

Housing Works promotes dignity

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Housing Works, which was established in 1977 by Deschutes and Jefferson counties as Central Oregon Regional Housing Authority (CORHA), and now also includes Crook County, has as their mission to foster dignity through housing.

The Housing Works board is made up of three commissioners from each county. They offer a number of different programs to assist residents with their housing, whether they are renting or attempting to purchase a home.

Their Housing Choice Voucher Program serves 1,189 households in the tri-county area by providing \$7.5 million in rental assistance. In Sisters, they provide 15 total vouchers with 23 people served, 80 percent of whom are elderly or disabled. With the voucher program, the renter pays 30 percent of their income for rent and Housing Works pays the remainder.

Housing Works pays out \$7,202 in housing assistance payments each month to landlords in Sisters. The average annual income of

Sisters voucher households is \$13,422. The voucher program opens every year for applications, which are then chosen using a lottery system. Each year there are more than 4,000 people on the waiting list.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find housing using the Housing Works vouchers. It used to be that 70 percent of voucher holders would find housing. Currently, only about 33 percent are able to find housing, so securing a voucher does not necessarily guarantee housing.

Real estate development is another arm of Housing Works, in which they have seven limited liability companies that own actual housing. In Sisters, Tamarack Village apartments on North Larch Street is one of their properties and consists of 33 rental units. They will be building seven single-family homes in Sisters starting this summer. They also manage 740 units throughout Central Oregon.

The fourth arm of Housing Works is Families Forward, a 501(c)(3) program that has served more than 2,000 people to date. The program assists families to achieve success through attaining

self-sufficiency.

There are 179 graduates from their PATHWorks program that teaches financial literacy classes, how to identify and set goals for their lives, create budgets, and have the opportunity to build a matching fund in which any money they save receives a triple match, allowing them to purchase a home, pursue a college degree, or start a business. Two residents of Sisters have graduated from that program.

"We really have the ability to change people's lives and that's what it's all about," said Tom Kemper, executive director of Housing Works.

Housing Works is located in Redmond at 405 SW 6th St. They can be reached at 541-923-1018 or for information visit www.housing-works.org.

Sisters business at a glance

• **Metolius Property Sales** congratulates their agent Kimberly Gorayeb, who was named "2015 Rookie of the Year" at the Central Oregon Association of Realtors awards gathering on June 4. Criteria for this award is that the person be in their first three years as a licensed agent, be active in COAR associations (Kimberly is the Sisters-area director on the board of directors of COAR, and a member of the Women's Council of Realtors), and be an active supporter of their local community.

Kimberly Gorayeb serves on the board of Circle of Friends, and is a supporter of Sisters schools and the lacrosse program.

• **life.love.yoga.** school graduated its first class of yoga teachers May 31. The yoga school is a 200-hour registered yoga school with the yoga alliance. Six students from Sisters Country graduated from the training: Michelle Bergeron, Stephanie King, Jada Snyder, Brittany Simonis, Erin Walker and Marther Warner.



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NEW
1051-1053 E. Cascade Sisters, OR 97759
3,074 sf | 5 bd | 3.5 ba | .14 ac
\$368,000 MLS#201505375



14418 Sage Ct. Sisters, OR 97759
2,603 sf | 3 bd | 3 ba | 1.01 ac
\$437,500 MLS#201503984



REDUCED
70090 Holmes Rd. Sisters, OR 97759
2,880 sf | 4 bd | 2 ba | 23.07 ac.
\$599,900 MLS#201404794



693 S. Pine Meadow St. Sisters, OR 97759
3,142 sf | 3 bd | 4 ba | .16 ac
\$697,500 MLS#201500386



16135 Fox Ridge Circle Sisters, OR 97759
4,358 sf | 3 bd | 4.5 ba | 2.3 ac.
\$787,500 MLS#201305203



16150 Fox Ridge Circle Sisters, OR 97759
2,751 sf | 3 bd | 2.5 ba | 1.80 ac
\$799,000 MLS#201502602



REDUCED
69223 Crooked Horseshoe Sisters, OR 97759
10,403 sf | 4 bd | 5.5 ba | 10 ac.
\$1,499,900 MLS#201401164



68995 Barclay Ct. Sisters, OR 97759
15.46 ac | 15+ ac of horse prop.
\$249,000 MLS#201504141



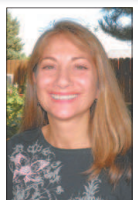
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