As the warm weather approaches (already it seems to be well upon us!), our thoughts start turning to summer fun and celebrations in the sunshine – big family picnics at one of our beautiful state parks in the gorge, outings to the river or to the beach to soak up the rays, and of course, fireworks with the neighborhood kids on Independence Day. Summer is a time when a lot of us get a chance to think more about freedom, vacation, and fun. But it’s also a time when it’s easy to forget that not all of us are feeling so footloose and fancy-free.

As I reflect on independence, I think of how it’s one of the more celebrated tenets of American life. However, even the most independent person will sometimes need to work with others to get something accomplished, and everyone finds themselves in need of a little help from time to time. During the winter months with holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas, the hearts of good folk tend to turn naturally toward charity. During the celebrations of summer, it can be harder to keep those who are less fortunate in mind. But the reality is, just as many people struggle to hold on to their independence during the bright, sparkling days of summer, especially with children out of school and in need of more food at home.

At SnowCap, we are well and truly blessed during the Christmas season when so many contemplate why we give and are inspired to act. But since Christmas is so long passed, SnowCap is feeling the pinch. Last month, our donations were only 10% of those we received in December. Times are still tight for our neighbors, and they need our help as much as ever. We’re hoping this message will leave giving on your mind, though we know you already have it in your heart!

So if you can, please donate and help support SnowCap and the clients we serve on the road to independence this month.
A Client Gives Back

It wasn’t too terribly long ago that Laurie was in the hospital, fighting for her life. Now she is stronger and on Fridays, she walks to SnowCap to volunteer in the pantry.

Laurie and her family were clients at SnowCap for three years. They had operated an in-home day care for many years. But when Laurie’s health concerns developed, they were no longer able to keep their business open. SnowCap helped with food for Laurie, her husband, her adult son and for their four-legged family members. “The people were always so nice and I really appreciated what they were able to do for us,” Laurie remembered.

When Laurie’s family got back on their feet, she wondered about the ways she might be able to pay it forward.

First, she decided to make a sizeable monetary donation to SnowCap, remembering what had been done for them. She knew that SnowCap could use the money to purchase food to help those who truly needed it.

As Laurie became physically stronger, she thought about another way that she could give back. Once she was able to walk and stand for several hours, she knew that SnowCap’s pantry would be the right fit for her. She’s an outgoing people-person and loves helping the clients shop. Although she’s only been working in the pantry for three months, she is already collecting memorable stories. One of her favorites is about a woman with seven children who came in to get food for her family. This client had five of her children with her. As they perused the aisles, the client allowed her older children to make the food choices so that they could learn from their experience. Laurie felt a great deal of compassion for this family and loved how nurturing the mother was with her children.

Although Laurie hasn’t been volunteering for very long, when talking to her, one senses that she might be there for some time to come. “I get three million times more from my experience than I ever give,” but she’s giving more than she knows to SnowCap and its clients.

“Laurie Haggart (far right) takes a moment for a picture with Jeremy Wilebski and fellow Friday volunteer, Sandy Leichlerter (center).”
School Supply Wish List:
Even though summer has just begun, back to school will be upon us before we know it! The average cost of school supplies is $100 per child in our area. For many low-income families, this expense will stretch their budgets to the breaking point. Will you help support East County students by donating some supplies? Donations before August 15th are appreciated to ensure they are distributed before school starts.

- Scissors
- 3 ring binders 1.5”-3”
- Binder dividers
- Kleenex
- Colored pencils
- Calculators
- Rulers
- 3-ring zipper pouches
- Filler paper (college and wide rule)
- Pencils
- Ball Point Pens (black and blue)
- Glue (sticks and liquid)
- Crayons
- Spiral notebooks (college and wide rule)
- Pencil boxes

Birthday Celebrations:
Michelle Hilbert: Susan Eastman
Meena Hays: V Lael Hays
Elsie Herreid: V Lael Hays

Honors:
Nina Cook: Nancy Hawes, Wilhelmine Keulers
James Liefeld: Ben & Kim Moore

Memorial:
Bud & Nadine Aufdengarten: Merlin Aufdengarten
Joseph Blaser: Anonymous, Eloise Blaser
Norma Christianson: Sheryl Bundy, Florence Anna Caisse
Lillian Hjelte: Maxine Kuhnau
Beth Satchfield Lewis: June Satchfield
James McCChesney: Gordon & Darlene Story
Paul Satchfield: June Satchfield
Marilyn Smith: Liela Haugen, Norma McCoy
Jim Swanson: Cascade Sports Car Club
Leah Unruh: Marion & Ann Unruh
Carol Wallace: James & Marilyn Cook

Dine-Out: Save the Date!
The 2nd Annual Dine-Out for SnowCap will take place at area restaurants on Tuesday, August 23rd. As the event gets closer, information about participating eateries and other important details will be posted on the News & Events page of our website, http://www.snowcap.org/news--events.

So mark your calendars for August 23rd and enjoy an evening out at a great local restaurant for SnowCap!
Wish List

Tuna
Canned fruit
Canned meat
Peanut butter
Shampoo (travel size is great!)
Deodorant
Feminine Hygiene
Grocery bags (paper and reusable cloth)
Toilet paper
School supplies

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