



Strengthening Families and Keeping Children Safe

Relief Nursery

JUNE 2009

Unprecedented increase in need for Relief Nursery services

Families in our community are struggling as never before. During this economic recession, once stable families are now faced with unemployment, homelessness, and hunger. As a result, the Relief Nursery has seen a dramatic and unprecedented increase in need for our services.

- In February 2009, there was a 48 percent increase in demand for Relief Nursery services compared to February 2008.
- From January through March 2009, the Relief Nursery served as many children as in all of 2008.

That's the bad news. The good news is that a recent independent evaluation found that Relief Nurseries have a far-reaching, positive impact on children and families, and that participating families show a greater self-sufficiency.

The Oregon Commission on Children and Families contracted with an independent research organization, Northwest Professional Consortium of Portland (NPC), to conduct the evaluation of Oregon Relief Nursery programs for 2007-2008. The results of the study demonstrate the truly remarkable effect the Relief Nursery has on not only the lives of infants and young children who are at risk of abuse and neglect, but also the significant impact the program has on parents and families.

Oregon's Relief Nurseries show impressive results in reducing the number of days Relief Nursery children spend in costly out-of-home placements. The 2008 NPC evaluation also found that Relief Nursery children are less likely to be abused following their enrollment in the program, and Relief Nursery children are more likely than children statewide to be reunited with their parents.

"Every child deserves a safe and loving home with confident and competent parenting. The Relief Nursery is the most compassionate and cost effective way to help struggling families and at-risk children. Parents learn how to properly care for their young children and end the cycle of abuse and neglect," said Sharri da Silva, Relief Nursery Executive Director of Programs. "This is particularly significant now as data shows an increase in child abuse and neglect cases during times of economic hardship."

The impact of Relief Nursery programs was found to be far-reaching, successfully linking families to health care resources, resulting in a 27 percent reduction in use of costly emergency room services by Relief Nursery families. Parents in Relief Nurseries also showed a 117 percent increase in how often they read to their young children, a critical activity that provides the foundation for later language and literacy.

"These are very challenging times for our families and for the Relief Nursery, as well, as we are coping with an across-the-board decrease in funding while at the same time experiencing a vast increase in calls for help. With strong community support we can continue our proven success in helping the most vulnerable families, reducing child abuse and neglect, and keeping children out of costly foster care placement," said Irene Alltucker, Executive Director. ♥



To view the NPC report in its entirety, please visit www.reliefnursery.org and click on "news."



7th Annual Relief Nursery Pro-Am Golf Tournament

presented by



MONDAY
JULY 27, 2009

Shadow Hills Country Club
10:30 a.m. – REGISTRATION & CLINICS
12:30 p.m. – TEE OFF
6:00 p.m. – SOCIAL & PRIZES

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Oregon PGA Professional
to Accompany Each Team!

plus
Professional Clinics
Box Lunch & Prizes

\$165 per player

To register, visit
www.reliefnursery.org
or call the Development Office
343-9706



James Klonoski, 1925-2009

Jim made a tremendous impact on so many people throughout his life. By suggesting that gifts be made to the children of the Relief Nursery, he has continued his legacy of improving the community in which he lived. Jim was a highly respected member of our community and he is remembered with great reverence and appreciation.

Donations in Memory of James Klonoski

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Relief Nursery Events Calendar – Save the Date!

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Saturday, June 13 | World Wide Knit in Public Day
The Courtyard at Oakway Center
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, June 18 | Run Eugene Run
Alton Baker Park
5K Run * 5K Walk |
| Monday, July 27 | 7th Annual Pro-Am Golf Tournament
Shadow Hills Country Club |
| Wednesday, November 4 | 2009 Children's Hour
Advocacy Breakfast
The Hilton Hotel |
| Thursday, December 10 | The Great Taste
Valley River Inn |

For more information about upcoming Relief Nursery events or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please contact the Relief Nursery at 343-9706 or visit our website at www.reliefnursery.org.





