



Sweet Home Emergency Ministries
1115 Long Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386

July 2014

Dear Friends of SHEM,

It has been much too long since our last newsletter. We have been busy with the everyday operations, including some exciting and new developments at SHEM that will be shared in this newsletter. SHEM continues to see growing trends in the number of households and people served each month. Already during the first six months of 2014, there have been 1848 emergency food boxes distributed, serving 6633 people and 5443 dinners served at the meal site.

Here's some late spring and summer highlights of the latest news happening at SHEM:

- Sweet Home donated 134 pounds of canned food and \$493 financial support at the National Day of Prayer.
- SHEM now partners with The Pongo Fund, which provides pet food for low-income households.
- 2 new computer systems were donated by Free Geek of Portland.
- SHEM food pantry participated in a "Healthy Pantry Assessment", receiving a great review and some new, healthy ideas.
- Phase One of the Emergency Generator Project: concrete pad and roof extension is nearing completion!

REALLY COOL NEWS ALERT!! SHEM is working on an exciting project dubbed "ICE!!" (In Case of Emergency!). We are seeking a sizable grant from the Oregon Community Foundation to purchase and install an emergency generator to keep freezer and cooler units operating in the event of a prolonged power outage. Phase One of the project is nearing completion as the concrete slab is in place and the roof extension is in progress. Phase Two involves building community support through a small fundraiser project. SHEM will be selling colorful plastic reusable ice cubes for \$5 each or three for \$10. You can also donate towards "Virtual Ice". Various levels of giving include: A "Block of Ice" for \$25, a "Playmate Cooler" for \$50, an "Igloo Cooler" for \$100, a "Freezer" stocked with "Virtual Ice" is available for \$250, or you can donate \$500 towards an "Iceberg". Sponsors at the \$100, \$250, and \$500 giving levels will be gratefully acknowledged with your name or business name on the generator housing. To partner with us in this project, please contact us at 541-367-6504 or stop by the food pantry.

Speaking of "Cool!", upcoming is our 4th Annual SHEM Volunteer Ice Cream Social, at 6:00 p.m. on August 21st at Sankey Park. This is an opportunity for volunteers and supporters from the community to socialize and eat lots of ice cream. We'd love for you to join us!

We can use these items: Clean, recycled plastic shopping bags, fresh garden produce, sandwich and gallon sized zip loc bags.
Also: Our volunteer levels have been quite low due to summer activities and illness, so if you have extra time to share with the SHEM food pantry or meal site program, stop in to see us. We'll gladly help you find your niche!

We are once again partnering with Harvest Christian Church for a Back to School Bash on August 9th. SHEM receives backpacks from the Salvation Army, which are purchased using community donations collected during the holiday bell ringing. If you find some great basic school supply bargains you'd like to donate, please drop them off at SHEM.

We are thankful for and are truly blessed by...

- Josh Darwood Construction for donating the concrete work for the Generator Project!
- Faithful volunteers! You are the Heart, Hands and Feet of our organization!
- Those of you who participated in the Feinstein Challenge during March and April.
- Pongo Kibble Couriers, Bill Kisselburgh and Sylvia Stock.
- The SHHS Leadership Class and SHHS students for helping during shipments again this year!
- Mr. Lucky's Deli, Safeway, The Corner Cup, Thriftway, Hoy's Hardware, Linn Benton Food Share, Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital Social Accountability Grant, United Way of Linn County.
- Your continued prayers and financial support.

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541-367-6504

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