Can You Guess?

What do the following things have in common: a fun-filled night, an opportunity to purchase a unique vacation and a chance to help feed the hungry?

If you guessed the SnowCap annual auction, then you’re already a winner. If you buy a ticket for $60 ($65 after February 20th) for this March 12th evening of entertainment, then you’re a winner, too. SnowCap’s only major fundraiser will be held this year at the Holiday Inn Portland Airport. JillMarie Wiles will once again lead the oral auction, and the popular silent auction will precede dinner. Here, you will be able to bid on offerings such as gift cards at local businesses, gift certificates to dine out, handmade knitted items and much more.

To purchase tickets please go to www.snowcap.org/2016-auction. If you have items to donate to the silent or oral auction, you may email Kirsten@snowcap.org. Donations such as vacation stays, unique events and new household items are just what SnowCap could use for this event. If you’re unsure whether you can attend but still wish to help, donations of wired, 1½-inch ribbon (any color other than red) and large baskets are also greatly appreciated.
SnowCap’s Sources of Income

You may have heard that SnowCap receives no tax dollars, but have you ever wondered where we get the money to help East County’s low income families? Here is a brief description of the cash that was donated to SnowCap in 2015.

Individuals donated $432,081 in 2015. Sometimes these gifts are in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. Sometimes they are a dedicated income stream like dividends on stocks or bonds. Sometimes they are gifts of IRA’s, stock, or lottery winnings. There are as many reasons and ways to give to SnowCap as there are people who do the giving.

Organizations contributed $43,867. Organizations might include labor unions, clubs, sororities, or neighborhood associations. If you belong to such a group, please consider inviting a SnowCap speaker to one of your meetings. These groups provide an important source of support, and you could be our connection to a new group.

Churches sent $50,549 to SnowCap in 2015. These contributions are usually line items in the church budget, but sometimes they are profits from a special event. There are spaghetti dinners, noisy offerings (coins are collected), concerts and special offerings. Church is a common way for people to learn about SnowCap, and many of these church members go on to become individual donors.

Businesses contributed $36,880 in the last year. Like churches these dollars can be a simple expense item for the business. Or, they can be the proceeds from an event put on by the business, for example Riverview Community Bank’s Fill-A-Bag.

Grants brought in $41,300 in the last year. These funds are usually used for one-time expenses, like replacing trucks or our commercial appliances like freezers and coolers. This year we even have a grant to fund a special volunteer training session. We do not count on grants for routine operating income. East County giving supports SnowCap’s regular operations.

Special events produced $129,592 in 2015. The auction in March is the biggest of these events, but the Annual Christmas Breakfast and summertime Dine-Out Event also contribute to this line item.

As you can see, it takes more than a village to make SnowCap happen – it takes all of our community.

SnowCap’s Numbers Continue to Climb

A busy year finished in a flurry of activity as volunteers put in extra hours to provide services to a growing number of low income neighbors.

Client Services

Throughout 2015 SnowCap served an average of 9,000 people each month, but in November and December the Toy Program, Adopt-A-Family, Something Wonderful, Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Dinner pushed the number of people served to well over 10,000 each month. In addition, during our Wednesday evening hours to serve the working poor, over 6,500 individuals received emergency food.

Volunteer Numbers

Volunteer numbers also increased, but not nearly as fast as our need for them. Frankly, we could use more help.

Food Distributed

Probably the best news of all is the increasing quality of our food offerings. SnowCap has been able to provide ample amounts of nutritious food for many years now. However, the protein is often found in items like beans and lentils. The dairy might include powdered milk. There would probably not be any oil to cook with.

Thanks to a generous outpouring of support, this holiday season we were able to offer eggs, fresh milk, a small bottle of vegetable oil, fresh or frozen meat and fresh fruits and vegetables. We hope to keep increasing quality while maintaining our current level of food distributions. We distributed 2,745,927 lbs of donated food in 2015!