In-Kind Donations

January 1, 2009 – April 30, 2009

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Main Event 2009 – “Spirit of the Wild West”

We celebrated our pioneering spirit! Thank you to everyone who came out to kick up yer heels in support of our Relief Nursery family. A big thank you goes to our spectacular event chairs ‘Mustang’ Sally Lee, ‘Calamity’ Jean Phelps, and ‘Miss Kitty’ Williams for keeping the wagon train heading down the trail!



For the third year, Wells Fargo blazed a trail as Title Sponsor of the Main Event, helping us to raise \$550,000, an amount needed to keep children in our classrooms and not have to further reduce programs and services this year. Donors, sponsors and guests corralled their efforts to make the evening truly unforgettable.

We had a chance to thank the **Honorary Chairs, the South Family**, for their commitment and support that means so much to us, helping keep children safe. The Souths have never hesitated to do whatever they could to help a child. Three generations of the South family have reached out to help Relief Nursery children by becoming involved, rolling up their sleeves to *blaze a trail of hope for a child.*

The evening started with a big yipee kai yay as the silent auction kicked off with the help of **Tracy Berry** of **New Country 93.1**. We rounded everyone up to get over to the stage to enjoy a performance of **Rich Glauber** and his children’s choir singing his inspirational original song, “Everybody Gets to Have a Chance.” Tasty vittles were served by **McCallum’s Custom Catering** to our 500 hungry trailblazers. Our **Resource Ranger Auctioneer Sid Voorhees** kept everyone in on the action with a spirited live auction. After all the excitement y’all danced till the cows came home to the funky tunes of **Satin Love Orchestra**.

We couldn’t have made the event possible without our Platinum, Premiere, Gold Nugget, Gold, Silver, and Bronze Sponsors going above and beyond to make sure all our costs were covered so every dollar raised at the event goes directly to help the children. The Diamond and Sapphire Donors made it possible for us to present y’all with some jaw-dropping auction packages!

We escaped to the western frontier thanks to the creativity and direction of **Carol Dozois** and **Julie Pickett** and with the help of **Todd Edman**, **Vicki Edwards**, **Shela Gunnink**, and **Marjie MacLaren**. The atmosphere was complete with the many gorgeous quilts provided by **Janet Palanuik** and the authentic chuck wagon rustled up from **Copper Windmill Ranch**.

Thank you to all of the dedicated volunteers who worked on committees, in the development office, and on-site to make this event truly memorable. You have all made a difference in the lives of the children and families.



Main Event Chairs

Sally Lee, Jean Phelps & Kitty Williams

Honorary Chairs

The South Family

Sandi and Jerry South

Robin, Scott, Courtney & Ryan South
Stephanie, Jeff, Alex & Hayley Platt

Committee Chairs

Auctioneer

Sid Voorhees & Crew

Clean Up

Janet Palanuik

Coat Check

Peggy Hoyt

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Carol Dozois, Julie Pickett

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Sally Lee

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Silent Auction

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An Investment With Great Returns

Wells Fargo Presents The Nineteenth Annual
Relief Nursery Main Event

April 25, 2009

It's great to invest in an event that delivers such great returns for the community.



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In Remembrance

On May 14, one of the Relief Nursery's most loyal friends, **John Jaqua**, passed away at 88 years of age. In the early 1990's, the Relief Nursery was poised at the edge of a major advance; we had an opportunity to construct a new building to serve many more local children and families. The key was to garner sufficient support to fully fund a project that experts opined was not economically feasible in our community. In response to that challenge, the Board of Stewards was formed as a council of advocates who could take us to that next level. A handful of visionaries, including John Jaqua, heeded that call.

