

give guide

giving till it hurts
doesn't need to hurt

The end of the year is upon us and that means everything from Hanukkah to Solstice to Festivus. It also means, less cheerfully, that once you have recovered from your Christmas shopping, you're going to have to wake up one morning next year and think about paying taxes.

Sorry to be such a downer.

But there's a perky happy bright side to this otherwise bad news: You can combine your last minute Christmas shopping with tax breaks, and you can do it online while still keeping your money local. It's time to donate to your favorite nonprofit; do it for a friend, do it for yourself. If you are short on cash then volunteer. It's all good and all for good causes. — *Camilla Mortensen*



homelessness and civil liberties

Occupy Eugene (occupyeugenemedia.org) isn't a nonprofit, but that shouldn't stop you from helping these tireless activists. Stop by the camp at Washington-Jefferson Park and drop off food or supplies. And there are lots of nonprofits working with Occupy or on related issues that you can give your cash in support of their efforts. **Civil Liberties Defense Center** (www.cldc.org or 687-9180) works on local issues like Occupy, but its reach is nation wide, giving support not only to protesters but also to the everyday person whose rights have been trampled and can't otherwise afford an attorney.

White Bird Clinic provides support and services to low-income individuals and families including medical care, CAHOOTS, and other aid for drug treatment. To donate, volunteer or for more information, visit www.whitebirdclinic.org or call 342-8255.

The **Egan Warming Center** (eganwarmingcenter.com or 689-6747), administered by **St. Vincent de Paul**, has been working to keep the homeless from freezing to death on the streets of Eugene as namesake veteran Thomas Egan did in 2008. Give a warm sleeping bag, a couple nights helping out or cash to keep folks from freezing on these cold nights.

Also helping the homeless, specifically homeless youth, is **Looking Glass** (www.lookingglass.us or 689-3111), which helps kids suffering from abuse, neglect, educational deficits, mental health issues, drug addiction and homelessness.

For you Corvallis readers, check out **The Vina Moses Center** (www.vinamoses.org) serving families and children in need in Benton County.

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