



Kissing Noses

“Happy Mother’s Day,” she chirped. “Well, I’m not really a mother, but I have a puppy at home, so I’m ‘mom’.”

Cheerfully she told me all about her black lab, Taffy. Taffy was wonderful. Just a year old, Taffy was still “a child,” she told me, but amazingly intuitive.

Mary went on with her story. Not to get into her personal life, mind you, but just to show me the amazing attributes of her dog.

It seems that a few months ago Mary was pregnant. Taffy seemed to know it and understand. Then Mary lost the baby.

Taffy’s intuition seemed to extend to Mary’s boyfriend, the father of the baby Mary lost. Taffy

never liked him. Evidently Mary’s mother didn’t care for him either, for she told Mary, “Listen to Taffy.”

Finally Mary did just that. Having lost her child, giving up her boyfriend and moving out of town, Mary found herself in a strange place with few friends.

She found a job and started making a new life.

“Yes,” she continued, “Taffy has always been there for me. Sometimes at night when I’m having trouble sleeping I climb out of bed and get in her bed with her. I kiss her nose until I feel like maybe I can sleep again, and then I go back to my own bed.”

How about us? Are we in tune with what others are feeling around us? Some-

times I think God gives us animals to make up for our moments of thoughtlessness, our insensitivity to the needs of those around us, not only the physical needs, but the emotional needs as well.

Mary didn’t have anyone with whom she could share her heart hurts. She needed only a listening ear. No platitudes, no judgment, no fixes.

Might we do well if, like our furry friends, we had nothing to say at times? If, we just allowed others to hold us until they felt better? No platitudes, no judgment, no fixes.

“Thanks,” she said, “for listening.”

I felt like my nose had been kissed!

Dinner Being Served

Former Governor Kitzhaber will be the keynote speaker for our first annual PACS dinner. Please join us on Sunday, November 13, 2005 at 6pm at the Monarch Hotel.

This will be a time of reflection upon the

difficulties many in our communities have in accessing adequate health care.

It will also be a time of praise as we share how God has blessed the work of PACS.

We need major even,

dinner and table sponsors. These gifts, ranging from \$500—\$5,000+ will cover expenses as well as provide donations for the work PACS does.

For more information, please call Carol at 503 252-8500 ext. 0.

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Special points of interest:

- 75% of volunteers are doing so because of moral values.
- 47% volunteer to gain a new experience.
- 42% volunteer because they were helped by a volunteer in the past.
- 39% volunteer because they want to meet other people according to a national survey conducted by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

A Day at PACS in the Life of Jack Harris

Jack Harris, a former church administrator, volunteers in our intake department. He shared some experiences with us recently. So we asked him to share them with you as well.

I think your heart will be warmed as you hear first hand what a day in the life of our interviewers is like.

“I invited a young (30's) couple from the Ukraine into my interview room. When I asked how long they had been in the United States the husband said, ‘Seven months.’

He spoke English so well I was amazed and said so. I asked, ‘How did you learn so quickly?’

He said, ‘I was able somehow to get a computer and software that helps me learn. When I see a word in English, I click on it and the computer tells me what it means and then pronounces it for me. Then click again and I pronounce it. I click again and it tells me again how to pronounce it.’

Then he went on to say, ‘We so appreciate the privilege of coming to America where everything and everyone is so wonderful. I want to stop coming here as soon as we can, but I have to learn English quickly so I can get a better job.’”

Jack remembers another experience that helped him know his work helps people become independent while giv-

ing them the ability to take care of their families.

“A young single mother of two school-age children came in. She was just beaming. She said, ‘I hope this is my last time to come here. I got a job yesterday at Motel 6 in their accounting department. I work nights doing their accounting. My mother keeps the children, then takes them to school in the morning so I can sleep during the day, and I keep them at night.

Thank you so much for all you have done for me. I don't know how I would have survived without you and everyone is so nice compared to some other agencies we poor people have to deal with.”

Jack is part of a team effort to bring dignity to lives that are hurting and hopeless. We know that each person is precious in the eyes of the Lord. We strive daily to help them experience just a bit of the peace, understanding and love of Jesus while they are in our agency.

Here is a response to the tender care that Jack shows while he has a few minutes with each client:

“Last week a middle-aged lady came in and shared her story, not terribly unusual from the ones we meet daily. But, as she left, she said, ‘You know, I have been coming here for over a year be-

cause I was desperate. But not once has anyone here made me feel guilty, or ashamed. Instead, they make me feel good. I will stop as quickly as I possibly can.’”

These words of appreciation warm our hearts. It seems many times our interviewers hear story after story about shattered dreams, impossible situations and desperate pleas for help. At times this can become overwhelming, even depressing.

And yet we know that Jesus hears these same cries from all of us. He listens patiently. He provides us with the best for each of our situations, then throws in a few extra blessings for good measure. He never becomes discouraged with us. And He always gives us words of encouragement for His children.

At PACS we want to pattern our listening, our loving, and our providing after the model of Jesus. This is not easy and many times our intake interviewers are stretched to the limit of their endurance as they silently plead with the Holy Spirit to give them the right words, the gift of hearing, and genuine caring.

Every morning we bring our praises and petitions to the Lo

rd. It gives us strength for His work. He always answers and we just want Him to know how much we appreciate what a great God He is.

Thank you, Jesus.

News Notes

- ♥ The Walters Family Foundation has given a \$10,000 grant to PACS. This unexpected gift has come just at a time when our finances were a little uncertain. What a blessing this is!
- ♥ Betty and Rudy Glasnapp have returned to PACS. Betty is overseeing the Social Services Department. Rudy is filling in as Thrift Shop Manager for Sandi Campbell, who is

taking a leave of absence. Though we are sad to see Sandi leave for awhile, we are pleased to have both Betty and Rudy back on the team! Fortunately for us, Sandi will continue to manage the Gift Shop.

