist individuals, veterans, and families with screening fees, security deposits, rent payments, screening fees, case management, and more. If you own a rental or manage property in Jackson County, you are welcome to join us. There is no charge for the event. Please call 541-774-4307 by March 20, 2016, to RVSP.

Veteran Gets Life Back on Track
Continued from page 1.

track with my life,” says Sandy. “I would like to tell other homeless veterans to seek out resources in your area—like the VA Dom, ACCESS, St. Vincent de Paul, and your local food and clothing pantries. There is hope—you just have to take that first step and make it happen.”

There are more than 200 homeless veterans living in the Rogue Valley who need a helping hand. For more information on how you can make a difference to local veterans, contact ACCESS SSVF Department at 541-774-4322 or visit our website at accesshelps.org.
HOME OWNERSHIP: A Dream Come True

I have dreamt of being a homeowner since I was a little girl. As a single mother, I didn’t think it was possible, but I wasn’t willing to give up on my dream.

I spent years building my credit and trying to save money. It seemed like every time I saved a few hundred dollars, something came up, and my savings would vanish. I was only able to put away a small amount of money each month, so saving for a down payment seemed close to impossible.

Thanks to IDA matching funds, I was able to save enough over one year to cover closing costs and have a little money down. The financial education I received taught me to begin saving for emergency living expenses. Because of IDA and ACCESS of Jackson County, I can now buy my own home. I am so grateful!

Thank you,
Stephanie Kwiatkowski

A CHILD’S CHRISTMAS WISH: To Help Feed the Hungry

Just before Christmas, Michael Carrabba Sr. decided it was time for his twelve-year-old son, Michael Jr., to learn about the gift of giving to those less fortunate.

After dinner one evening, father and son sat down and had a thoughtful conversation about ways Michael Jr. could help those in their community. They discussed different organizations and what giving to them would mean to those in need. Michael Jr. made some suggestions of his own, including the dog pound.

After much consideration, young Michael decided to make ACCESS his charity of choice. He then contacted his grandmother and aunts and asked if they would help by giving him money for Christmas so he could help ACCESS feed the hungry in Jackson County.

Michael Jr.’s generous donation will help ACCESS provide 500 meals to feed the hungry in Jackson County. What an inspiring example for us all!

Thank you, Carrabba family, for your support!
After retiring from the wrecking yard business in 1988, Larry and Marianne Fuller moved from San Jose, California, to the Rogue Valley so they could be closer to Larry’s father.

Two years later, his dad’s health began declining. They then hired a full-time caregiver, who suggested getting loaner medical supplies from ACCESS to help with his mobility. “The medical supplies are free—you just return the items when you’re done using them,” Marianne says. “That’s when I first learned about ACCESS and the wonderful work they do for our local community.”

The Fullers borrowed medical equipment from ACCESS. “It was during this time that I started donating food to ACCESS. I just dropped it off at their main office behind Costco.”

During one of Marianne’s food drops in 2002, she asked, “What do you need that people don’t usually bring in?” She learned that diapers—both adult and child-sized—were in great demand. Since that time, Marianne has faithfully dropped off large quantities of both kinds of diapers to the ACCESS Medical Equipment Program each month.

She learned her own mother had a unique way of giving. “My mom used to buy tennis shoes and wear them for one month, then put them back in the shoebox and donate them. She said it was her way of giving, if just a little, and it made her feel good.”

Marianne continues, “We have been so blessed in our lives. We raised three healthy children, and I wanted to give back to the community, to those who are less fortunate. My husband’s hobby is hot rods, and mine is giving to ACCESS.” To date, the Fullers have given more than 130,000 diapers to help fellow community members in need.

“I only give to a few local charities. I look for organizations that have a low overhead. It’s important to me to know that when I give it will make a difference to our community and that the donations stay here in the Valley. That’s why I choose to give to ACCESS—they make a difference in our local community.” —Marianne Fuller

“We’ve been so blessed in our lives...That’s why I choose to give to ACCESS” —Marianne Fuller
Ninety-three-old Miriam Arbour recently signed up for the ACCESS Friendly Companion Program. She is delighted with her matched friend.

“He has renewed my faith in humanity,” Miriam says with a smile.

Blind and coping with mobility issues, Miriam doesn’t go out much. Her family stopped all communications after she converted to the Christian Science faith. The only outside interaction she receives is with her caregiver, who stops in three times a week for short visits.