Together with his beloved wife Robin, and the entire Jaqua family, John embraced the Nursery and the business model underlying it, understanding that protecting our community's most vulnerable children and families is not only the right thing to do, it's the only intelligent thing to do. John understood that the prevention and remediation of child maltreatment and neglect is far more cost-effective than is addressing its consequences through the adult criminal and juvenile justice systems that so many formerly abused and neglected children ultimately inhabit. John and Robin were essential to the success of the capital campaign, but they didn't stop there. They have been humble, steadfast, and irresistible community stewards of the Nursery for nearly two decades.

In his youth, John was a gifted sprinter. However, he recognized the challenge of ending child abuse as a relay race that would take much endurance and many legs to win. For his part, nobody ever ran a better race than John. His unmatched legacy deserves our enduring gratitude.

Dave Brewer,
Board of Stewards



Auxiliary Scholarship Awarded

The Relief Nursery Auxiliary is excited to announce the granting of their latest Continuing Education Scholarship. For the past five years, the Auxiliary has sold jewelry adorned with the Relief Nursery logo to raise funds to provide an educational scholarship to a Relief Nursery parent each term. The latest recipient is a mother currently enrolled at the University of Oregon who will use the \$500 scholarship to help pay for books as she works towards earning her teaching credential. This wonderful program is made possible by the hard work of the Auxiliary. Thank you to all who have contributed to this program by purchasing the Relief Nursery jewelry. If you are interested participating in this amazing effort, please call Kristin at 343-9706, ext. 104 or visit www.reliefnursery.org.

"Sometimes, along the way, we all need a little encouragement.

Encouragement that helps us keep moving forward and an acknowledgement that we are doing the right thing.

Our hope is that we offer that encouragement and acknowledgement. The little extra that helps families see that there are people who see their efforts and are behind their good decisions."

Debi Vodvarka
RELIEF NURSERY

*To the relief Nursery Auxiliary
Thank you so much for giving me
the money to help pay for books.
It has been such a blessing
having healthy start and will
always be thankful for all
your help. I will never in
words be able to express my
gratitude. Thank you for everything!*

Pamper Me Day

Spring Pamper Me Day was once again a huge success thanks to the time and dedication of Vicki and Daniel Bell and the stylists from Reflections Salon, with support from the Relief Nursery Auxiliary. Over 50 parents had their hair cut and styled. The parents had a chance to relax, read magazines, and enjoy a delicious dinner and dessert made in the Relief Nursery kitchen. In addition, each parent received a goodie bag, and over 30 raffle prizes were handed out. The parents left the evening with smiles on their faces, feeling pampered and relaxed.

Pamper Me Day would not be possible without all of the amazing volunteers and support from community donors providing raffle and goodie bag items. Thank you!



Photos by Rosemary Duffy

Grace's Story — Grace and her two children, Sam and Carrie, have faced significant challenges over the years. Grace's alcohol abuse caused Sam and Carrie to be placed in foster care several times. For the past two years, Grace has been clean and sober, and she is participating in several parenting programs at the Relief Nursery. Grace is a Lane Community College student and was granted the "Parents as Scholars" funding from the state. Grace is a straight A student and is dedicated to improving the lives of her children and herself. **Congratulations, Grace!**

Auxiliary Spring Luncheon

The Auxiliary wrapped up their year with a spring luncheon held at the Hilton Eugene. Over 35 people attended and learned more about the mission and works of the Relief Nursery Auxiliary. Auxiliary President **Debi Vodvarka**, Board of Directors President-Elect **Susan Kauble**, and Executive Director **Irene Alltucker** spoke about the importance of the Auxiliary's projects to support the parents of the Relief Nursery. Guests also heard from a Relief Nursery parent, **Lynne**, who has benefited from the Auxiliary's work. She was so thankful for the dedication of Auxiliary members.



If you are interested in becoming a member of the Relief Nursery Auxiliary, or would like more information, please call **Debi Vodvarka** at 344-4469.



April Was Child Abuse Prevention Month



Once again our Blue Ribbon Awareness Campaign was a success thanks to our wonderful sponsors **Levi Strauss & Co.** and **KVAL**. Thank you to all of the local businesses that offered blue ribbons and to all individuals who wore a blue ribbon in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Your continued support makes a difference in the life of a child.

