

With need great, food bank takes action

‘It takes a community to be a community’ and feed many Clatsop families

By **DANI PALMER**
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — In the six months from July to January, the Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank is on track to deliver more than 1 million pounds of food to county residents and serve 22,000 emergency boxes. With increased need, the food bank promises increased services, including an extended schedule for food deliveries.

Director Marlin Martin said the average family visited the food bank six times this year, up 30 percent from previous years.

“People suffering from hunger in Clatsop County are falling deeper into the pits of poverty,” he said.

More are working part-time

or minimum-wage jobs. Many are seen on the corner asking for food, money or work, he said.

Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank spoke about the trends during the annual Coastal Harvest for Giving fundraiser at the Surf&sand Resort in Cannon Beach on Dec. 10, benefiting the food bank.

Volunteer Sandy Rea announced the mobile produce pantry would again be available Jan. 14. It typically serves the community from April to October each year.

“I’ve had so many people come to me, begging ‘Why can’t you be open now?’ They’re going without,” she said. “We will not be waiting until April.”

Rea herself was once a recipient of food bank services. She said a single person on food stamps receives about \$175 a month for food, roughly \$2 a day, excluding fresh fruit and vegetables. Without the produce, fruit and meat the regional food bank provides, many have said they couldn’t make it, she noted. She sees 20 to 30 people stand in line waiting for the pantry to open each week.

Oregon leads the U.S. in food insecurity among children, a level defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.

In 2013-14, there were 1.5 million pounds of emergency food delivered to Clatsop County residents, according to Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank statistics. Twenty-five percent of county residents qualified for emergency food boxes.

With state Rep. Deborah Boone’s support of a recent House bill, clearing the way for bycatch to be sold to food banks, Martin said, 133,000 pounds of fish and game have been processed and distributed in Clatsop County. He noted they’ve had “such good bounty at times” they’ve been able to share food across the state.

Boone, D-Cannon Beach, served as Coastal Harvest of Giving’s keynote speaker and said there are steps communities can take beyond state and federal assistance “so in the long run we might actually have a chance

of making a difference, even if it’s a small one.”

She used Rooster Soup Co. in Philadelphia as one example. They make soups, salads and sandwiches out of restaurants’ unused chicken backs to feed those in need, running the place like a nice, sit-down restaurant.

“That’s something reputable for us to do here if we wanted to,” Boone said.

Martin said Food Bank Fresh — providing fresh foods such as fruits and meat to those who may not be able to afford it otherwise — began in 2012.

It takes roughly 1 minute for every family to leave with nearly 37 pounds of produce each week. “We’re pretty proud of that,” he said, noting they’re also able to teach people how to prepare it.

Boone said the food bank has taught cooking classes and shared meal plans in addition to providing food, helping residents live healthier and save more.

“It takes a community to be a community,” she said. “Everybody’s part of it, whether you have things or you don’t.”



Dani Palmer/EO Media Group
State Rep. Deborah Boone, D-Cannon Beach, speaks to Coastal Harvest of Giving attendees Dec. 10.

Merianne Myers, a cooking instructor, said the Clatsop Community Action Regional Food Bank’s fresh foods initiative is unique.

“We are so used to it, that sometimes we don’t even know it,” she said. “So I am here to tell you, we are so lucky.”

Thursday’s fifth-annual Coastal Harvest of Giving resulted in 128 tickets sold at \$150 each.

Chef Bob Neroni, from the Cannon Beach Cooking School, and Chef Josh Archibald, from the Wayfarer Restaurant & Lounge, presented hors d’oeuvres and multiple courses including entrees, accompanying side dishes and desserts during the event. A silent auction was also held to benefit the food bank that is able to procure food in bulk and save money at the point of purchase.

RELIGION BRIEFS

Society of Friends
SEAVIEW, Wash. — The Lower Columbia Worship Group of the Society of Friends (Quaker) meets at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Peninsula Church Center Fireside Room (south building), 5000 N Place. This is a “silent” (unprogrammed) worship group. All are welcome to visit and participate. For information, call 503-895-7474.

Cannon Beach Community
CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach Community Church, 132 E. Washington St., holds an Evensong service at 6 p.m. the first and third Sunday of the month. All are welcome.

Evensong features Wes Warhmund (guitar, flute and clarinet) and meditative songs, Psalms, readings, candlelight and time for quiet reflection.

For information, call the church at 503-436-1222.

Our Saviour’s Lutheran
SEASIDE — Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church presents “Song, Scripture and Sacrament” from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at Suzanne Elise Assisted Living, 101 Forest Drive. All are welcome.

For information, call the church at 503-738-6791.

Crossroads Community
SVENSEN — Crossroads Community Church, a Friends Fellowship, at 40618 Old Highway 30, is holding

a Christmas Eve Service at 6 p.m. Thursday. All are welcome.

Lighthouse Christian
WARRENTON — The North Coast community is invited to a Candlelight Christmas Worship at 7 p.m. Thursday at Lighthouse Christian Church, 88786 Dellmoor Loop. This is a special celebration for all ages.

For information, call the church office at 503-738-5182.