When she was younger, Miriam lived an active life. She was a journalist and taught music. She traveled to exotic destinations. A nature lover, Miriam was an avid birdwatcher. After going blind, she had to rely on her memories for enjoyment. She found the days go by slowly when you’re alone. Her physical limitations had not diminished her love of life or desire for companionship.

Last summer, a representative from the Rogue Valley Council of Governments’ Oregon Project Independence Program contacted the ACCESS Senior Navigator concerning Miriam. She was in need of medical loaner equipment and was a good senior candidate for the new Friendly Companion Program.

An ACCESS Senior Navigator Program representative contacted Miriam and proposed she try the Friendly Companion Program. Within weeks, she was matched with Companion Volunteer Paul Jacobson.

“He has been a godsend,” she says. “We visit about our world travels, literature. We even discuss my religion. He is very respectful and even shows an interest. It has been a blessing to have someone in my life who is agreeable and has common interests—a friend to share life’s stories with.”

Paul faithfully visits every Thursday. He reads to Miriam literature she enjoys. They discuss all manner of things, from politics to society to bird watching.

“Paul and his lovely wife took me on a drive to TouVelle Park,” recalls Miriam. “We sat, and I listened to the birds. We discussed the various types of birds we were listening to. Without my eyesight, many of life’s enjoyments are limited to what others share with me.”

Miriam continues, “The Friendly Companion Program is great. I trust ACCESS. They put the right people with similar interests together. For those interested in having a companion, I would say be open about your interests and experiences. This will help them couple you with the right companion. And to volunteers I would say, as a friendly companion, it is just as important to have someone who shares as listens.”

“Thank you, ACCESS! You are a boon to our community,” Miriam says.

Help make a difference in someone’s life—become an ACCESS Friendly Companion.

For more information, call Nicki Bell at 541-774-4324 or check out the ACCESS website at accesshelps.org.
PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

With an estate plan, you can provide long-range economic security for yourself, your family, and others whom you wish to benefit in the future.

By taking the time to plan, you may discover new opportunities that can benefit you and your loved ones while also enhancing your current and future financial security. In the absence of an estate plan upon your death, your state of residence will mandate the distribution of your assets—which may not take into account your personal wishes for your family, friends, and community.

Even though it may seem daunting, a simple will is easy to write—anyone can do it. It just takes some basic language (see sample).

If you have made a Will, you should consider updating it on the following occasions: a birth, marriage, divorce, death, retirement, purchase or sale of property, or change in state of residence. Other times to revisit your will include when significant changes in wealth occur or you wish you make a gift to charity.

SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE:
“I [name], residing in [city/state] hereby give, devise and bequeath to ACCESS, [written amount, item, or percentage]. This gift is declared for unrestricted/restricted use [describe].

JOIN THE LEGACY SOCIETY!

Members who do, positively impact lives in Jackson County for generations to come. By making a Bequest to ACCESS in your Will, you are making an investment in the future lives of low-income residents in Jackson County who need your help with food, shelter, energy assistance, medical equipment, at-risk seniors and veterans.

For more information contact Pam Slater, Development Director at 541-690-3974.

ACCESS Celebrates Our Hometown Heroes

ACCESS recently celebrated local heroes who have contributed significantly to the mission of providing essential services to those facing economic challenges in our community. The following recipients were honored on March 3 at the Rogue Valley Country Club:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award** – Radio Medford
- **Individual Award** – Joe and Carol Neil
- **Corporate Awards** – Kaleidoscope Pizzeria and Rogue Disposal & Recycling
- **Organization Award** – Rogue Valley Association of Realtors
- **Community Partner Award** – Neighborhood Food Project
- **Special 40th Anniversary Awards** were presented to Sherm & Wanda Olsrud and Ed Miller for their longtime support of ACCESS and our community.

To see highlights and photos from the event, visit accesshelps.org and click on the Hometown Heroes button.
“Where Do I Turn for Help?”

“I became penniless at the time of my father’s death.” With only $1.79 in the bank and her kitchen cupboards bare, Mary was on the verge of starvation. “My father and I had existed on his social security benefits up till his death.”

Unable to work, Mary suffers from five herniated, inoperable discs as well as lung problems. “The only time I go out is to the doctor’s.”

It has never been easy for Mary to accept kindness from others. Growing up in an abusive home, she learned early not to look to others for help. Only after her father passed away did she finally accept assistance—from ACCESS and her neighbors.