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Over the past six weeks, seven students and two teachers from Churchill High School have volunteered over 500 hours to the Relief Nursery. From helping with Main Event projects, to cleaning

up our playgrounds and gardens, the work these students have done is priceless, and we are very grateful. On behalf of the staff and families, thank you to Amanda Andrus-Karker, Ashlie Andrus-Karker, Jon Davidson, Michael Gabbert, Bryan Grimaud, Glenn Kreiss, Nova Malaw, Peter Mitchem, and Kristy Smith.



Our Beloved Volunteers: Main Event, Classroom, and Interns ♥

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| AJ Jackson | Damarus Combs | Debi Grant | Glenn Kreiss | Mike Nash | Kristee Smith |
| Ann Aiken | Brit Counard | Danuta Greblowska | Shelley Kurtz | Kelsey Nelson | Tanya Snell |
| Stacie & Todd Alberts | Jami Sterling Counard | Bryan Grimaud | Meredith LaFrance | Anna Norman | Sandi South |
| Irene Alltucker | Autumn Cummings | Shela Gunnink | Becky Lamoureux | Jenny Obermiller | Scott South |
| Kevin, Isaac & Ezra Alltucker | Kayla Cummings | Jackie Hall | Renee Lane | Julie Ogle | Kristin Staley |
| Ann Anderson | Ann Danby | Justin Hansen | Rob Laney | Joyce Owens | Zoe Steeler |
| Sarah Andrews | Jon Davidson | Ali Harris | Kourtney Latham | Janet Palaniuk | Becky Sullivan |
| Amanda Andrus-Karker | Angela Davis | Dale Hartley | Sally Lee | Tom Palmer | Curtis Summers |
| Ashlie Andrus-Karker | Carrie Davis | Morgan Heckman | Becca Leafmeeper | Pam Perkins | Gene Swan |
| Kaysie Angeletta | Don & Loretta Davis | Nori Hemphill | Debi Leiken | Jean Phelps | Abby Swangard |
| Nic Arcuri | Sinjin Davis | Rhonda Hendricks | Makaela Lipke | Liz, Randy, Benjamin & Joshua Phelps | Lorraine Symms |
| Suzanne Arlie | Lindsay Day | Patrick Herman | Julie Listoe | Dave Phillips | Curt Thizapp |
| Beatriz Arrayga | Kassie DeMarsh | Meg Herran | Sandie Longtin | Julie Pickett | Erin Thomas |
| Connor Ashland | Matt Devore | Jenna Hicks | Sarah Lott | Marsha Pierpoint | Sola Toshima |
| Robin Babb | Carol Dozois | Kellen Himelhoch | Marjie MacLaren | Glenda Poling | Maron Van |
| Agnes Bachmeier | Deb Dreiling | Angela Hodges | Tim Mahalak | Therien Poynter | Debi Vodvarka |
| Cyndi Backlund | Gretchen Dubie | Peggy Hoyt | Nova Malaw | Nancy Read | Sid & Hank Voorhees |
| Ed Barclay | Rosemary Duffy | Bethany Hurley | Kerry Manahan-Ehlow | Amy Ripley | Jan Walker |
| Ali Barker | Gretchen Duncan | Diane Jackson-Lamb | Mary Margaret | Susan Roberts | Lindsay Walker |
| Colleen Bellotti | Celeste & Todd Edman | Megan Janssen-O'Connell | Kathy Marzano | Susie Roberts | Cindy Weinhold |
| Barbara & Peter Bergreen | Vicki Edwards | Karen Jewett | Sara Mason | Rachel Rowe | Austin Welt |
| Bobbi Braaten | Molly Elder | Mali Joiner | Patrice McCaffrey | Gina Russillo | Catilitin Whitty |
| Emily Brock | Jessica Ensign | Blythe Johnson | Patty McCourt | Mary Ryan | Peggy Williams |
| Ray Brown | Kira Erfurth | Cheri & Del Johnson | Karen McEntee | Beth Ryer | Kitty Williams |
| Amy Bunker | Jeannine Erving | Susan & Jack Kauble | Nancy McMahan | Lynn Sabol | Jessica Wilson |
| Kevin Burns | Kristin Estlick | Chrystal Kellerman | Taryn McNie | Ruth & Joe Schadler | Monica Wilton |
| Maggie Callery | Jo Fisher | Perris Kelly | Kathleen Melton | Lise Schellman | Debbie Wright |
| Laurie Campbell | Clint Foley | Kim Kelsay | Lupe Mendoza-Owens | Maria Soeva | Megan Wuest |
| Salina Caraway | Leonard Foster | Corinne Kiefer | Peter Mitchem | Emily Schnabel | Donna Yamanaka |
| Jessica Carlson | Deena & Dave Frosaker | Alexis King | Ona Lee Mosier | Emily Senter | Caroline Zavin |
| Jennifer Cartwright | Michael Gabbert | Dave King | Patsy Moser | Beth Sheehan | Jackie Zebrowski |
| Kayleigh Catron | Lisa Gagnon | Chris Klonoski | Kathy Moxley | Adam Shelton | |
| Lori Caughell | Lynne Gately | Sam Klonoski | Niloo Movassaghi | Joy Shilling | |
| Jessie Chatfield | Kelly & Nick Glazener | Doug Koke | Mark Musgrove | Dani & Rick Smith | |
| Lisa Clevenger | Dianna Graff | Dennis Konrady | Cleo Nagy | | |



