

fall
2018

The logo for ACCESS news features a stylized graphic of four overlapping leaf-like shapes in blue, yellow, orange, and pink above the text "ACCESS news". "ACCESS" is in a blue, sans-serif font, and "news" is in a black, lowercase, sans-serif font.

ACCESS news

FOOD, WARMTH AND SHELTER
WE DO THAT! INSIDE, MORE ON
WHAT WE'RE DOING TO BUILD
COMMUNITY ALL YEAR LONG.



SNAPSHOTS



New ACCESS Nutrition Director

Rachael Ward joins ACCESS as our new Nutrition Director with seven years of experience in the non-profit sector at the intersection of nutrition, public health and agriculture. Welcome Rachael Ward!



'Tis the Season for Greystone Court's Holiday Lights Display, Food and Fund Drive

Nineteen years in a row! The annual Greystone Court Food and Fund Drive runs from December 21-24, 5:30 – 9:30p.m. Bring the family to marvel at the beautiful lighting displays. Drop off food or donate funds for ACCESS.



ACCESS Refers Participants to Parenting Classes

We are very excited to be part of offering evidence-based curriculum called Nurturing Parenting for the community. Stay tuned for upcoming dates. For more information, call The Family Connection at (541) 734-5150, ext. 1050.



Letter from ACCESS Executive Officer

ACCESS offers many programs to the community which create a sustainable environment that inspires self-sufficiency, self-respect and service to others. Over the years, you have read about some of these important programs.

Behind those valuable resources is an operational structure that helps keep our organization

ACCESS



Do Good by Eating Pizza? YES!

Tuesday, Nov. 13, Kaleidoscope Pizzeria & Pub at 3084 Crater Lake Highway in Medford will donate 100% of proceeds from all **dine-in** sales to ACCESS. Exceptions will be bottled wine and merchandise.



Help Bring Holiday Cheer to Seniors in Jackson County

The Senior Shoebox Project is accepting wrapped shoeboxes filled with fun items until Monday, Dec. 10. Ways you can help: Donate wrapped filled shoeboxes; volunteer to deliver. Call (541) 774-4324 for more information.



Food-4-Less and Thunderbird Market Grocery Bag Drive for the Hungry Begins November 28

Look for your bag in the Mail Tribune and Daily Tidings or drop off any filled bag at your local fire station, Umpqua Bank, or the churches listed on the bag. Monetary donations can be sent to ACCESS: PO Box 4666, Medford, OR 97501 or online at www.accesshelps.org.

supportive and functioning for those providing food, warmth and shelter to our neighbors.

Last year, we expanded our warehouse to triple the capacity and ability to store more food for our community. We also increased safety on our Aviation Way campus by putting in parking lot speed bumps and clarified wayfinding.

This coming year, we will renovate our front lobby to provide better, safer access and more convenient and expedient service from our team members. We will also have new edible landscaping on our property, thanks to the Medford Chamber Leadership program—part of our “food for tomorrow” nutrition initiative. Watch for more details on this wonderful addition in our

spring newsletter when things are really growing!

From all of us at ACCESS, thank you for supporting what we do through your volunteering and kind donations. As you can imagine, undesignated donations (those not specified for a designated program) enable us to continue to operate each and every day to build community.

Weatherization Contractors Have Helped People Stay in their Homes and Reduce Energy Costs for More than 10 Years



Funded by several grants, ACCESS weatherization services include ceiling, wall and floor insulation, energy related minor home repairs, air leakage reduction and heating duct improvements.

Long term relationships between ACCESS and weatherization contractors Joe Lorenz of All Phase Weatherization and Construction and Greg Chandler of Southern Oregon Insulation and Weatherization have produced cost saving results for thousands of people in Jackson County since 2009:

- 47,425 people
- 16,050 seniors
- 5,225 children
- 8,150 people with disabilities

“People are grateful for the work we do,” says Chandler. “We get letters every week.”

While new construction can make contractors like Chandler and Lorenz more money, they both say they’ve stuck with ACCESS because of the good working relationship and because of the benefit to the community.

“For seniors, especially, together with ACCESS, we save them money they may need for medications and other things on their limited income,” says Lorenz.

“Without a shower or clean clothes, it’s nearly impossible to function. We need to meet the basic needs of our most vulnerable neighbors.”

~ACCESS Support Services Director James Raison

Portable Shower and Laundry Trailer for Homeless Ashland Residents



Photo courtesy of Liam Moriarty/JPR

Our communities in Jackson County have an extreme lack of shower and laundry facilities that can support our homeless neighbors. Through Oregon Housing and Community Services, ACCESS has recently been able to assist Options for Housing Residents of Ashland in purchasing a portable shower and laundry trailer.

Through the use of this trailer, a person can stay in a shelter in Ashland on any given night and have a chance to wash their clothing and take a shower. It is very tough to obtain and maintain employment that is so vital for many to secure housing when they lack the ability to keep themselves clean and maintained, something that most take for granted each day.

The trailer will be used in the Ashland area and will rotate between shelter locations along with other events such as community meals.