“Somehow ACCESS learned of my plight, and one of their representatives called and asked if she could come over.” Holding back the tears, Mary continued, “When the representative arrived, she had two men with her carrying four large boxes full of food. What a blessing it was.”

The neighbors help by collecting her mail, doing her grocery shopping, and providing yard care. “I am very fortunate to have such nice neighbors.”

It’s been more than ten years since ACCESS first entered Mary’s life.

Every holiday season, an ACCESS representative stops by with a gift box. “It always makes me feel good to know that ACCESS cares. I look forward to the annual gift.”

One year when an ACCESS volunteer was dropping off a gift box, they noticed Mary was bundled in layers of clothing and blankets and the house was freezing. Mary told them, “I simply can’t afford a $100-plus electric bill. My income is only $720 a month, and my rent is $420.”

The volunteer shared that ACCESS provides energy and home weatherization assistance to those who qualify. Prideful, Mary didn’t want to accept, but she soon reconsidered.

The weatherization team arrived to inspect Mary’s home. They found the roof was beyond repair and the windows were not up to code. Soon thereafter, ACCESS weatherization professionals installed a new roof and energy-saving windows in addition to completing a home inspection to ensure her house was sealed properly. “Now my home is warm and safe. They even installed a ramp for my electric wheelchair.”

Mary recalls, “Before ACCESS came into my life, I didn’t know there was anyone out there that could help me. Now when I see others struggling, I ask them, do you need food, medical supplies, or energy assistance? ACCESS can help you,” says Mary.

“Without ACCESS, I really don’t know where I would be. Thank you, ACCESS family.”

—Mary Ann

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—Mary Ann
For over two decades, ACCESS has been giving low-income seniors and people with disabilities beautifully wrapped shoeboxes full of small, thoughtfully chosen gifts during the holidays. This annual program is a wonderful way for businesses, clubs, families, and individuals to make a big impact on some of our most vulnerable citizens. Thanks in part to the generosity of local businesses and organizations such as Boise Cascade, Regence, Soroptimist International, Mountain Church, and Timber Products, this year’s Shoebox Program was a great success.

Nicki Bell, lead navigator and coordinator of the Shoebox Program, says, “This year, the Shoebox Program delivered over 1,400 shoebox gifts, thanks to the generosity of our many volunteers and donors.”

On December 5, ACCESS hosted its annual Shoebox Wrapping Party, during which volunteers came together to fill more than 100 shoeboxes. Some of the gifts included pocket calculators, Post-It notes, sewing kits, crossword puzzles, and toiletries. Volunteers of all ages gathered to prepare shoeboxes for delivery. The event included a brunch buffet with holiday music playing in the background.

One volunteer notes, “For me, this is what Christmas is all about, helping those most in need.”

Another volunteer—a previous shoebox recipient herself—states, “When I saw that wrapped box at my door, it really cheered me up. Now it’s my turn to give back.”

Community members stepped up as volunteer drivers to deliver the shoeboxes in time for Christmas.

“I can’t say enough about how uplifting it was to receive that surprise box of gifts—blessings to all.”

When she received her gift, one recipient stated, “This is the only Christmas gift I receive, and it means the world to me.”
Join Sustaining Partners…
A Special Group of Friends
It’s a more efficient, easier way to GIVE.

Our Sustaining Partners help ensure that steady and ongoing funds are always available to feed and provide a warm shelter, medical equipment, and other needed resources for our neighbors. Your sustaining gifts save mailing costs and staff time so more of your donation goes to help our community. Even small gifts of $10, $25, or $50 per month make a huge difference. HELP change lives year-round.

Please join today!
We offer three different ways to donate on a monthly basis:

1) Enroll online. You can donate automatically by using your credit card each month.

2) Your donation can be automatically transferred from your checking account each month.

3) You may choose to mail in a check monthly. We are happy to send you monthly reminders and envelopes.

For more information, call: (541) 774-4312

YES, I want to be a Sustaining Partner

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________ City __________________________
State __________ Zip __________ Phone __________________________
Email __________________________

Here’s my check for $25 $50 $100 $250 Other $ __________ OR

Bill me $ __________ each month for 12 months

Signature __________________________

Account# __________________________ Exp. Date __________________________

Return to ACCESS, PO Box 4666, Medford, OR 97501

YOUR MONTHLY DONATION IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS PROVIDES:

- $25 will feed 1,500 children a daily meal for a year.
- $50 turns into 3,000 pounds of groceries for a family or senior for a year.
- $100 helps purchase expensive batteries and maintenance for electric wheelchairs.
- $250 provides warmth and heating assistance or weatherization for seniors and those with disabilities for a year.