Please consider volunteering for SnowCap. There is much we can do to ease the burdens of our neighbors in need. We need truck drivers, food demo volunteers, interviewers – all kinds of help! If you can help contact Nate at nate@snowcap.org or 503.405.4295.
Birthday Celebrations:

Judy Alley: Anonymous
Merlin Aufdengarten: Alyson Huntting
Israel Duran: Barbara Karlstrom
Mary Jane Everist: Scott & Cynthia Everist
Helen Gray: Chuck & Saundra Schwartz
Alyson Huntting: Anonymous, Mara Stine & Troy Ballew, Bill & Becky Huntting
Jesse Oleachea: Barbara Karlstrom
Debbie Oleachea-Caufield: Barbara Karlstrom
Shelley Oleachea-Caufield: Barbara Karlstrom
Eric Schmidt: William & Kristy Holts
Tom Shirley: Barbara Karlstrom
Mara Stine: Alyson Huntting
Jasmin Wright: Barbara Karlstrom
Josie Wright: Barbara Karlstrom
Logan Wright: Barbara Karlstrom

Honors:

Behn Family: Walter & Sherry Behn
Patricia Berger: Covenant United Presbyterian Church
Regina Blake: Kammy Breyer
Vicki Chambers: Blair Loudat
Bob & Sarah Collmer: Kenneth & Lynda Collmer
Carolyn Croker: Galen & Nancy Harper, Margaret Ford
Dale Hadley clients: Dale Hadley
Sterling Dorman: Angela Downing
Cindy Edwards: Blair Loudat
Margaret Ford: Galen & Nancy Harper
Art & Joan Fossum: Walter & Florence Lersch
Don Frueh: Ruth Johnson
Jane Gibbs: V Lael Hays
Nancy Harper: Margaret Ford
Nancy Hassebroek: Tom & Patricia Rich
Doug Henderson: Jason & Tammy Willet
Alyson Huntting: Carol Lynne Huntting, Bill & Becky Huntting
Bill & Becky Huntting: Alyson Huntting
Erin Kalmbach: Sue Tisdall
Barbara Karlstrom: Israel Duran, Jimmie Oleachea
Frances Kralj: Mark & Kathy Kralj
Nate Larsen: Alyson Huntting

Joeli Lattz: Laura Bartroff
Hank Lewis: Jo Callister
Diane Liefeld: Nellie Bradwell, Barbara Edstrom, Rachel Hayashi, Sally Leake, Corrine Morton, Susan Moyer, Lawrence & Barbara Stith, James & Rae Ann Townsend
Jim & Diane Liefeld: Ben & Kim Moore
Renee Middendorp: Lauren Ross
Ward & Julie Moyer: Roseann Libonati
Cindy Quintanilla: Blair Loudat
Residents of Courtyard Fountains: Anonymous, Mary Hollingsworth
Sharon Rich: Tom & Patricia Rich
Tom Rich: Tony & Julie Manetti
William Rowe: Thomas & Cathy Rowe
Hal & Anna Rosene: Mary Rose
Mary Rossman & Anil Shah: Ken & Sue Hirai
Pat Schaffer: Bessie Will
Marla Shuman: Blair Loudat
Judi Sidey: Matthew Sidey
Sunderland Children: John & Frances Sunderland
Ken & AlmaLou Tischler: V Lael Hays
Ann Tracy: Richard Tracy
Janet Tracy: Ann, Tracy, Richard Tracy
Anna Marie Updegraff: Kate Rosen
Kirsten Wageman: Monette Proffitt
Steve & Donna Wallace: Ken & Sue Hirai
Elizabeth Webber: Galen & Nancy Harper, Margaret Ford
Gretchen Weston: Gresham Ford Co
Women’s Work Coop: Theodora Tsongas
JoAnn Wright: V Lael Hays
Ron Wysaske: Bessie Will

Memorial:

Clara Abbott: Gary Abbott
Maude M Ballard: Kim & Rodney Ballard, Marlene Doehle, Albert & Carrol Harrison, Robert & Dolores Maynard, Elizabeth Webber
Earl & Lois Balzer: Thayne & Mary Anne Balzer
Anne Bischoff: Frank & Phillippa Lorinz
Joe Blaser: Eloise Blaser
Jacqueline Burns: Diane Abild
Orval & Jeannette Clay: Charles Clay
The holidays are difficult times for many of us. We wish for perfection while recalling wonderful memories to help gloss over difficulties. I’d like to share a story from SnowCap’s recent holiday experience. Even after our toy program reached 1386 children, miraculously, there were some toys left over.

An elderly woman came to the toy door, pushing a grocery cart that had all her belongings and some groceries recently acquired at the SnowCap pantry. She smelled as if she hadn’t had an opportunity to bathe recently and said that she had been staying outside. She heard there were toys here and mentioned she had grandchildren who she wanted to be with Christmas Eve, but she did not want to show up empty handed.

