

## Commentary... The heart of Sisters

By Sue Stafford  
Correspondent

The desire to maintain the small-town atmosphere of Sisters ranked high on the wish list of respondents to the surveys conducted as part of the Sisters Horizons Visioning project.

A hallmark of small towns, and ours in particular, is that when there is a need in the community, people gather resources to meet that need, whether it be for money, time, or material goods.

As a way to keep the community informed of those needs, this column will provide information regarding people, organizations, and efforts requiring assistance, including contact information.

Right now, Sisters Cold Weather Shelter, which is housed at the Sisters Community Church Hangar (off McKinney Butte Road behind the church) for November and December, is desperately in need of volunteers to both serve as monitors for the 5:30-10:30 p.m. shift each evening and to provide meals (dinner and

breakfast).

Many new people attended the recent volunteer training and completed their background checks, but have not yet signed up for shifts. No background check is necessary to provide meals. Signups for shifts and meals can easily be done online at [signup.com](http://signup.com) after talking with volunteer coordinator JoAnn Rundell at 805-901-5626 or [joann.rundell@gmail.com](mailto:joann.rundell@gmail.com).

The recent cold temperatures have brought more people to the shelter, but without monitors and meals, the shelter can't meet its mission of providing a warm, safe place to get out of the cold, to sleep and receive a hot meal. Holiday times are particularly difficult for securing volunteers who may be busy with family. The shelter guests generally have no family in the area and holidays are just another day to be cold and hungry.

Girl Scout Troop #10732, made up of Sisters sixth-grader Harley Ruiz and fifth-graders Colby Roberts, Teagen Welsh, Brooke Duey and Serafina Smith, will be collecting items needed by the shelter at the Sisters Middle School from Monday,

November 26 through Friday, December 21.

Needed items are coffee, powdered creamer, sugar, individual snacks, disposable plates, napkins and utensils, wool socks, thermal base layers, warm clothing, hand warmers, warm gloves, winter boots, toiletries, and gift cards and Chamber Bucks (available at the Sisters Chamber of Commerce office). Laundry soap and dryer sheets are also needed for laundering shelter linens.

Last year, under the guidance of leaders Regan Roberts and Jolene Havern, the Scouts assembled "blessings bags" with some of the donated items to be given to each shelter guest. The girls were delighted by the response to their drive last year and are hoping for even more support this year. There is a collection spot set up at the middle school.

Donations can also be taken to the Hangar after 5:30 p.m., or contact Rundell for pick-up.

Please consider giving a few hours of your time, financial support, or a meal to assist our neighbors who find themselves unsheltered



PHOTO BY SUE STAFFORD

Sisters Girl Scouts of Troop #10732 created "blessings bags" for shelter guests with items collected during their drive for shelter donations.

this winter. Checks can be made out to the Shepherd's House, which acts as the financial agent for the shelter, with notation it is for the Sisters Cold Weather Shelter. All donations are tax-deductible.

To keep up on what's happening, check out the Sisters Cold Weather Shelter page on Facebook.

To notify me of a need in the community, please email [suzstafford@bendbroadband.com](mailto:suzstafford@bendbroadband.com).



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