Register Today:
Enroll online at fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and link your Rewards Card to an organization of your choice (ACCESS is #84033). Your linked card will immediately begin earning donations for your nonprofit. Your purchasing power will help fight hunger in our local community.

Thank you!
BUSINESSES/ORGANIZATIONS

5:00 Marketing
A First Choice Staffing Service
AA Economy Self Storage
AAA Oregon/Idaho
Advanced Tree Service
& Landscaping
Agate Home Services
Albertson’s
Allweather Wood
Alvameld Boats, Inc.
American Express
American Leak Detection
American Linen (ALSCU)
American Sewing Guild
American Tractor, Co.
Amethyst Temple
Amy’s Kitchen
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Applegate Valley Garden Club
Arby’s
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Asante Ashland
Community Hospital
Ascension Lutheran Church
Women’s Group
Ashland Drug, Inc.
Ashland Fire Station
Ashland Food Co-op
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Bartlett Tree Service, LLC
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Crater Lake Council
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Breeze Botanicals
Butte Creek Baptist Church
C.W. Concrete
CAD of Medford
California State Retirees 165
Care Oregon Advantage
Care Source/Mid Rogue
Health Plan
Carol A. Page Insurance
Carter’s Home Cleaning
Cash & Carry
Central Point Community
Garden
Central Point Garden Club
Central Point Grange No. 698
Chamber of Medford,
Jackson County
Charles Point, LLC
Circus of Screams Haunted House
Citizens to Elect Dennis
Richardson
City of Medford
Coca-Cola Bottling
Co. of Medford
Colony Club
Construction Contractors Board
Costco
Cotton Broker
Courtyard by Marriott
Crafter Lake Ford
Lincoln Mercury
Crown Market
Cutler Investment Group, LLC
Cutsforth Real Estate, LP
CVISO Management Co., LLC
Dan’s Shoe Repair
Darigold
Dave Norris Contracting
Discovery Preschool
Dogs for the Dead, Inc.
Dollar Tree
Dolls in the Attic of So. Oregon
Doors Plus, Inc.
Drageris N Things–
Miniblinds & More
Eagle Point Food Project
Eagles
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Energy Tools International, LLC
Excelsior Care Centers, Inc.
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Express Employment Professionals
Farmer’s Insurance–Joe Rayburn
Farming Fish
Farmington Square Medford
(RSL Medford, LLC)
Fast & Easy–In & Out
Fiero
Fire Mountain Gems
Fort Courage Consulting Co.
Foster Denman, LLP
Fountain Plaza Retirement
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Franz Bakery
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Garrison’s Home Furnishings
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Girl Scouts Troop #30118
Glacier Heating & Air
Gold Hill Community Garden
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Goodwill Industries
Grange Co-op
Greystone Court Food Drive
Grover Electric & Plumbing Supply
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Harry & David, Inc.
Healthy Living at Home– Medford, LLC
Hillcrest & Memory Gardens
Hinode Farm, LLC
Historic Jacksonville, Inc.
HM, Inc.
Holland Capital
Management, LLC
Holland Enterprises, Inc.
Home Builders Assoc. of Jackson County
Homewood Suites by Hilton
Horton Plaza
Housing Authority of Jackson County
Jackson County Fire Stations
Jackson County Veterans Services
Jacksonville Elementary
JNP Construction Services, LLC
Kaleidoscope Pizzeria & Pub
KOGAP Enterprises, Inc.
La Clinica del Valle
Lake Creek Historical Society
Latter Day Saints Church
Laureate Alpha Upsilon
Laureate Pi Beta Sigma Phi
Law Offices of
Richard C. Stamper
Light Touch Excavation
Lighthouse Foster Care
Linde Electronics & Specialty
Lindvig Automotive Enterprises
Lithia Motors Centers
Little Caesars
Little Red Barn
Montessori School
Lovejoy Hospice
LTC Ombudsman
Madara Design, Inc.
Madrone Hill Mobile Home Park
Main Street Market, LLC
McLellan Creative
Medford Community Garden
Medford Fire Stations
Medford Food Co-op
Medford Food Project
Medford Fuel Co.
Medford Nail
Medford Pear Orchard
Medford Police Department
Medford Senior Services
Merry Flights, Inc.
Miram Investment Co.
Mission Food Service
Mountain Church
Mountain Star Investments, LLC
Natural Grocers
Neilson Research, Corp.
North Medford High School
North Medford High School
Student Council
Northwest Medical
Orchard Hill Elementary
Order Buddy
Oregon Dept. of Consumer & Business Services
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Pacific Bank
Oregon Shakespeare Festival
Oregon Surgical Specialists
Oregon University System (OUS)
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at SOU
OSU Extension Garden
Pacific Door & Sash
Pacific Residential Mortgage
Pacific Retirement Services
Pacificorp
Pain Specialists of So. Oregon
Papa Murphy’s Pizza
Patrick Elementary
Pepperidge Farm
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company
Phoenix Food Project
Phoenix High School
Pioneer Village
Preceptor Eta Chapter of Sigma Phi
Private Properties, LLC
Professional Lawn Center
Prospect School District
Providence Comm. Health
Providence Medford
Medical Center
Purdy Construction, Inc.
Quiet Mountain Insight
Meditation
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Raymond James Financial Services
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Red Robin
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Rescare, Inc.
Retirement Connection
Rick Stevens Painting Company
Rising Sun Farms
Robert Burstein Construction
Rogue Community Health
Rogue Credit Union
Rogue Regency
Rogue River Community Garden
Rogue River Fire District
Rogue River High School
Rogue Snowmobilers Association
Rogue Valley Bathroom Solutions
Rogue Valley Corvette Club
Rogue Valley Funeral Alternatives
Rogue Valley Habitat for Humanity
Rogue Valley Manor
RBS Investments, LLC
Ruch Country Store
Rural Community Assistance Corporation
RVCOG
RVTND Employees
Sabel Painting Company
Safeway Stores
Sappo Hill Soapworks
Savage Redi-Mix
Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving
Security Insurance, LLC
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Sherr’s Food 4 Less
Sherr’s Thunderbird Market
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Sodexo–Medford School District
Sons of Norway
SoundScape
Southern Oregon Hospitalists, PC
Southern Oregon Medical Group
Southern Oregon Runners
Southern Oregon University SPACE, LLC
Spring Street Apartments/
Maintenance
Springs at Veranda Park
St. Mary’s School
St. Peter’s Lutheran, LWML
Stan Harris Construction, Inc.
State of Jefferson Monuments


