

H.O.P.E. helps the hungry

Luke Frank
Associate Arts & Culture

Have you ever had to skip a meal to pay for bills, rent, gas or some other necessity? Well, there's H.O.P.E. for you.

H.O.P.E. is an acronym for Helping Other People Eat and is an Oregon Food Bank supported program run by five churches in the area that will give you food if you qualify and have the need. All you have to do is show up, show your ID, show a rent receipt or utility bill showing your current address and once a week they will give you a food box, the amount based on family size, that will feed you nutritionally balanced meals for three days. They also have thrown in the consideration of toilet paper.

For those without identification or proof of residence, you can still show up and they will take your word for it. H.O.P.E. will make sure that you don't go hungry, they don't

turn people away.

"I've been there before, too, and I didn't know that this was available to me and I would like to have known," said Kelly Stewart who works with the Oregon City H.O.P.E. program.

"When you think you have enough packed, you have a bunch of people come in and you're like, 'Ahh!' We need to start repackaging boxes again," said Stewart of the demand.

"The need is great" said Ron Schlosser, master gardener in charge of the garden at United Methodist Church, one of the five churches participating in H.O.P.E. The beautifully maintained garden uses a raised bed technique and has so far produced about 1,700 pounds of food for the church pantries. Schlosser and his six or so volunteers grow corn, potatoes, green beans, carrots, tomatoes, various species of peppers, sunflowers, green onions, lettuce, spinach, celery, sweet peas and basil.

The garden is in its third year and has almost doubled in size



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Bob, turning 90 next month, and Grace, 94, have volunteered at The United Methodist Church for 25 years. The couple moved to West Linn in 1955, and moved into a retirement home in 1993 where they currently reside.

since it was originally planted. Schlosser instituted Plant a Row for the Hungry, an initiative started by The Garden Writers Association in 1995. The concept is for gardeners to grow just one more row of vegetables and donate the produce to local homeless shelters and community programs like H.O.P.E.

"Grow an extra row to donate to a food pantry," said Schlosser. "The idea is to grow vegetables that don't require much refrigeration. Small operations such as ours can't afford to refrigerate large quantities of vegetables."

"It's amazing," said Rynn Mazur, a volunteer for the last year with the United Methodist Church's H.O.P.E. program. "This church has a garden and we provide produce for many of the churches."

The United Methodist Church is the second smallest of the five churches involved in Oregon City H.O.P.E. Serving about 25 to 30 families a week with the typical family size being four, that's 120 people fed on average.

Most of the food comes from the Oregon Food Bank and much of that is provided by the federal gov-

ernment. The partners at H.O.P.E. get some of their food for free and some of it is bought by the churches at five cents a pound. The bread is donated by various stores across the city and a lot of the extra cans of food are donated by reaching out to schools and the public.

"Sometimes we have food drives," said Mazur. "The schools donate quite a bit of canned food from food drives."

"We haven't missed a week in all this time," said volunteer Bob Dichtel of he and his wife Grace's 25 years of dedicated service to the church.

"We want to help people," said Grace Dichtel as they left arm in arm.

The Dichtels are the kind of people who H.O.P.E. truly appreciates.

H.O.P.E. is almost completely run by volunteers and is urging for help in feeding the people of this city. They accept donations of clothes, canned goods, plastic bags and whatever else that can be put into use to help others. If you want to help the hungry and needy, you can also donate to the Oregon Food Bank. It may be a neighbor, a

friend or even a family who needs your help and every little bit goes a long way. For more information visit www.oregonfoodbank.org.

Oregon City H.O.P.E.
weekly locations,
dates and times:

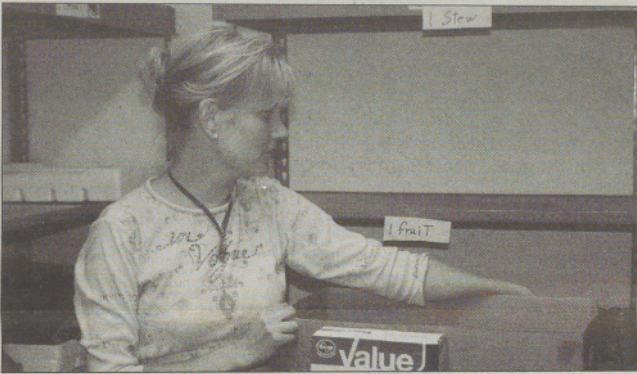
Mon. - Church of Nazarene at 716 Taylor Street, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tue. - First Presbyterian Church at 1321 Linn Avenue, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Wed. - Oregon City United Methodist Church at 18955 South End Road, from 1 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Thurs. - St John the Apostle Catholic Church at 417 Washington Street, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Fri. - First Baptist Church of Oregon at 819 John Adams Street, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



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Kelly Stewart volunteers at The United Methodist Church, going through boxes that have been donated to the helpful program.

