

'Small Change' holiday drive benefits local food bank

Donations help kitchens, shelters

By Catherine Hawley
Emerald Reporter

At some time or another, one out of four people goes hungry in Lane County and must turn to Eugene's soup kitchens, shelters or food donation agencies for help, said Caroline Frengle of FOOD for Lane County, a local food bank which supplies county organizations.

Now the remaining 75 percent of Lane County residents have the opportunity to feed their hungry neighbors by donating one percent of their bills to the food bank every time they go to the store or eat at a restaurant.

"What we are trying to do is broaden the base of support," said Frengle. In the past, the food bank has relied on large donations from a small pool of contributors, but recently the number and size of contributions has shrunk, Frengle said.

Now the agency will rely on cash donations from more people to help it supply food to area soup kitchens, shelters, food box distribution agencies and residential programs, Frengle said.

Although FFLC kicked off its Small

Change plan Thanksgiving week, it is not just a holiday fundraiser, Frengle said.

"We envision it as a long-term, ongoing program," Frengle said. "We are trying to get people to take responsibility for (FFLC) and feed the people who need to be fed."

More than 70 Eugene restaurants and businesses have been participating in the Small Change program since Nov.

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— Caroline Frengle

20, and more are signing up every day, Frengle said.

Most participating businesses are small, locally-owned stores and restaurants, although larger businesses may join the program as soon as they get permission from their headquarters, Frengle said.

Businesses who participate in the Small Change program can either put

out a donation jar, or use the sales tax key on their cash registers to add one percent to a customer's bill. The total amount of donations will be added up and sent to FFLC.

Frengle said she did not yet have any figures for the first week of the program's operation, but said participating businesses have been supportive.

"Businesses that are enthusiastic about (Small Change) are doing well," Frengle said.

Both Small Change donation jars and the one percent option seemed to be

fairly popular in their first week at Oregon Homegrown Meats, 2433 Hilyard St., said owner Brian Rohter, who helped Frengle set up Small Change.

"It was one of our highest volume weeks, with Thanksgiving turkeys and everything," Rohter said. "I'm looking at the donation jar and it's just full of money."

Customers often donated more than

the suggested one percent of their food bills, Rohter said.

At Sundance Natural Foods, 748 E. 24th Ave., donors are also inclined to give more than one percent, said cashier Martha Christman.

People are responding to both donation jars and the one percent payment, said Dave ResSeguie, head of the information and research department.

"We have big signs by the cash register, and people can ask the cashiers to find out more about Small Change," ResSeguie said.

The Small Change donation jar at The Glenwood Restaurant, 1340 Alder St., was not faring as well, said manager Gloria Preston.

"It doesn't seem to be terribly popular," Preston said. "I don't know if people just don't see it, or what."

Small Change depends on the customer to initiate donations without pressure from business employees, said Frengle.

"Unless people know about it, they won't give," Frengle said. "It takes everybody telling everybody else." Other campus area businesses participating in Small Change include The Faculty Club, Fall Creek Bakery, Excelsior Cafe, Stuart Anderson's Black Angus Restaurant and Treehouse Restaurant.

Police Beat

The following is a list of campus area crimes taken from Office of Public Safety and Eugene Police Department reports between Nov. 20 and Nov. 27:

- A burglary at the Phi Delta Theta fraternity at 1472 Kincaid St., resulting in the theft of a \$500 Cannondale bicycle, was reported to EPD Nov. 27. The unknown suspect entered the house through the unlocked back door and removed the bike, except for the rear tire, which was locked to a pole in the basement.
- The theft of a \$395 video recorder from a room in the Education Building was reported to EPD Nov. 27. There were no signs of forced entry to the room by the unknown suspect.
- The theft of a purse with contents worth \$30 from Henderson dormitory was reported to

OPS Nov. 22. The unknown suspect entered the owner's room through the open door and removed the purse while the owner was out.

- A \$180 faculty parking permit stolen from a vehicle in the PLC parking lot was reported to EPD Nov. 21.
- The theft of furniture worth a total of \$963 from Walton Complex was reported to OPS Nov. 20. The items — a vacuum cleaner, a coffee table and two couches — were last seen in various dorms in the complex. There are no suspects.
- The theft of three lamps with a total value of \$36 from Riley Hall was reported to OPS Nov. 20. The lamps were last seen in the lounge. There are no suspects.
- OPS reports 6 additional bikes stolen, and none recovered.

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