If we failed to list your name or have listed it incorrectly, please accept our apologies and let us know so we can correct our records.

*Oregon Community Foundation–administered.
Stewart Avenue Hair Design
Stop-N-Go Markets
Strategic Financial, Inc.
Straus Ranches, LLC
Student Body
Sunshine Properties, Inc.
Surgery Center of Southern Oregon
Talent Food Project
Target
Temple Emek Shalom
The Butcher Shop
The Farming Fish
TLC Solutions
Trader Joe’s
Traditional Homes
Trail Christian Fellowship
Twin Creeks Retirement, LP
Twirlers of Medford
Umpqua Bank
Umpqua Dairy
US Cellular
Valley Investments
Visiting Angels
W.A. Whitelaw Wholesale Company
Walmart
Wandering Fields Farms
Weatherly Inn
Well Being International
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC
Western Carriage Estates
Westminster Presbyterian
White City Church of Christ
Whitney Plumbing
Williamette Dental Group
Wilson Elementary
Women Entrepreneurs of So. Oregon
Xanterra Parks & Resorts
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Sherry Abbott
Charlotte Abernathy
Daryl & Sally Ackley
Elizabeth Acklin
Jack Acosta
Rosemary & Paul Adalian
Alvin & Virginia Adams
David Adams
John & Gaea Adams
Marie Adams
Adams Loving Trust
Cory Aden-Wansbury, MD
Adrian & Elizabeth
Golledge Trust
Faustino Aguilar
Kyle & Roian Ahrberg
Terri Ainsworth
John & Carmen Aitken
Diane Albano
Mary & Horace Alcorn
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Maggie & Jeffrey Thompson
Thomas & Stephanie Thomson
Mervyn & Erline Thomson
Gary & Janet Thorley
Dorothy Throne
Jane Tibbals
R. Noreen Tibbet
June & Charles Timberman
Barbara & Carl Tinsley
Frieda Titus
Todd Trust
Timothy Tolman
Peggy Proctor Tomlins
Gordon & Doreen Topham
Ronald & Pamela Torrey
Malcolm & Lynn Towns
Frances Trask
Constance Travesi
Jeff Travis
Kathy & Richard Travis
John & Barbara Traynor
Marta Delatorre & Diane Trent
Donald & Elaine Tureke
Joel Turgesen
John & Susan Turner
Joyce Tuttle
Richard, Lynn, & Amy Twiest
Cleveland Twitchell
Tom Tynan
David Uhren
Dorothy & David Ullom
Ronald & Nancy Unis
Tom & Kathryn Anne Upton
Robin Radha Uter
Larry & Barbara Van Ausdall
Maura Van Heiut
Elizabeth Van Trump
Robert Timmel & Darcy Van Vuren
Dirk Van Zaalen
LaDonna Vanderbeck
Roger Vanderbeck
Babara Hansen & Richard Vanderwyst
Kathy & Larry Vann
Bob & Jayne Vaughn
Avita Velho
Donald & Carrie Vermeer
Charles & Rebecca Versteeg
Rudolf & Emilie Vest
Estelle Voeller
Carol Voisin
Ronald & Betty Von der Hellen
Denise Vore
William & Diane Voss
Teddi Wade
Diana Wadsorth
John & Jacqueline Wagner
Dr. Howard & Rena Wagner
Howard C. & Rena E. Wagner
