

Agency revives 'Helping Hands' program

After suspending its "Helping Hands" emergency assistance program in November, Labor's Commu-

nity Service Agency announced that it will again be taking referrals starting Dec. 8.

In October, LCSA distributed more than \$8,000 in rent and housing assistance, utilities, food, clothing, and essential needs on behalf of dozens of Helping Hands applicants.

The volume was much more than the agency could handle, said Executive Director Glenn Shuck.

The program was temporarily suspended until more resources became available.

Labor's Community Service Agency can be reached at 503 231-4962.

Shuck reminds union members that people in need can also contact United Way's "2-1-1 Guide Line" information and referral hotline. To access the hotline, simply dial 2-1-1. Guide Line serves as an informational clearinghouse for all social services in the region.

'Holiday Party' Dec. 6 in Salem

SALEM —The 68th annual "Holiday Party for Children" will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Elsinore Theatre, 170 High St. SE, Salem.

The free event, sponsored by the Marion, Polk, Yamhill Counties Labor Council, will feature holiday songs by Patrick Lamb, a showing of the movie Kung Fu Panda, a visit from Santa Claus, and a free goody bag. Lamb is a popular musician in Oregon and is a member of Musicians Local 99.

Doors open at 9:45 a.m.



PHC gets energized by the sun

Jim Loftus of Dynalectric (in back) helps Portland Habilitation Center Northwest Director John Murphy install the last of 4,830 photovoltaic panels on the roof of PHC's new \$8 million manufacturing facility in Northeast Portland. The solar array covers 72,000 square feet and can generate 858-kilowatts of electricity a year — more than enough to power PHC's in-house manufacturing, assembly, courier, and warehousing services. PHC trains and employs individuals with disabilities. Workers are members of Service Employees Local 49 and Laborers Local 483. Any excess energy generated from the solar system will be delivered to Portland General Electric's grid and the non-profit PHC will be credited for unused energy under Oregon's net-metering law. The solar installation will eventually save PHC an estimated \$75,000 in annual energy costs and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 18,000 tons over the life of the system. "This project is a statement about opportunity," Murphy said. "With so much anxiety these days, we're glad to be a part of something based on optimism for the future." United Fund Advisors, a renewable energy company and syndicator of tax credits, developed the project and structured the financing for investor U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation, the actual owner of the solar system. As the owner, U.S. Bancorp will get federal and state tax credits. Dynalectric is signatory with IBEW Local 48 and Loftus is an instructor for solar classes at the NECA-IBEW training center. The Photovoltaic Energy Generation Systems class has been part of the curriculum for all IBEW 48 journeyman and apprentices since 2002. More than 1,000 union electricians are trained to do the work. For more information, visit necaibew48.com.



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stat this winter to save money, you'll want to keep warm under a Pendleton Woolen Mills blanket, made by members of UNITE HERE locals 118 and 1108 at mills in Pendleton, Oregon, and Washougal, Washington. They're available at Pendleton outlet stores and at retailers like Made In Oregon.

GET-AWAYS. Out of town get-aways make great gifts, and Amtrak (and most airlines) are union. And if downtown Portland is the destination, consider a stay at posh — and UNITE HERE Local 9 represented — Paramount, Benson or Hilton.

SHOP AT UNIONIZED STORES. Whatever you're shopping for, make sure you do it at Fred Meyer, the only unionized general merchandise retailer in Oregon. In Salem and Eugene and the Portland area (except in Vancouver), Fred Meyer workers in non-food departments belong to the same union as the grocery workers — United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555.

Last, but not least: If you're going to mail a card or gift, send it U.S. Postal Service or UPS, where the workers are union, not FedEx, an anti-union company that has been in court around the country for designating its drivers as independent contractors.