Special Acts of Kindness

♥ Thank you **Girl Scout Troop 250** for the beautiful hand-made teddy bears. They are so soft and cuddly – the children love them.



♥ Thank you **Springfield Twin Rivers Rotary** for selecting the Relief Nursery as the benefactor of Casino Night at the Elks Club in Springfield. The dollars raised will go towards our Capital Campaign. Thank you!

♥ Thank you to **Project Homeless Connect** for including the Relief Nursery and providing the opportunity for community outreach.

♥ Thank you to the students of **Willamette Christian School** for the beautiful valentine boxes filled with art supplies, personal care items, and treats for the children.

♥ A home-style thank you to **Martha Koreisha** who gave sheets, clothing and books for the families.

♥ **Lupe Mendoza-Owens** and **Phillip Owens** donated two Thanksgiving baskets to the families during the holiday season. Thank you!

♥ Thank you to **Girl Scout Troop 262** who stuffed 1,300 letters for our Annual Campaign while working toward earning their service badges.

♥ A special thank you to the **sixth graders at O'Hara School** who donated their time to label books, decorate birthday crowns, and make felt stories for the children.

♥ Thank you to **Dody Patterson** for the gift of pretty and warm hand knitted hats.

♥ Thank you to **Ethel Penningroth** for her gift of warm, lovingly hand knitted hats.

♥ Thank you to **Stefani Thompson** for designing and crocheting 38 colorful hats for the children and families.

♥ A special thanks to **Temple Beth Israel** for washing the Relief Mobile and tending the Relief Nursery Garden.

♥ Thank you filmmaker **Ty Rauber** and **Red #1331** for your time and talent, creating the very first Relief Nursery YouTube video.

♥ A warm thank you to **Holt International** for the handmade baby quilts.

♥ Thank you to **Pat Peterson** and **North Eugene High School NHS** who wrapped presents at Barnes and Noble in honor of Relief Nursery and donated their \$82.39 profit.

♥ Thank you **Polaris Inc.** for the food, toys, clothing and shoes for our children.

♥ A warm thank you to **Opal Robbins** for the lovely box of handmade hats.

♥ Thank you to **Lyndon Smith** for the gifts, books and crayons. Your handmade gifts are a true “work of heart” for the children.

