Ah! on Thanksgiving day, when from East and from West,
From North and from South comes the pilgrim and guest;
When the gray-haired householder sees round his board
The old broken links of affection restored;
When the care-wearied man seeks his mother once more,
And the worn matron smiles where the girl smiled before;
What moistens the lip and what brightens the eye,
What calls back the past, like the rich Pumpkin pie?

John Greenleaf Whittier
Enter his gates with thanksgiving . . .
Give thanks to him and praise his name

Psalm 100:4

Though Thanksgiving Day is a uniquely American holiday, giving thanks is good thing all around the world and throughout all time. An attitude of gratitude is good mental health. Giving thanks to others spreads good will to all.

We don't even need a new toy to offer up thanks. We have so much in our everyday lives to be thank for. Do you have good health? A warm jacket? Food enough for the whole family? Many of the folks who turn to SnowCap are missing these basics and yet they will honor Thanksgiving Day by giving thanks for what they do have.

We give thanks to live in such a compassionate community. SnowCap volunteers are working hard to see that there is turkey enough for all. Even if you read this after Thanksgiving, know that we will be looking for turkeys and hams to make Christmas a happy holiday too. We hope to get 1500 turkeys or hams to their place of honor on holiday tables throughout East County.

A Tale of Two Thanksgiving Days

Imagine your Thanksgiving Day – putting the turkey in the oven early, the whole family on the way to celebrate with you. Maybe you’re most looking forward to your sister Deb coming over with her family-famous broccoli casserole or Aunt Bess’ signature candied yams. The green beans, mashed potatoes, stuffing, homemade pumpkin pie and all your loved ones enjoying the time together and the meal all helped to prepare.

Now think about Thanksgiving Day for a family in transition. We met James, a single father working hard to make ends meet for himself and his two small children, Jeffrey and Margot, last year. Having moved to the Northwest so James could look for work, he and the children were missing the large extended family they were accustomed to spending the holidays with. He’d been working on his cooking skills, but this was his first Thanksgiving on his own and the money was tight. So tight in fact, that he had recently come to visit the food pantry at SnowCap for the first time. New to the neighborhood and wanting to make his children’s Thanksgiving a special one, he was so happy to learn that there would be a Thanksgiving Day meal hosted, free for all in the community.

Served on Thanksgiving with care by Bruce Montgomery and his volunteers, the very traditional meal is served hot and in generous portions. There will be roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, hearty vegetables and even pie for dessert! But according to James and his kids, the best part is being able spend the day with family and to make new friends. This little family doesn’t have much, but they do have a lot that they’re thankful for!

We are accepting pies for the Thanksgiving Dinner at our donation door, 17788 SE Pine on weekdays from 9 to 3.
**Good News from David**

Some time back you may have read about David. We wrote to let you know that David suffered a workplace injury and ultimately lost his job. As a result of this life altering event and a delay of his disability benefits, David also lost his home and vehicle. David was forced to live on the streets.

These unfortunate circumstances led David to SnowCap. For several months he used our shower 2-3 times a week. In mid-August David got good news. His disability had been approved which meant that he could get off the streets and into a small apartment. In September David came in to thank us and said we probably wouldn't be seeing him again as he was preparing to set up his new home. It was nearing the end of the month and David did not come back. We all hoped that he had made it off the streets.

Early in November we had a pleasant surprise. David stopped in to say hello and let us know that life is looking up for him. He said that he has a lot to celebrate this Thanksgiving. He is happily settled into a warm apartment and appreciating the simple pleasures of a clean bed, and sitting down to a table to eat his meals. Seeing the peacefulness on his face, we are all proud to have been a help in his time of need.

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**Gratitude List**

Several people have asked that we write up the reason that we are especially grateful for the people, groups, companies, churches that we list in this column. That would fill another newsletter. The reasons are in our hearts. Each of these people have gone above and beyond what anyone could expect. They are all exceptional people, but each in a different way. This is not just a list of big donors.

- Gethsemane Lutheran Church
- Gresham Outlook
- Alyson Huntting
- Gresham Ford
- Peace Church of the Brethren
- Erin Kalmbach
- Les Schwab Tires
- NW Paper Box
- Pure Floors
- Francis Xavier’s

We wish to apologize for the inaccurate listing of the Pleasant Valley Community Baptist Church. They are providing all the volunteers to keep SnowCap open on the first Wednesday of each month. And, more than likely, they will provide many volunteers for the Thanksgiving Dinner as well.

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**Wish List**

Two free standing gas heaters like those used by restaurants for sidewalk seating. This is for the Good Neighbor Days and Community Basket when they must be done outside under the canopy. We are grateful for the canopy, but realize that the gas heaters would make a difficult task so much easier for both volunteers and clients.

