

Holiday food drive to be held at Fred Meyer Dec. 2

The Florence Christian Church, in partnership with Fred Meyer, will be holding a holiday food drive on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All food and cash donations will benefit Florence Food Share.

Most needed items for the local food pantry are: Flour, coffee, baby and adult diapers, Hamburger Helper, mac and cheese, canned meat (tuna, chili, Spam, etc.), canned tomato products (diced, stewed, etc), milk and eggs.





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Peace Harbor providing needed palliative care

The term “palliative care” was not unfamiliar to Charles and Bertha Morris. The Florence couple had heard it several times over the years, so when PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center launched its own palliative care program, they were among the first to call to inquire about services for Bertha.

Bertha was diagnosed with Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease at the age of 70. This incurable, degenerative nerve disease results in muscle weakness, difficulty with balance and loss of sensation in the feet, lower legs, hands and forearms. Bertha has lived with the condition for several years, and her symptoms continue to worsen.

Her primary desire is to live her life as fully as possible, focusing on quality of life and participating in as many enjoyable activities as she can.

“Palliative care has been so helpful for Bertha,” said Charles, Bertha’s primary caregiver. “The fact that Dr. Kerner comes to our home for visits has been invaluable. We don’t have to waste Bertha’s energy on getting in and out of the car for a doctor visit.”

Having a physician on the team — Stephen Kerner, DO — who visits patients in their homes is a key component of Peace Harbor’s Palliative Care

program. “This is the type of care I love providing and that is desperately needed in Florence,” Kerner said.

Providing timely symptom management is a priority for the Palliative Care team — something Bertha also appreciates.

“Dr. Kerner was able to get me on a medication that has made all the difference in the world. I do not have near as much pain as I used to, which means that I can do more of the activities I love to do every day,” she said.

Palliative care programs serve patients who have been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness and desire alleviation of symptoms — whether social, physical, emotional or spiritual.

There are no time restrictions, so patients can receive it at any time and at any stage of illness.

Palliative care fills the gap for patients who want and need comfort and treatment at any stage of disease, whether terminal or chronic.

The Peace Harbor Palliative Care team currently consists of a physician, a medical social worker, a medical office assistant and several volunteers.

Services include pain and symptom management as well



COURTESY PHOTO

Bertha and Charles Morris utilize PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center’s palliative care program.

as psychosocial support. Emphasis is placed on Advance Care planning, including discussion about health care goals and completion of Advance Directives and Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms.

Beginning on Jan. 10, 2018, the Peace Harbor Palliative Care program will host a series of classes designed to train prospective volunteers to work directly with palliative care patients in the community. The

trainings will be held at Lane Community College Florence Center and include an overview of palliative care, the roles of the care team and the volunteer, communication and spirituality.

Training will be every Wednesday through Feb. 14 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

If you are interested in volunteering or if you have questions, contact Donna Becker at dbecker@peacehealth.org or 541-902-6734.



CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT CLASS

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Florence Event Center
715 Quince St.
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Local writer becomes recommended read

United Cerebral Palsy Los Angeles (UCPLA) has accepted Russ Dixon’s book, “Donnie of the Oregon Coast,” as recommended reading.

After an Avian flu sweeps through a Northwest forest, an egg hatches. Donnie, the newborn bird, is born with huge feet, and is plagued with teasing and bullying by other birds. With his parents’ love and encouragement, during his adventures Donnie finds his way. His experiences are those which children and even adults will find uplifting.

Dixon is a member of Backstreet Gallery in Historic Old Town Florence, where he shows his beautifully crafted wood pieces, many of which are birds.

One day the inspiration came for the creation of a special bird. The wonderful wooden bird sparked the story that



COURTESY PHOTO

Backstreet Gallery crafted wood artist Russ Dixon’s book “Donnie of the Oregon Coast” was just listed as a recommended read by United Cerebral Palsy of L.A.

evolved into a marvelous book of courage, strength and positive growth.

Dixon’s book, and the wood-

en sculpture that gave rise to it, are available at Backstreet Gallery, 1421 Bay St. in Florence.

17th ANNUAL ‘TREE OF GIVING’
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Stop by for a coffee or hot chocolate and cookies. Select an ornament from the tree representing gift requests for specific necessities by a high school student in our community. Return gifts to us by Dec. 13, to be distributed before Christmas break.

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