St. Mary Star of the Sea
A Christmas Vigil Mass is being held at 4 p.m. Thursday at St. Francis de Sales Mission, 867 Fifth Ave. in Hammond.

At St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 1465 Grand Ave., a bilingual family Mass is being held at 7 p.m. Christmas carols are at 9 p.m., followed by a Mass at 9:30 p.m. Christmas Day is being celebrated at a 10 a.m. Mass.

Christmas Flower Offering envelopes are available in the pews and at the entrance of St. Mary’s in Astoria. Donations in memory of, or to honor a loved one should be made by Monday to have the names published in the Christmas bulletin.

For information, go to www.stmaryastoria.com or call 503-325-3671.

Warrenton United Methodist
WARRENTON — As the Warrenton United Methodist

Church, 679 S. Main Ave., lights the fourth Advent candle, it will celebrate Christmas Sunday with a family-focused service beginning at 10 a.m. Jane Hill, diaconal minister/lay pastor, will talk about the difference one gift can make. The congregation will read responsively and sing carols.

Bible Study on the Gospel of St. Luke meets at 2 p.m. Wednesday.

A special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is being held at 4 p.m. Thursday, featuring carols, scripture, and meditation.

Coffee, refreshments, and fellowship are served immediately after every service. There are activity kits for children to keep little hands busy during services. Off-street parking is available and the building is accessible for the physically challenged. For information, call 971-704-4357.

Pacific Unitarian Universalist
The Pacific Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is holding a service at 11 a.m. Sunday at the First Congregational Church, 820 Alameda Ave. The Rev. Kit Ketcham is leading a service of Christmas Songs and Stories. Members will share their favorite Christmas song, and explain why that particular song is spiritually meaningful to them, then the congregation will sing the song.

Peggy Coreson and Christine Yeigh are providing re-

freshments, Bree and Sahalie Heavenrich are the greeters and the pianist is Barbara Bate.

For information, call 503-325-5225 or go to www.pac-uuf.org

Grace Episcopal
At Grace Episcopal Church is, 1545 Franklin Ave., the Fourth Sunday of Advent is being celebrated at both the 8 and 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist services with the lighting of the fourth, and last, candle of the Advent wreath.

The church is holding its annual “Festival of Lessons and Carols” at 2 p.m. Sunday. This traditional Episcopal service alternates scripture readings with music and carols. The children’s pageant begins mid-service as they act out the New Testament readings. A Figgy Pudding Social follows in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

The last Advent Taizé Prayer and Song service with local musicians Jennifer Goodenberger (piano) and Shelley Loring (flute) takes place at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

There are two Christmas Eve services at Grace Episcopal Church. The Family Christmas Eve service is at 4:30 p.m., then a special time of hymn singing begins at 10:30 p.m., with the Midnight Service beginning at 11 p.m.

On Christmas Day, at 10 a.m., there is a Morning Prayer Service.

For information, call the church at 503-325-4691 or go to www.graceastoria.org

Bethany Free Lutheran
Bethany Free Lutheran Church, 451 34th St., is celebrating Christmas with a candlelight service at 10 p.m. Thursday, and a worship service at 10 a.m. Christmas Day. At both services there will be music and time spent looking in the Bible. The public is welcome.

For information, call 503-325-2925.

Finnish Evangelical Free
The Finnish Evangelical Free Church is holding a Christmas celebration at 2 p.m. Sunday at the First Congregational Church, 820 Alameda Ave. Carl Salo is the guest speaker. Coffee, prune tarts and rice pudding will be served after the service.

First Presbyterian and First Methodist
The First Presbyterian and First Methodist churches of Astoria are joining in a musical celebration of Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. Thursday at the historic First Methodist Church, 1076 Franklin Ave. There will be hand bells and a choir, music by local musicians including Kristin Hammond, Kim Angelis and Josef Gault, Janice Wall, Lisa Nelson and Phil Keim, and caroling for all.

For information, call 503-325-5454.

Seaside Seventh-day Adventist
SEASIDE — The Seaside Seventh-day Adventist

Church, 1450 N. Roosevelt Drive, is holding a Christmas service at 11 a.m. Saturday, featuring lots of music, both traditional and contemporary, and a children’s program. The public is welcome.

First Lutheran
On Christmas Eve, First Lutheran Church, 725 33rd St., is holding a Family Worship Service at 5 p.m., and Candlelight Worship Service at 10 p.m. On Christmas Day, service is being held at 10 a.m. There will be only one service, “Lessons and Carols” at 10 a.m. Dec. 27. All are welcome to any, or all, services.

Astoria First Baptist
The public is invited to come Christmas caroling with members of the congregation of Astoria First Baptist Church. The group meets at 1:15 p.m. Saturday at the church, 349 Seventh St., and will travel to senior living facilities.

A Christmas Eve service is being held at 6 p.m. Thursday, featuring music, readings and candle light time for reflection. All are welcome.

Astoria Church of Christ
Ken Tipps is the speaker at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service at the nondenominational Astoria Church of Christ, 692 12th St. His topic is “Why Did Jesus Come to Earth?” All are welcome.

For information, call 503-791-3235.

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