

SHELTER: Three churches share facility responsibilities

Continued from page 3

in January 2017 in the face of an extraordinarily harsh winter, provides warm safe shelter and nourishing meals for those in our community who find themselves without stable housing. The shelter operated last winter from January through March, housed each month in one of three local churches – Westside Sisters Church, Sisters Community Church, and the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. This year, the shelter opened its doors on November 15 and will provide beds and food through March 15, with the same three churches participating.

None of the work of the shelter would be possible if it weren't for a group of committed volunteers and the generosity of the residents and businesses of Sisters.

Volunteer leadership, advisory committee, nightly monitors, and providers of daily dinners and breakfasts, as well as people willing to act as foster pet parents for shelter guests' dogs, are the heart of the effort.

"Ronni Dunn and her team have done a great job of engaging new and existing volunteers," Kaping added.

Businesses have been tremendously generous in their support of the shelter, providing meals, gift cards, clothing, propane, camping equipment, and shower facilities.

Guests and volunteers alike have made new friends and broken down the wall that sometimes exists

between a town's residents and those who find themselves struggling.

"The funds raised by Fitzjarrel's challenge will pay for an entire month of shelter operations and more," according to advisory committee member Sharlene Weed.

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— Sharlene Weed

Despite all the volunteer involvement, it is necessary to pay two late-night monitors at the shelter for the midnight-to-7 a.m. shift.

"At \$13 per hour, that is \$195 a night, our single biggest expense," Weed said.

The good news is three local Sisters residents were hired to work the late shift.

The very best outcome of the shelter's efforts lies in the fact that three guests from last winter have found permanent housing, according to Kaping.

With the milder winter so far this year, the shelter is averaging about 10 guests an evening, a number that will surely increase as snow falls and temperatures drop.

According to Kaping, the shelter has applied for two grants and they are waiting to hear back on those applications. Last summer the shelter received a \$1,200 grant from the City of Sisters.

Donations and volunteers needed

Donations of practical items, as well as volunteer services, are still needed for the Sisters Cold Weather Shelter.

Donations of wool socks, non-perishable snacks (fruit snacks, granola bars, small bags of chips, etc.), paper towels, paper napkins, paper plates and bowls, hot and cold cups, coffee, creamer, sugar, sugar substitute, hot chocolate, tea, gift cards to Ray's, Bi-Mart, and Costco for the purchase of perishable items are always appreciated as are cash/check/online donations to Shepherd's House Ministries (note Sisters Cold Weather

Shelter when making donations directly to Shepherd's House).

Shepherd's House acts as the fiscal agent for the shelter. Their mailing address is P.O. Box 5484, Bend, OR, 97708.

On January 1, the shelter will move to Westside Sisters Church where it will be until February 15 when it moves to the Episcopal Church for the last month. Donations can be dropped off at the church offices during their regular office hours or at the shelter in the evening.

The next volunteer monitor training is Wednesday,

January 3, 4:30 p.m. at Westside Sisters, 442 Trinity Way. The training is for new monitors or monitors who would like a tour of the next location. Prior to volunteering, new monitors must fill out an application, available at the Sisters library, and undergo a background check. Background checks are not necessary for volunteers providing meals.

For more information on the shelter check out their Facebook page, Sisters Cold Weather Shelter, call 541-719-8415, or email ronniduff@gmail.com.

SISTERS COLD WEATHER SHELTER 541-719-8415

LOCATIONS:
Now through Dec. 31, 2017
Sisters Community Church
1300 W. McKenzie Hwy.

Jan. 1, 2018 - Feb. 14, 2018
Westside Church
442 Trinity Way

Feb. 15, 2018 - Mar. 15, 2018
Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration
68825 Brooks Camp Rd.

Financial donations may be made to Shepherd's House (the fiscal agent for SCWS) at shepherdshouseministries.org/donate-scws/ or checks may be mailed to P.O. Box 5484, Bend, OR, 97708

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Beautiful Properties in Sisters

13760 SW Meadow View Dr., Camp Sherman 3-bedroom, 2-bath, single-level plus loft, cabin-style, 2,057 sq. ft. home on 0.32 acres. Community features a pool, tennis courts, horse boarding and close to the National Forest! Photo has been virtually staged. **\$389,000.** Listed by Suzanne Carvlin & Katie Cam.

1016 Creekside Ct. Beautifully detailed Craftsman with greatroom, fireplace, 4 bedrooms, bonus room, office, loft, 3-car garage, fenced yard, hot tub, chef's kitchen. 1/2 mile to shops & events! **\$625,000.** Listed by Suzanne Carvlin & Katie Cam. #201704181

16981 Lady Caroline Dr. 3-bedroom, 2-1/2-bath, 3,355 sq. ft. home with filtered views of Cascade mountains on the 5th fairway of Aspen Lakes Golf Course. Greatroom with stacked-rock fireplace. Chef's kitchen with granite countertops. **\$899,000** Listed by Suzanne Carvlin & Katie Cam. #201706649

15630 Trapper Point Rd. 2.21-acre fenced horse property with spectacular 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath, 3,887 sq. ft. home, guest quarters, and large 40x60 shop. Beautifully landscaped. **\$1,299,000.** Listed by Suzanne Carvlin & Doug Roberts. #201704728

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