Ellen Waldron Thoren
Daniel & Phyllis Walker
Elspeth Walker
Lois Walker
Carol & John Walker
Carol Brown & Danna Walker
Ron & Judith Wallace
John & Sandra Walper
Jim Walstrom
William & Nancy Walz
Douglas & Arlene Warner
Charles & Marianne Warren
Ted and Mary Warrick
Pat Gelasko
Karen Wasser
Barbara Wasson
Alexander & Sharon Waterhouse
Barbara Watson
Terry Watson
Kathleen Watson
Kenneth & Martina Weardler
Joyce Weaver
Janice Weaver
Francis Webber
Yvonne Weber
Emma Weed
Ronald & Lynda Weinhold
Darrell & Marilyn Weinman
Rosaeanne Weir
Faye Weisler
Karl & Kelly Wells
Dana & Jodi Wells
Paul & Anne Westerman
John Weston
Milcent Wewerka
Steve & Karen Whalen
Larry Whipple
Sandy Whitcomb
Sally White
Frank & Joan White
Colin & Elizabeth White
Lori Whitley
Rick Whitlock
Scott & Elizabeth Whitman
Earl Whitemore
Cecil & Ardelie Whitten
Don & Donna Whyte
Wayne & Antoinette Wiedeman
Joan Wiggins
John Holmes & Thelda Wiggins
Bonnie Wilber
Judith Wilbur
Bernard Wilke
Mark Williams
Wymund & Janice Williams
Sharon Williams
Linda Williams
Wendy Williams
Susan Williams
Lou Ann Williams
Bruce & Barbara Williams
Robin & Joan Williamson
Edith Williamson
Josephine Willis
Vicki Willis
Elva Wilson
Larry & Elaine Wilson
Bryan & Carol Steele Wilson
Nancy Wilson
Janice Wilt
Paul & Nina Winans
Genevieve Windsor
Lorraine Winger
Winifred Hood Rev.
Living Trust
Viva Winkelman
Kenneth & Linda Wion
Dennis Wise
Joyce Witham
Witham Trust
Fred & Evelyn Wittlack
Gideon & Esther Wizansky
Linda Wolf
Frann Wolfe
Patricia Wolfe
Estelle Womack
Ella Wong
Douglas & Marie-Jose Wood
Jonathan & Verona Wood
Mary Wooding
Harvey & Janet Woods
Spencer & Alice Workman
Robert & Donna Wright
Bryan Wu & Wencheng Kuo
Ron Wyden
Glenda & Doug Yarian
Delphine Yates
Philip & Nancy Yates

Susan Yates
Perry & Diane Yorks
Irene Young
Elsa Younkin
Morikai Zaitsu
Alberta Zajack
Wayne Zalzen
Helen & Maurice Ziegler
Carrie Lee Zippi
Robert & Judith Zoll
Harriet Zollman
Gordon & Ruth Zook
Kathy Zubrod
Peter Zukis

FOUNDATIONS
Amazon Smiles Foundation
Avista Foundation
Benefits Community Impact Fund
Cows Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation
Gordon Elwood Foundation
Hayden Entreprenes Giving Fund
Maggie Purves Fund of OCF
Medtronics – YourCause, LLC
Meyer Memorial Trust
Oregon Assoc. of Realtors
Home Foundation
Oregon Community Foundation
Plum Creek Foundation
Reser Family Foundation
Robert & Frances Chaney Family Foundation
Walmart Foundation
Zumiez Foundation

If we failed to list your name or have listed it incorrectly, please accept our apologies and let us know so we can correct our records.