Our ever-generous volunteers helped her select a toy for each grandchild and placed them in decorative bags. Later, one of those volunteers was walking to the light-rail station, and she passed this same woman pushing her cart toward an apartment complex. The woman was humming “O Holy Night” and whispering, “Thank you, Jesus!”

This wasn’t really what we had anticipated when organizing the toy program, but it feels good to know that we helped a grandmother share a happy holiday with her grandchildren and creating memories that they will all hold on to in the coming years.
**Feeding a Child’s Mind**

We all know that SnowCap's focus is providing nutritious food, but did you know that we also help feed the minds and imaginations of the children who visit SnowCap? A selection of free children's books is located in the lobby to enjoy while waiting and for taking home to keep. SnowCap receives these books from generous donors like you and also from Books 4 Giving (www.books4giving.com). The next time you're cleaning out your bookshelves, please consider donating those books to SnowCap. Donated children's books stay at SnowCap while paperbacks etc. are exchanged for even more books for kids through Books 4 Giving. CDs, DVDs and audiobooks are welcomed, but please no magazines or periodicals.

![Image of children reading books]

**Community Basket**

Community Basket is a program put on by the Oregon Food Bank (OFB) to further help low income families. We host it here at 17805 SE Stark on the second Thursday of each month from 11 to noon. It is a separate program from SnowCap pantry.

The client must fill out a Community Basket application before receiving food. If the family would qualify to be an OFB recipient, then they would qualify for this program as well.

When the program first started, we only received food that other pantries did not want or items which were overstocked at OFB. These might have included soda, tofu, crackers, bread etc., and the cost to participate was $1.25 a month.

Now however, the program is free for the recipients, and OFB tries to provide something from each food group. For example, in December we received eggs, peanut butter, flour, pinto beans, entrees, soup, cereal bars, mixed vegetables and cheese.

We usually ask the client to bring their own boxes or bags to carry the food home. We serve anywhere for 90 to 120 families a month through Community Basket.

**Paying It Forward**

Paying it forward has many faces. One of those faces is Sandra who receives a small disability payment plus a mere $50 a month in food stamps. She is a client of SnowCap and a volunteer. She is able to supplement her nutritional needs by visiting the pantry. Sandra has paid it forward as a valued volunteer at SnowCap for the past ten years. She finds volunteering to be rewarding and said it makes her feel good when she is able to help others. She likes working with other SnowCap volunteers, keeping busy, and enjoys the grateful hugs from those receiving help.

Another way of paying it forward is making a donation. SnowCap recently received a large monetary contribution from a family who wrote a note of thanks for the help they had received while they were facing financial difficulties. Their circumstances have changed for the better, and now they are in a position to help others just as they had been helped through SnowCap.

SnowCap appreciates the spirit of “Pay It Forward.”

**New Year, New Opportunities**

2016 is finally here, and what better way to kick off the new year than by helping your community and neighbors by volunteering?

While we are always keeping our eyes open for new volunteers for our shopping-style pantry, clothing room and client services office, SnowCap is also seeking a few folks that can really deliver! We currently have a need for a two-person driving team, as well as a loading assistant that can help with our individual senior home deliveries every 4th Wednesday in the afternoon and evening.

Both of these opportunities take place only once per month, so it’s perfect for someone who wants to volunteer but doesn’t have the ability to commit to a weekly schedule. For a complete list of current volunteer opportunities, please visit our website at www.snowcap.org/volunteer.
Wish List

All the fattening food that you have resolved to do without in 2016

New children’s underwear

Covered electric skillet, UL approved, for food demos in the lobby

IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE POLICY, THIS INSTITUTION IS PROHIBITED FROM DISCRIMINATING ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, AGE, OR DISABILITY.

Board of Directors

Merlin Aufdengarten  Diane Liefeld
Alisa Karin-Bean  Blair Loudat
Rev. Pat Berger  Jim Mahnke
Sarah Gulde  Rusty Simms
Darryl Hill  Charlie Stanley
Judi Allen  Tom Weldon

Newsletter Committee

Judy Alley – Editor
Vern Groff – Graphic Designer
Richard Kiely – Home Run Graphics
Alicia Biastock
Carlene Weldon
Danni Mooney
Gretchen Weston
Kathy Dunford
Nate Larsen

On the Web
www.snowcap.org