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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Summer 2014 Newsletter** | | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | | | | **Dear Friends,**  Each summer I am asked whether the warm weather causes a decrease in the Inn's population. The Inn has now been around 15 years and that was true when I first started here 7 years ago, but not in recent years. The reason is quite simple: the demographics of those experiencing homelessness has changed since the Great Recession of 2008. Jobs that pay a living wage are much harder to come by and the availability and pricing of affordable housing continues to be problematic. Now, it is not unusual for a low income family to allocate 35-50% of their income just for housing. Under these conditions, the margin for error in a budget is thin and the cost of failure catastrophic.    A large percentage of residents staying at the shelter have jobs, but the barriers to self-sufficiency are sometimes difficult. The real danger is the personal damage that stress and depression can have on those who struggle. It is important to recognize the role the Inn plays in keeping people safe, healthy and engaged. For 15 years, support like yours has allowed us to continue providing the critical safety net for so many in Central Oregon. Please donate today by visiting  bethleheminn.org.    Warm Regards,    Chris Clouart  Managing Director  **Our Current Needs**  Our current needs are: canned tuna, lunch meat, sliced cheese, 35-gallon trash bags, 8-ounce cups, sunscreen and bottled water.  **You can make a difference!** 9-year-old Chloe sure did! This smart kid tucked a shopping list into her birthday invites. But nothing on that list was girly, cuddly or pink.  On June 17th, Chloe and her mom showed up at the Inn with a laundry basket overflowing with the gifts she received: paper plates and plastic cups, ChapStick, toothpaste and much more - all items listed on the Inn's website. If you're looking for a new way to celebrate a birthday or just want an excuse for a BBQ, why not consider a "Party with a Purpose"? You supply the burgers or cake; guests bring things like Inn Wish List items, gift cards and redeemable cans and bottles. | **Resident Story**    Sheri Lisson never had just one job. Usually, she had two or three. But all the hard work in the world can't guarantee there will always be a home to...well, go home to. One day, Sheri and her twelve-year-old daughter, Abby, were told by a relative they had to "leave now."  Sheri did not know where to turn. Then, they heard about the Bethlehem Inn through the Family Access Network at Abby's school. Sheri was hesitant at first, "I had a picture in my head of what a shelter was and I didn't want to take my daughter to that kind of place." But she called and within twenty-four hours, Sheri and Abby not only had a room at Bethlehem Inn, they also had a new "picture" of what "shelter" can mean. "Wow. People are just awesome here. We sleep without fear. We can laugh again." Inn staff, working under the federal McKinney-Vento Act, arranged with the Redmond school district for Abby to have bus transportation to her long-time school. And with help from Inn staff they are now in their own home.  Ironically, most of Sheri's jobs involve caregiving to those in need. Ironic because one day not long ago, Sheri desperately needed someone to care for her and that's exactly what she found at Bethlehem Inn.    **A Special Thanks To:**  **Quota International of Central Oregon**  Our families are so grateful to Quota International for their big hearts and generosity in painting one of our five family units!  **First American Title**    Thank you First American Title  for holding quarterly drives that respond to the needs listed on our web site and supplying items such as paper products, clothing and essential personal items.  **The many organizations that support us!**  Bank of the Cascades  Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Fdn.  Gannett Foundation  Herbert A. Templeton Foundation  The Kirby Foundation  Les Schwab Tires  Mt. Bachelor Rotary  Oregon Community Foundation  PacificSource Health Plans  Robert D. and Marcia H. Randall Charitable Trust  St. Charles Health System  The Bend Foundation  The Bill Healy Foundation  The Collins Foundation  U.S. Bank Foundation  WHH Foundation | **Save The Date!**  **25th Annual Duck Race** **September 7, 2014**    We’re very excited to announce that we’ve been selected as one of the charities to benefit from the *Great Drake Park Duck Race 2014*! Please purchase your tickets today by visiting bethleheminn.org. or stop by the Inn at 3705 N. Hwy 97 in Bend.  **5th Annual Rod and Custom Car Show August 22, 2014 5-8pm**  Please join us for our *5th Annual* *Rod and Custom Car Show* presented by the Central Oregon Classic Chevy Club! The community is invited to enjoy this exciting display of vintage vehicles at the Inn.    **The Perfect Pair**  **October 17, 2014 5-8pm**    *The Perfect Pair* celebrates the pairing of the Deschutes Brewery's handcrafted beers and the culinary delights created by local chefs. Tickets are $45/person. All proceeds will support the Inn.  **Did you know we accept?**  **Vehicle Donations!**  Do you have an old vehicle you are interested in donating for a tax write-off? If so, please visit bethleheminn.org for more information.  **Redeemables!**  Your redeemable cans and bottles are a valuable source of income for the Inn.  **Volunteers Needed**  If you're interested in volunteering, we need help in the following areas:  -Weekend Breakfasts (call 541.322.8768 ext. 11 or see our [web site](file:///C:\Users\Financial%20Admin\Downloads\bethleheminn.org) for available dates)  -Front Desk Volunteers | | Bethlehem Inn http://content.delivra.com/etapcontent/BethlehemInn/UW%20LOGO.jpg3705 N Hwy. 97, Bend, OR / 541.389.2820 / info@bethleheminn.org | | | |  | | | |