*Oregon Community Foundation–administered.

Food Assistance
ACCESS would like to recognize the following organizations for their ongoing support with

Partners in the Pantry Network

- Ashland Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- Butte Falls Community School Partnership
- Calvary Outreach
- Church of the Good Shepherd–Prospect
- City of Medford–Parks & Recreation
- City of Talent
- Eagle Point Church of the Nazarene
- Eagle Point Community Bible Church
- First Christian Church
- Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
- Gold Hill Christian Center
- Joy Christian Fellowship
- Medford Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- Mountain View Christian Church
- Plum Creek Foundation
- Prospect Assembly of God
- Prospect Baptist Church
- Prospect Church of the Nazarene
- Red Rock Cowboy Church
- Rogue Family Center
- Rogue River Community Center
- Rogue River Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- Rogue Valley Christian Church
- Ruch Elementary School
- St. John Lutheran Church
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- The Salvation Army
- Set Free Christian Fellowship
- Shepherd of the Valley
- Talent United Methodist Church
- Trail Christian Fellowship
- Upper Rogue Community Center

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FOOD SHARE GARDEN WRAP-UP 2015

“Last year, the seven growing gardens—which include the Food Security Garden managed by the Jackson County Master Gardener Association—experienced peaks and valleys.”

The peaks came from the efforts of the many volunteer garden managers, supervisors, and garden helpers who persevered through the warm spring and the hot, smoky days of summer. Bringing laughter and stories during their 5,360 hours of service, these volunteers made it possible for ACCESS pantry clients to enjoy organically grown produce with their meals. A band of volunteer drivers picked up our harvests weekly. Another 242 hours of community service were donated by community neighbors AM Greetings.com employees, Amy’s Kitchen management interns, OSU Alumni Association alums, Rogue Credit Union employees, Rogue River High School seventh-graders, Rogue Valley Adventist Academy seventh- and eighth-graders, SOU civic engagement participants, a Spartan Ice Hockey team member, and the fellows from U-Turn for Christ.

We also received a windfall of much-needed materials from the generous folks at Diode Laser Concepts in Medford and Mycorrhizal Applications of Grants Pass.

The heat took a toll on plants and volunteers, though. Once the weather finally settled down into more comfortable 70- and 80-degree days, the plants got busy ripening their fruits.

Not surprisingly, our overall harvest poundage was affected. We brought in 46,656 pounds of spring, summer, and winter vegetables, a far cry from what we’ve harvested in the past. Fortunately, what was picked was nutritious and, frankly, plainly gorgeous.

We hope for kinder, gentler weather this year and encourage readers to consider volunteering time in one of our gardens to both support others in our community and enjoy the fruits of the harvest yourself.

Join Us in a Garden This Year

In many of our Food Share Gardens, we’re already putting in the tiny starts that will grow into the huge, luscious onions we’ll harvest this July and August.

Come help out now—or later when you have time in the growing or harvest season. There’s always something going on.

We’ll be weeding and planting onions at our Central Point and Medford sites in March.

In late April and May, we’ll be doing the setup work at all our garden sites in preparation for the summer vegetables to be planted after May 15. That’s when all our gardens are in need of volunteers to help with planting, rolling out drip lines, putting in plant supports, weeding the flower beds, planting rows, and so on.

Individuals can sign up anytime. We encourage groups to ask when or where they might be most needed. To help, please contact our Food Share Garden Coordinator Nan King at freshaccess@accesshelps.org or (541) 779-6691, ext. 309.

FOOD SHARE GARDEN SITES

Donations Are Welcome, Too!

Central Point
• OSU Extension
• First Presbyterian Church

Gold Hill
Lampman Road Baptist Church

Medford
Rogue Valley Christian Church

OSU Extension
Food Security Garden

Rogue River
W. Evans Creek Road

White City
• Rogue Recycling Center
• VA-SORCC

The following items are among our wish list. Wood chips from tree trimmers are great for suppressing weeds on garden walkways. Straw bales (organic and weed-free, please) are needed to mulch planting beds. Groundcover cloth, in lieu of wood chips, is useful for covering walkways. The Gold Hill garden may also need a deer fence installed—10’ steel u-posts will be needed.