♥ A special thank you to **Dance Africa** who gave 25 tickets to their performance. This was an unforgettable memory for many Relief Nursery families.

♥ A warm, cuddly thank you to the **Asbury Methodist Church Women's Ministry** who knitted 47 hats for the children.

♥ Thank you to **Laura Larson** for donating her daughter's birthday gifts.

♥ A designer thank you to **Kerri Lutz** for her continuing support with various design requests for our events. Thank you for gifting us with stylish graphics, Kerry!

♥ Thank you to the students of **John F. Kennedy Middle School** for providing new toys for the children.

♥ Best wishes for a wonderful life together, and a special thank you to **Julie Sheppard** and **Andrew Caplan** who asked that guests at their wedding reception make donations to the Relief Nursery in lieu of bringing gifts.

♥ Thank you to **Eugene Rehab & Specialty Care** for the generous donation as well as invitations for our Room 4 children to enjoy special social activities with your seniors.

♥ A many-happy-returns-of-the-day thank you to **Jenny Obermiller** for collecting non-perishable food and cash donations for the Relief Nursery in lieu of gifts at her birthday party.

♥ A special thank you to **Wayside Open Bible Chapel** and **Pastor Bob Scroggins** for the backpacks with school supplies and books. You help our children see themselves as students.

♥ Thank you to **Junior League of Eugene** and **Caroline Wolfram** for the gift of warm coats and jackets.

♥ A musical-memory thank you to the **Eugene Concert Choir** for tickets to *Jazzin' It Up For Kids*.



- ♥ Thank you to **Lynda del Nero** for donating women's clothing and shoes for the mothers and entertaining videos for the families.
- ♥ A special thank you to our friend **Lydia Deane** for the handmade fleece nap blankets.
- ♥ Thank you **Cindy Rider** for providing ballet slippers for the movement class at the Relief Nursery.
- ♥ Thank you to **Kyle Mattox, Richard Anstine**, and our friends at **Waldenbooks** for the eight cases of books from the Waldenbooks Book Drive. Thank you for giving the gift of literacy and books in the homes of Relief Nursery children.
- ♥ A special thank you to **Bob Johns** at **B. Kasey's Appliance Service, Inc.** who donated services to fix our washing machine.
- ♥ Thank you to **Siuslaw Bank** who donated cash bags for our Blue Ribbon Campaign.
- ♥ Thank you to **Laura Abruzzini** and friends at **John L. Scott Realty's** Eugene office for conducting an **emergency diaper drive** and delivering diapers, diaper cream and packages of baby wipes. These items are often in terribly short supply for our families.
- ♥ A special thank you to the students of **Elmira High School** for the colorful Easter baskets for the children.
- ♥ A creativity-inspiring thank you to **Mrs. Yess** and **students at Kennedy Middle School** for making and donating modeling clay and gak for the kids.
- ♥ Thank you to **Pastor Steve Singleton** of **Restoration Fellowship** and the **Springfield Rotary Club** for the large bin full of candy-filled eggs for the children.
- ♥ A special thank you to **Mary Ferris Vertulfo** for asking for donations for the Relief Nursery in lieu of gifts at her birthday party.
- ♥ A heart-healthy thank you to the **Chambers Family Foundation** for the donation of **KIDSPORTS Scholarships** for the children.
- ♥ A big thank you to **Burch's Shoes** at Oakway Center for the wonderful donation of shoes and children's summer sandals. These are the first pair of new shoes for many of our children.
- ♥ A heartfelt thank you to **Old Dominion** for the food drives which provided nutritious and much-needed food for our children and families.
- ♥ A rockin' thank you to **Hal and Mary Beamer** for the donation of a beautiful handcrafted rocking chair with an upholstered cushion. We also thank **Dr. Paula Ciesielski** for referring the Beamers to the Relief Nursery to make their donation. We are honored to have all of you as new friends.
- ♥ Thank you to **John Alltucker** and **Leonard Foster** for facilitating the transportation of wagons, wagon wheels, and barrels for Main Event decorations.