- ♥ The Oregon Conference Trust Department, Adventist Medical Center, and Generations are each sponsoring a table of ten guests at our first annual dinner on November 13, 2005.

- ♥ Governing Board member Wendell White is a major event sponsor for our dinner/silent auction. Thank you ever so much, Wendell!
- ♥ The Johnson Family Foundation has graciously granted \$2,500 to the Health Clinic for general operations. Each grant like this makes it possible to serve more people, detect more diseases, and save more lives. Thank you so very much.

MIA Award (Mission in Action)

Originally from Romania, Rodica Malos is a family nurse practitioner now practicing in the United States. Rodica is absolutely dedicated to helping others.

A strong Christian, Rodica works in her church, giving health lectures and doing screening for women. Many women from Eastern Europe have not had adequate health care in their country and are not comfortable seeking care in America.

Subsequently many develop health issues that might possibly have been detected earlier, thus making treatment and cost of care much less onerous.

Rodica volunteers at our Health Clinic once a week in the afternoon. During her time here you can find her listening carefully to patients, analyzing their symptoms, gently teaching, coaching and giv-

ing instruction.

She finds that many patients are suffering from situational depression, needing medication and a listening ear to help them over the hurdle.

Very often her prescription includes a daily dose of Psalms 23—The Lord is My Shepherd. Rodica says, “Women laugh at me when I tell them to meditate on this psalm every day. When they return for their next appointment, they nearly always thank me, telling me what a difference it has made in their life.”

Yes, Rodica understands the mission of PACS, to provide care with dignity and share the love of Jesus freely.

We add our prayers to Rodica’s as she prays for her patients, that each may find peace in the loving arms of their Lord.



Rodica Malos, Volunter Family Nurse Practitioner

Legislative Fun

The day dawned bright and clear. As we gathered together, I counted more than 60 agencies represented. We had come together in Salem at the state capital to visit with various government leaders regarding issues impacting hunger in the state of Oregon.

We listened to the issues, then paired up two by two to visit senators and congressmen and women.

I was teamed up with Brian Ferschweiler

of Blanchet House of Hospitality. Together we represented the two agencies that served the most hungry people in the state. PACS gives groceries, Blanchet House gives hot meals.

It was educational and enjoyable to meet our legislators. They were most receptive and genuinely interested in hearing our viewpoints. Someday we’ll do it again!

Left to right: Brian Ferschweiler, Blanchet House of Hospitality; Oregon State Senator Avel Louise Gordly, Rhonda Whitney, PACS

Please insert picture #1 here

Prayer and Wish List

- ◆ Someone, (doesn’t have to be a nurse) to help procure free medications for our patients who can’t afford them. Training will be provided on how to do the proper paperwork.
- ◆ A Boy Scout troop, Pathfinder group, or other group who would like to partner with PACS to sell flashlights. We are willing to split the profits. Call Carol at 252-8500.

- ◆ Ensure
- ◆ Baby diapers, formula
- ◆ White or colored 8 1/2 x 11 inch copy paper
- ◆ Hanging file folders
- ◆ Manila 1/3 cut file folders
- ◆ Good scissors (ours really make a

mess of things!) 4 pairs

- ◆ Yellow “white-out” for interviewers
- ◆ Roller ball mouse (need 2)
- ◆ Bulk rice, beans, lentils



Mark you calendar—PACS first annual Dinner Nov. 13, 2005 6 pm at Monarch Hotel, Clackamas.

PACS

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People Active in Christ's Service

IF YOU FEEL YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS
 MAIL IN ERROR, PLEASE CALL (503)
 252-8500 AND ASK TO HAVE YOUR
 NAME REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING
 LIST. PLEASE ALLOW 4-6 WEEKS FOR
 YOUR REQUEST TO BE PROCESSED

Sandi's Corner

Insert pic #2. Please crop picture so only Shirley shows (person on the left.)

Dear Readers,
Please let me introduce to you, Shirley Jones, a long-time friend of PACS. Shirley has served on our governing

board, is currently a volunteer at PACS and has agreed to join our Gift Shop committee.

Shirley replaces Marilyn Patchin, who is spending the next six months in Germany on an extended vacation.

We are excited to have Shirley on board, even though we will miss Marilyn's practical input and creative decorating.

Thanks for being willing to be a member of our team, Shirley!

Also—let me tell you about the most exciting new product we are selling. You

may have seen it advertised on TV.

Have you ever needed a flashlight and couldn't find one with good batteries in it? Well, that never needs to happen again.

Our flashlight uses innovative technology for producing electricity in the palm of your hand. Shaking the flashlight causes a magnet to pass through a copper coil, generating electricity.

A few seconds of shaking can generate several minutes of power. And, best of all, our flashlight is always ready for use no matter how long it has been stored.

What's more, they only cost \$20.

- ◆ Ideal for home, auto, boat, outdoor & emergency use
- ◆ Super bright LED light
- ◆ Stand on either end
- ◆ Shock resistant

- ◆ Rubber guarded
- ◆ Water-proof and it floats
- ◆ Safety lanyard attached
- ◆ Operates in extreme hot or cold



Sandi Campbell, Gift Shop Manager

Do come quickly to purchase a Freedom Flashlight for you and everyone on your gift lists. Or you may order one at 503 252-8500 X110. Shipping starts at \$3.95.

This item has been so hot we can't keep it in stock.

Most sincerely, *Sandi*