Onions in a bucket
Walmart group
More than 3,000 attendees gathered at the Medford Armory on January 22–23 for the annual ACCESS Senior Fair, a resource event. As many as 62 vendors were there to share their resources, with most taking advantage of the first time this resource event spanned two days.

As people came and went, giveaway bags supplied by Walmart were filled to the brim with free samples from our vendors. Professionals performed free eye exams and checked blood pressure while business shared information on housing, weatherization, health care, home movers, footwear, and much more.

At every game, the Bingo Hall filled to capacity as smiling competitors hoped for the chance to shout out “BINGO!” The event was a great success thanks to our celebrity bingo callers from KDRV Channel 12 and the many wonderful prizes on offer from our participating vendors.

We extend special thanks to our media sponsors, KDRV and Southern Oregon Media Group, for making this event possible. ACCESS wants to give additional thanks to the folks at Sights & Sounds Unlimited, who came to the rescue when the Armory remodel nearly forced us to cancel the event. They not only supplied all the pipe and drape but also made it possible for us to make the ACCESS Senior Fair a two-day event by combining it with the Rogue Valley Health Fair.

We appreciate the many guests who stopped by the ACCESS booth to say, “This was the best Senior Fair ever.”

We look forward to seeing you all again in March 2017 for the ACCESS Senior Fair. If you get the chance, please give the following vendors a special thanks for their contributions this year.

AAA Oregon
ACCESS Cooking Skills
ACCESS Development
ACCESS Senior Outreach
Advance Tree Service
Al-Anon
Asante Neuroscience
Black Oak Pharmacy
Breeze Botanicals
CareOregon
Clear Captions
Construction Contractors Board
Cooking for Wellness
Core PT
Damsel in Defense
Dans Shoes Diabetic Dogs for the Deaf
Fountain Plaza
Retirement Community
Futurity First Insurance
Habitat for Humanity
Health Net
Healthway Nutrition
Healthy Living at Home—Medford, LLC
Hillcrest & Memorial
Home Instead Care
Horton Plaza
Housing Authority of JC
Jackson County Veterans Services
John L. Scott Real Estate
Lovejoy Hospice
LTCl Ombudsman
Medford Police Dept.
Medford Senior Service
Medical Eye Center
Mercy Flights Inc.
My Hearing Centers
Nerium
New Well
NW Medical
Oregon Dept. of Finance
Oregon Retina Center
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Pacific Retirement Services
Pioneer Village
R & J Mobility
Retirement Connection
Rogue Community Health
Rogue Valley Council of Governments
Rogue Valley Funeral Alternatives
RV Mobile
RVTI
Security Insurance
Social Security Admin.
SoundScape
Sunstone
TLC Solutions
Twin Creeks Retirement
US Cellular
Veranda Park
Vets NOW
Visiting Angels
Weatherly Inn
Ongoing ACCESS Volunteer Opportunities
We always have a need for your volunteer help. For more information about volunteering opportunities, call Chris at (541) 618-4003.

ACCESS UPCOMING EVENTS calendar

March 31  Landlord Appreciation & Educational Breakfast
ACCESS invites Jackson County landlords and property managers to the Rogue Valley Country Club. All Jackson County rental owners or property managers welcome. 9 to 11am on Mar. 31. No charge. Call by Mar. 20 to RVS at (541) 774-4307.

April 3  Mt. Ashland Ski & Snowboard Against Hunger Day
A free day of skiing or snowboarding! Just bring five or more cans of non-perishable food to the ACCESS service truck and receive a free full-day lift ticket. Go to www.accesshelps.org for more details.

April 16  Realizing the American Dream
Do you want to purchase your first home? Gain the knowledge and confidence you need to successfully achieve and maintain homeownership. Class will be held at the Grants Pass RCC campus, 9am–5pm. Tuition is $40; co-student is free. To register, call the ACCESS Homeownership Center at (541) 774-4305.

May 14  The 24th Annual “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive
The nation’s largest single-day food drive, the National Association of Letter Carriers’ (NALC) effort is held annually in all fifty states. From major metropolitan areas to small rural towns, residents put out nonperishable food donations for letter carriers to collect as they deliver mail that day.

June 27  ACCESS Golf Tournament
Join us on Monday, June 27, at the Rogue Valley Country Club. For more information, please call Logan Bell at (541) 774-4312 or visit accesshelps.org.

— Check website for more information at accesshelps.org —