If you’d like to consider making a donation, visit www.accesshelps.org or call (541) 690-3974.

6 Things You May Not Know

- ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES ARE FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO NEED TO UTILIZE A HOMELESS SHELTER THAN ADULTS WITHOUT ANY DISABILITIES
- THERE ARE CURRENTLY AT LEAST 9 HOMELESS SHELTERS OPERATING IN JACKSON COUNTY SERVING MANY DIFFERENT POPULATIONS
- THROUGH OREGON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, ACCESS IS PROVIDING FUNDING FOR SEVERAL WINTER-SEASON SHELTERS THROUGHOUT JACKSON COUNTY
- WHEN COMBINED WITH PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING, SHELTERS PROVIDE A MUCH NEEDED SAFE AND CLEAN SPACE ON THE ROAD TO SECURING HOUSING
- THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 225 SHELTERS BEDS AVAILABLE IN JACKSON COUNTY ON A YEAR-ROUND BASIS, NOT NEARLY ENOUGH
- IN 2018, 732 INDIVIDUALS WERE FOUND TO BE HOMELESS IN JACKSON COUNTY ACCORDING TO THE POINT IN TIME COUNT

**“This is the nicest thing anyone
has ever done for me!”**

*~ Veteran who recently received a
mattress after living on the
streets for nearly 20 years*

Mattress Firm Helps Veterans Sleep Happy!



With more than 3,500 company-operated and franchised stores across 49 states, Mattress Firm has the largest geographic footprint in the United States among multi-brand mattress retailers. With their Veteran's program they serve approximately 25 organizations like ACCESS who help veterans who are in need. ACCESS started utilizing the program in June of 2017. Since that time, ACCESS has ordered 89 mattress sets—for a total of 102 beds.

Overall, ACCESS has saved approximately \$32,000 over the typical retail rate on these

mattress sets thanks to Mattress Firm.

The Mattress Firm Team delivers between 1300-1500 mattresses every year to veterans across the country and has saved Veteran Programs approximately \$500,000 dollars on mattress costs for those in need.

ACCESS' Mattress Firm Sales Representative Jon Howerton says the groups he enjoys helping the most are groups that help others that are in need.

Recently a bed was delivered to a former homeless Veteran who had been living on the streets for

nearly 20 years. He expressed his gratitude to ACCESS' Support Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) Community Support Specialist Marty Thomas, "This is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for me!"

The generosity of Mattress Firm helps ACCESS stretch Support Services for Veterans Families grant dollars to purchase the mattresses.

Mattress Firm also offers a 10% military discount to all Veterans who purchase beds in their stores. The company brands include Mattress Firm, Sleepy's and Sleep Train.

“It’s amazing that we can partner to give our families healthy options.”

~Danielle Jenson, Jackson Elementary

ACCESS Expands School Produce Program

For the past three years ACCESS has made a commitment to increase the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables distributed to hungry families by 50 percent.

In order to reach our goal we have started new distribution sites across the county, targeting sites where families already are, such as local schools. Jackson Elementary and Kids Unlimited Academy schools have participated in the past 2-3 years and each distributed 500 – 1,000 pounds of produce weekly, serving hundreds of families.



Volunteers get ready to give away fresh fruits and vegetables to families at Jackson Elementary School

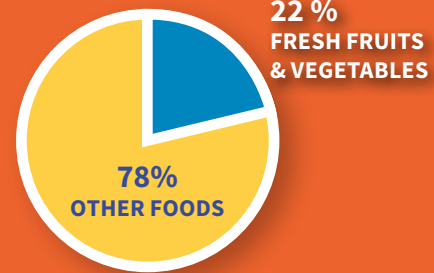
Through grants from the Chaney Family Foundation and the Juan Young Trust and a projected, substantial increase in donations of fresh produce from Costco, we have the capacity to expand and deliver produce to another 3-5 schools across the county. We anticipate growing this program and delivering more than 100,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables over the next year, serving close to 1,000 families.

Focusing on Fresh Produce in Fiscal Year 2018

- ACCESS MANAGES SIX VOLUNTEER RUN FOOD SHARE GARDENS ACROSS JACKSON COUNTY
- 26,289 POUNDS OF FRESH, ORGANICALLY GROWN PRODUCE WAS GROWN IN THESE GARDENS IN 2017
- VOLUNTEERS DONATED 3,057 HOURS OF THEIR TIME TO THE GARDENS

22% of All Food Distributed through ACCESS in Fiscal Year 2018 was Fresh Produce

Pounds of Food Distributed July 2017 - June 2018



JACKSON COUNTY





“It’s so very easy, we just give instructions to our IRA advisor and they send our amount direct to ACCESS. And, when we do it this way, it’s tax free for us.”

~ Charles and Rebecca Versteeg

A Triple Win Benefit

A Tax-free IRA Distribution to ACCESS

IRA owners age 70 ½ or older can make a charitable distribution from their retirement accounts without paying income tax on the distribution. Please consider distributing up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to a qualified charitable organization, like ACCESS.