Excitement burns for new kiln

Chris Morrow
The Clackamas Print

Clackamas Community College has purchased a new, computer controlled gas kiln costing an estimated \$25,000 from the school's capital reserves. The new kiln will be replacing the kiln that has been with CCC for

nearly 11 years which is rife with malfunctions, hazards and the scars of age.

"The kiln that we have now has been repaired many times, our whole burner system needs to be replaced," stated Nora Brodnicki, art department chair and a ceramics instructor in an email.

Maintaining the old kiln and replacing its components is not a simple task, according to Kelly

White, the administrative assistant for the art, theater and digital multimedia communications departments.

"There is only one person in the Portland Metro-area who was skilled enough to repair the old kiln and he had to build any parts that needed to be replaced," stated White.

"It is a huge time commitment to get a good firing. This new kiln will automate much of the process. This will help to keep the energy costs down," stated White in an email.

The old kiln displays obvious signs of deterioration. The bricks in the ceiling of the kiln are loosening and the door is no longer sealing properly and has to be plugged up with bricks. The gaps around those bricks allow for a substantial loss of heat. The electronic mechanism for lighting the kiln does not work reliably so it often needs to be lit manually with a propane torch which can be dangerous.

"Sometimes the pilot light doesn't stay lit throughout the evening," said Kate Simmons, studio technician for the art

department, sculpting instructor and gallery instructor. "You come in and you expect the kiln to be at a particular temperature, like 1,400 degrees or so and it isn't because it hasn't been burning all night. That sets you back a whole day."

According to Simmons, firing ceramics isn't just art, it is a complicated science. Glazes must be carefully formulated in order to produce the desired results and the firing process is closely monitored.

"Each glaze reacts to the temperature in its own way and we've done a lot of testing of different glazes to decide what kind we'd like to make available to our students, which glazes are reliable and not going to run, which of them show the colors that we think they're going to show, how they behave when they're next to another ceramic object with different colorants in it," said Simmons. "With the old kiln the reduction firing process needs to be watched hourly to see if we're climbing too fast or if we're staying at a particular temperature. The new kiln will be programmable so we'll be able to set

in the temperature increases and decreases that we're looking for."

The new kiln is commercially manufactured by Geil Kilns; the parts, if and when they need to be repaired or replaced, will be relatively easy to obtain. Also, thanks to the computerized control system, the firing process will be easier and safer.

The kiln has been specially selected by Brodnicki and is the same kind employed by Portland Community College campuses at Sylvania, 82nd Avenue and Cascade.

"All of our PCC counterparts agreed that Geil kilns are safe, efficient, easy to use and maintain," states Brodnicki. "The computer system on this kiln will help us to save energy and run our kiln with greater energy efficiency."

Campus Services will be dismantling the old kiln in order to clear a spot for the new kiln which has yet to be removed from its packaging. "Since we just got it, I have the [instructional] DVD and I plan on sitting down and watching that," said Simmons.



Chris Morrow The Clackamas Print

Kate Simmons points out the signs of age in the old kiln; loose bricks in the ceiling have begun to slide down and separate from the rest.

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Arts & Culture</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">CALENDAR</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">October 24 - 30</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY-10/24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oregon Shakespeare Festival: Ashland, Times Vary, \$21 - \$82.50 Non-member, \$21 - \$62.63 Member (through Nov. 4) 	<p>THURSDAY-10/25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tales from Beyond the Grave: Oswego Heritage House, Lake Oswego, 7 p.m., Free, ADULTS ONLY 	<p>FRIDAY-10/26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sinatra Fest 2012: Tony Starlight's, Portland (Oct. 26 - Oct. 28) • I Digress: Buffalo Gap Saloon, Portland 9 p.m. 	<p>SATURDAY-10/27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDX Zombie Walk: OMSI overflow parking, Portland, Free, 10 a.m. • All Time Low: Hawthorne Theatre, Portland 6 p.m. \$20-\$23 	<p>SUNDAY-10/28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chin Up Rocky: Branx, Portland, 6:45 p.m. \$8 • All American Rejects: Crystal Ballroom, Portland 8 p.m. \$25-\$28 	<p>MONDAY-10/29</p> 	<p>TUESDAY-10/30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Toadies: Crystal Ballroom, Portland, 8 p.m., \$20 • Waka Flocka Flame: Roseland Theater, Portland, 8 p.m., \$25
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