Warm pajamas for all, but especially for children. As temperatures dip low warm pajamas help many to have a good night’s sleep. New children’s pajamas can make a nice Christmas present too.

Clip boards for clients to complete their paperwork on their laps in the lobby. We are constantly replacing these clip boards as they are used to prop open the door, given to the children to hold paper for coloring and drawing, and sometimes forgotten and taken home.

Dessert and baking mixes for the holiday food boxes. We like to see that every family has something sweet to celebrate the holidays.

Turkeys and hams, the centerpiece of many holiday tables. If your employer gives you a gift card for a turkey and you are vegetarian, going out of town or being entertained in someone else’s home for the holiday ---- please consider donating the gift card.

Blankets are really needed now. We have very little utility assistance and the temperatures are dropping. Many people would give thanks for an extra blanket now.

Fresh vegetables like potatoes, carrots, celery and onions. These items are in particular demand in this season and for the holiday table.

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As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

-- John Fitzgerald Kennedy
**Birthday Celebrations:**

**Judy Alley:** Anonymous  
**David Everist:** Mary Jane Everist  
**Alyson Huntting:** Anonymous

**Honors:**

**Carolyn Croker:** Galen & Nancy Harper  
**Jack Dempsey:** Kathleen Shaffer  
**Margaret Ford:** Galen & Nancy Harper  
**Don Frueh & Robert Barzler:** Charlie & Gloria Ross  
**Janet S Rich:** Ralph & Claire Horowitz, Marcella L McGee  
**Charlie & Gloria Ross:** Clifford & Judith Allen  
**Elizabeth Webber:** Galen & Nancy Harper

**Memorial:**

**Evelyn Anderson:** Sharon Anderson Johnson  
**Nadine Aufdengarten:** Merlin Aufdengarten  
**Joseph (Joe) Blaser:** Eloise Blaser  
**Janet Bowen:** Mary Morris  
**Pauline Bryan:** Perry Jackman  
**Cyril Butterfield:** Hank Lewis, Pauline F Morrow  
**Anthony Crumpton:** James & Billie Crumpton  
**Elmer & Emily Dotterer:** Nancy Lee Dotterer  
**Jack Goldenberg:** Adrienne Plumb  
**June Handy:** Pauline Morrow  
**Helen J (Jane) Hoffberger:** Chloe Baird, Fred & Donna Dempsey, Glenn Hoffberger, Sally Rolloff  
**Jim Johnson:** Pauline Morrow

**Birthday Celebrations:**

**Irene Kristofferson:** Ervin & Dianne Burton  
**Beth Satchfield Lewis:** June Satchfield  
**Fern Maish:** Lorraine Strauch  
**Ron Marchek:** Pauline Morrow  
**Colleen Morgan:** Timothy A Lanham, Greg Morgan  
**Marilyn Munger:** Blair Loudat, Charles & Gloria Ross, Christy Strong  
**Mary (Franks) Nelson:** Craig & Karen Adelhart, Edward Dery, Joan Dery, Jonnie Franks, McKinney 2009 Rev Trust, Dorothy Test  
**Janet S Rich:** Evelyn Bishop  
**Paul Satchfield:** June L Satchfield  
**Sam Wolsborn:** Eugene & Sandra Bitz, Bogeys, Dragonfly Café, Glendoveer Mens Club, Joe Gomez, Gresham Golf Course, M & M Restaurant and Lounge, Thomas & Virginia Morris, Ronald & Beverly Veach, Charles & Barbara Wolsborn, Mary Lou Wolsborn  
**Don Yedloutschnig:** Perry Jackman

**Anniversary:**

**Richard & Diane Bemrose:** Larry Bemrose, Michelle Bemrose, Richard & Diane Bemrose, Gloria Kelsay, Richard McConnell

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Holiday Helpers.** These are volunteers who one time or short term assignments necessary to assure everyone a happy holiday. These are openings available December 15th to 24th. Some are evening and weekend slots too.

**Mobile Food Pantry volunteers.** These are people who can work as little as one day a month, but must be ready to work hard when they do. They deliver food boxes to senior housing projects and schools. This means lifting and carrying food boxes and doing it outside in all sorts of weather. Hardy souls needed.

**Intake workers.** These front counter people are in need of big smiles, patient personalities, and endless sympathy. It can be an international experience as non-English speakers may be in need of food boxes too. No lifting required. All the work is indoors. Some basic computer literacy is necessary.

**Truck drivers needed.** No special licenses, but a good driving record is important. Current need it to help with dropping off barrels and then picking them up when they are full.

**Groundskeeper** to maintain the landscape. Duties vary. Right now there is kinnikinnick that needs to be planted, but there is always something to do.

For more information on these and other openings contact kari@snowcap.org or 503,674.8785 ext. 37.