As long as the distribution is made from the IRA directly to the qualified charitable organization, and the owner is at least 70½, the charitable distribution will be tax-free. The charitable distribution also may be used

to satisfy the owner’s required minimum distribution.

For people who make charitable donations, this makes more sense than taking the required minimum distribution, and then making a cash gift to charity. In that situation, withdrawal of the required minimum distribution would be taxable income, and the cash gift to charity would qualify as an itemized deduction. The result is much less tax-efficient than a direct charitable distribution.

To make a charitable distribution from your IRA to ACCESS, or another qualified charitable organization, please contact your IRA provider to learn their procedures and complete any required forms. The IRA provider must make the charitable distribution directly from your IRA to a 501(c)(3) organization like ACCESS.

Please note that this is not intended to be legal or tax advice. Please contact your attorney, or your tax advisor for specific legal and tax advice.

ACCESS Briefs

“This grant is giving our family of five the honor and the chance to call this place OUR home. This grant really does mean everything to us.”

*~Tonya and Bruce McGinnis,
ACCESS Housing Program participants*



EVENT AND AUCTION GUIDE



10TH ANNUAL



MAYORS UNITE TO BUILD COMMUNITY

“A most elegant way to help,” summed up a local mayor about the September 15 event at Bigham Knoll in Jacksonville. All 11 Jackson County mayors joined with ACCESS to welcome more than 280 guests and volunteers in an effort to build community. Local restaurants, vintners and brewers served their very tasty specialty foods, wines and spirits. The proceeds will allow ACCESS to serve more than 263,000 meals in the coming year, and help thousands of our neighbors.



KEEPING PEOPLE WARM

Every year, ACCESS is able to provide Energy Assistance to our neighbors who are low income in Jackson County. All types of heating are eligible for a grant towards the utility bill. Homeowners and renters alike can receive assistance. Each year ACCESS assists approximately 5500 households. For more information, call (541) 779-9020 to inquire and schedule an appointment. For convenience, outreach appointments are available in many areas throughout the region.



SHOPPING HELPS OUR COMMUNITY

You can make a difference to families in need all year around by becoming a Fred Meyer Rewards Member and selecting ACCESS as your charity of choice. Thanks to all of you, and Fred Meyer, ACCESS has received more than \$7,553 since May of 2014. That translates into 30,212 meals for our hungry neighbors in Jackson County. To enroll, simply go to www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and link your Rewards Card to our ACCESS name or by using our new non-profit number LV813.

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Oregon Dept. of Revenue
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Peace House
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CASH AND IN-KIND DONATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN MAY 1, 2018 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2018

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

*Oregon Community Foundation-administered

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for ACCESS to build community**

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Albertson’s (4 locations)
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COSTCO
Fred Meyer (2 locations)
Grocery Outlet (White City)
Oregon Food Bank
Ray’s Food Place (2 locations)
Safeway (3 locations)
Smart Food Service
Trader Joe’s
Target
Umpqua Dairy
Walmart (3 locations)
WinCo Foods

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**

ACCESS would like to
recognize the following
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volunteers, contributions
and facilities to feed people
in need in Jackson County.

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Butte Falls Community
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City of Medford–Parks
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Calendar



NOV. 13 KALEIDOSCOPE PIZZERIA & PUB FUNDRAISER
Tuesday, Nov. 13, Kaleidoscope Pizzeria & Pub on Crater Lake Highway in Medford will donate 100% of proceeds from all dine-in sales to ACCESS. Exceptions will be bottled wine and merchandise.

NOV. 27 #GIVINGTUESDAY
There is Black Friday and Cyber Monday for shopping, but don't forget #GivingTuesday, a day to give back and help others less fortunate and in need for the holiday season. Go to accesshelps.org and click on #GivingTuesday to help.



NOV. 28 SHERM'S FOOD-4-LESS AND THUNDERBIRD MARKET GROCERY BAG DRIVE
Beginning Wednesday, Nov. 28, Sherm's Food-4-Less and Thunderbird Market host their annual Food for Hope food drive. Look for your bag in the Mail Tribune and Daily Tidings or drop off any filled bag at your local fire station, Umpqua Bank, churches listed on the bag. Monetary donations can be sent to ACCESS: PO Box 4666, Medford, OR 97501 or online at www.accesshelps.org.

DEC. 21-24 ANNUAL GREYSTONE COURT HOLIDAY CELEBRATION, FOOD & FUND DRIVE
December 21-24, 5:30 – 9:30p.m. Bring your family to see the beautiful light displays. Bring donations of non perishable foods and monetary donations to help feed the hungry for the holidays.

FEB. 14 DUTCH BROS "DUTCH-LUV" FUNDRAISER IN JACKSON COUNTY FOR ACCESS



MAR. 19 ACCESS SENIOR FAIR – SAVE THE DATE
Tuesday, Mar. 19 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Medford Armory. Don't miss this one-stop shop for health and information resources. Suggested donation of \$1 or one can of food.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES, PLEASE VISIT ACCESSHELPS.ORG OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE