

COASTAL LIFE

Take a tour,

Assistance League opens Astoria's historic houses during Home & Chef Tour

By NANCY MCCARTHY

It was only a pair of new shoes. But to the little boy, they were wings.

"I'm going to be the fastest runner now!" he told Mary Davies, a volunteer with Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific.

To prove his claim, the boy joyfully flew down the school hallway and back again, beaming.

"They are very thankful," Davies said.

BUILT BETWEEN 1885 AND 1908, THE FIVE HOMES OFFER A GLIMPSE INTO ONE OF THE MOST PROSPEROUS PERIODS IN ASTORIA'S HISTORY.

The little boy with the new shoes was only one of nearly 1,000 children in Clatsop County who are helped by Assistance League each year.

Through several Assistance League projects, children receive new clothes —

and new confidence — to wear to school.

"It's just a good feeling to know that I can be a little bit of help and make a difference in a child's life," Davies said.

To provide that help, Assistance League is conducting its annual Home & Chef Tour. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, five historic homes and a commercial building in Astoria will be opened to the public. In addition, chefs from area restaurants will provide appetizers.

Built between 1885 and 1908, the five homes offer a glimpse into one of the most prosperous periods in Astoria's history.

Among the homes on the tour is the Foard home, a Queen Anne-style house



Ornate Lincrusta-Walton wainscoting is featured in the foyer of the historic Foard home.



PHOTOS BY DANNY MILLER

Above: The historic Foard home, owned by Bonnie and Jack Ross, will be featured on Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific's annual Home & Chef Tour on Oct. 15 in Astoria. The home's vivid exterior paint colors (an antidote to Astoria's overcast winter days) were chosen by former owner Melissa Yowell, whose great-grandparents were Martin and Lilli Foard, the home's original occupants and owners.

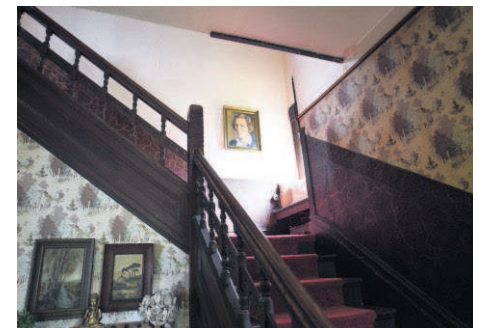
Left: The Rosses, who are enthusiastic historic preservationists, have replaced a mantel over the library's fireplace and refinished the mahogany inlaid floors.



At the rear of the Foard home is a modern kitchen with an original, built-in china closet and outside door that leads to the back porch.



A bedroom in the Foard home, which will be featured on Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific's annual Home & Chef Tour on Oct. 15 in Astoria.



The elaborate staircase in the Foard home features built-in window seats at the landing windows.

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