- ♥ Thank you to **Albertson's on 18th** for donating 60 paper bags which were used to send the children's spring baskets home.
- ♥ Thank you **Howard Feinman, Jane Yates, Jane Allen** and **Gleaves Swearingen Potter & Scott LLP** for your invaluable legal expertise and advice.
- ♥ A delicious and nutritious thank you to the **Jamie Cournard-Sterling, Ken Brown, Metropolitan Housing Authority**, and **Belfor** for conducting a food drive to provide much needed food for our families tables.
- ♥ A special thank you to **Sue and Chip Goodman** for donating several lovely wooden tables and chairs. Now many local families have the perfect setting for years of meals, homework, puzzles, and other precious memories for their children.
- ♥ A very stylish thank you to **Joy's Uptown Style and Bello Day Spa and Salon** for hosting an evening to benefit the children and families of the Relief Nursery.
- ♥ Flowery thanks to **Dandelion Flowers and Gifts** for the donation from their "Make It For Mom" fundraiser.
- ♥ A heartfelt thank you to **Jean Sanesi** for the gift of warm and cuddly hand knit baby blankets for our little ones.

The Duck Stop Quacks Back

Since 1920, the Duck Store's mission has been to serve the needs of the students, faculty and staff at the University of Oregon. In addition to providing course materials, technology and supplies to students, The Duck Store is also a bridge between the university and the community. The **Quack Back program** showcases the many ways The Duck Store gives back to the community, and it also encourages students to get involved. Since 1996, the **Duck Stop** baristas have donated over \$80,000 in tips to local, nonprofit organizations. Thank you '07-'08 Duck Stoppers for raising over \$6,000 for the Relief Nursery: **Julia Calvary, Phillip Davey, Eileen Hesus, Karlin Johnson, Steve Kim, Sandra Schnider, Billie Jo Smith, Jess Steadman, Liz Thorley, and Michael Thorne.**



Michael Thorne, Arlyn Schaufler, Karlin Johnson, Sandra Schnider, Stacie Alberts

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Beyond the Classroom is the third in a series of articles about Relief Nursery services that reach beyond the therapeutic classroom, strengthening families and keeping children in our community safe.

“Oregon ranks third in the nation for early childhood hunger and the need in our community greatly outstrips the food resources for families,” said Sharri da Silva, Executive Director of Programs. “Most of the children and families served by the Relief Nursery are on food stamps. The average food stamp benefit is about 98 cents per meal. Well over half of food stamp recipients say that their food stamps run out in two weeks or less, and they worry where their next meal will come from.”

The Relief Nursery is working to tackle this issue of growing hunger with two new programs: The **FoodMobile** and **Family Fun and Food Night**. The Relief Nursery is conducting an on-going non-perishable food drive. We accept donations at our FoodMobile, located at the Relief Nursery. The FoodMobile is a resource where non-perishable foods and kitchen items are available for families who have already accessed other food resources in the community and are still experiencing need.

In addition, the Relief Nursery hosts a **Family Fun and Food Night** each month. These are fun evenings for the entire family where they receive a hot meal while visiting with other families and participating in child-focused activities.

Scott South and **Emerald West** employees generously hosted the first two Relief Nursery Family Fun and Food Nights. “It makes me very sad to know that this is going on here in our community. To be part of a solution to a hunger problem, where a modest contribution can feed 60 people and involve 18 employees from my business that had a wonderful time – what a rewarding experience. Every single person that came to help wants to do it again, and so I have signed up to sponsor Family Fun and Food Night again.”



If you would like to make a donation to the FoodMobile, please consider one of the following items:

- Maseca corn flour
- Dried beans
- Rice
- Egg Noodles and pasta (no ramen)
- Canned meats (tuna or chicken)
- Fruit juices
- Canned fruit
- Grocery gift cards for fresh produce



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