

## PACS Loses a Legend



Wesley Willis Bigham was laid to rest on Friday, December 9. He was 87.

Wes and his wife Joan were two of the most

dedicated volunteers PACS has ever seen. For a number of years, they volunteered five days a week. Each of them has donated more than 10,000 hours of time to PACS.

Wes accomplished a lot, even in his eighties. Much of his time was spent stocking and monitoring food supplies in the food pantry.

"Whenever a certain item would go down he would come out into the warehouse area and get it," said Ron Meisner, Food Distribution Manager. "Now we're scrambling to make up for what he used to do."

"He was one of a kind, he was a go-getter," said Brandon Dorn, PACS truck driver.

Wes didn't just volunteer to stay busy. He believed in the work he was doing. He had many stories he liked to tell. One of his favorites was the one about the bed he provided to

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Wes and his wife Joan joke around during a break from their hard work as volunteers.

## Staff Member Spared in Ugly Crash

Assistant Food Distribution Manager Jack Farr was on his way home from work when his truck mysteriously turned off the road and plummeted down a 60 foot embankment.



The remains of Jack Farr's truck sit mangled at a Portland area junk yard.

Jack's truck had to be pulled back up to the road before he was extracted from the vehicle. From there, an ambulance took him to the Legacy Emmanuel Trauma Center. He had two large cuts on his head, three broken

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## December Brings Flood of Donations

It was a strong financial finish in a year of transition for PACS.

An anticipated budget shortfall of \$100,000 was dramatically reduced when donors rallied to cut that shortfall by almost \$70,000.

"It says a lot for people who support PACS, and we are so thankful for each of them" said Executive Director Leonard Yost, who has a balanced budget for 2008, and an aggressive plan to ensure it is met.

"I have every reason to believe that 2008 is going to be a great year for us financially," he said.

There were several elements that contributed to the flood of donations. A few large contributions were made

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## Thoughtful Quotes

- *I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do.*

—Helen Keller

- *Charity begins at home, and justice begins next door.*

—Charles Dickens

- *No one has ever become poor by giving.*

—Anne Frank

- *Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?*

—Martin Luther King Jr.

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## Eliminate the Mortgage!

With the economy headed towards a possible recession, PACS is hoping to solidify its financial standing. A recession often means an increase in demand for the kinds of services PACS offers, as working families find it harder and harder to pay for basic needs like food and health care.

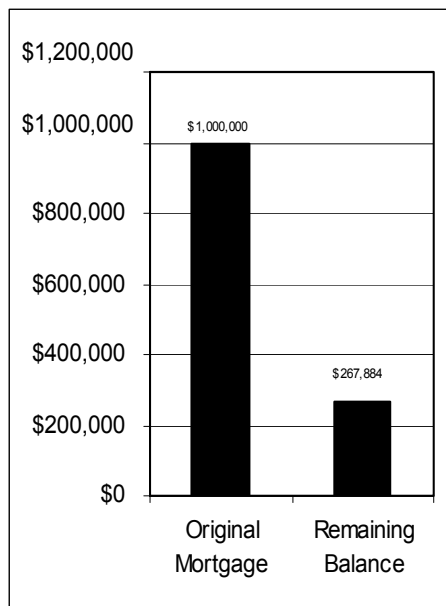
For that reason, Executive Director Leonard Yost has developed a plan to increase the amount of funds available to the PACS Food Pantry and the PACS Family Health Clinic. Eliminating the mortgage payment is a huge part of his strategy. It would free up nearly \$100,000 a year that is currently being used to make this payment.

Several years ago the *Temple Builder's Campaign* was launched, aimed at freeing up this extra money. It helped PACS cut the balance of the mortgage significantly. Currently, just over 1/4 of the original amount remains. However, due to a lack of continued campaigning, progress on the mortgage fund has been minimal over the last year.

The original \$1.3 million expenditure on the current PACS facility was a huge leap of faith for a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needy. Of course that money wasn't readily available, making it necessary to take out the \$1 million mortgage.

God has blessed the new facility. The added space has allowed PACS to cover a much larger group of needy families in the food pantry and the health clinic. PACS now has the largest single-site food pantry in the Oregon Food Bank network, and the health clinic provides a one of a kind service to more than a thousand uninsured patients each year.

However, with the growth in services comes significant growth in operating expenses, and while PACS has been able to cover these expenses through increases in revenue, the uncertain



economy makes it imperative that we free up funding for the health clinic and food pantry.

You can help us ensure that PACS has the resources to meet the growing needs of families in an uncertain economy. Help us pay off this mortgage as soon as possible by making a donation to the *Temple Builder's Fund*. Your support has a direct impact on needy families in the Portland area.

## Christmas Cards from a Food Pantry Client



During the holiday season, each of us found a Christmas card in our mailboxes from a man whom I will call Aaron. He was a client of the PACS food pantry who was so thankful for the help he received, that he had left a card for each staff member. He also gave a letter to Traci White, our social services director, to share with the staff and volunteers.

In a portion of the letter he stated, "I want you to know how much I appreciate what you have done for me and all the others that you help." He continued, "When a person has no hope, faith, and does not know that they are loved, they become numb inside and just want to give up on life. At the last second . . . You came along and gave them a flicker of hope and made them feel like someone cared about them."

Testimonies like this one remind us why we exist. "When you hear something like that, it just makes you want to do more and just be there for people," said Traci.

PACS exists to serve the hopeless and give them their dignity back. If you would like to partner with us in this effort, please consider making a donation online or with the envelope provided. Ninety-three cents out of every dollar goes directly to serving needy people like Aaron.

## . . . accident, cont.

ribs, a broken collar bone and a concussion. Jack does not remember anything from the accident.

"The only thing I remember is what the police report said," said Jack.

After spending several days in the hospital, Jack was able to come home, and is now on his feet doing small tasks around the house. Amazingly, he is intent on coming back to PACS soon, insisting that God must still have work for him to do.

The exact cause of the accident is unclear, but Jack thinks he may have fallen asleep or passed out. He is clear about one thing though. "I know that the Lord saved my life," said Jack. "I shouldn't have come out of that truck alive."



**Asst. Food Distribution Manager, Jack Farr**

## Prayer & Wish List

- Rice/Pasta/Cereal, other carbohydrate foods
- Truck Drivers & Riders
- 1 lb Ziploc bags
- Canned Fruit
- Auto donations

## . . . Wes, cont.

a needy family, and how thrilled the young daughter was to receive the bed. She gave him a big hug and thanked him that she wouldn't have to sleep on the floor anymore.

"Of all my years volunteering at PACS, that was worth the whole thing," Wes would say.

Wes lived much of his life in Oregon. He served in the Navy for 10 Years, including during World War II. After his service he made a living as an Arco service station owner, then a carpentry foreman. He married Joan Monckton in 1942.

Wes volunteered all the way up until the weeks before he passed away. He and Joan had cut back to three mornings a week, which was still a tremendous contribution. Several days before he passed away from heart failure, we received a phone call from him. He told volunteer coordinator Carol Paulson that he had had a stroke and wouldn't be able to make it in that day because he was in the hospital.

"I was just amazed that he was even calling!" said Carol Paulson. "What dedication!"

Joan is now staying with family members, but she is doing well.

Meanwhile, at PACS, the legacy of dedication, passion and energy that Wes and Joan leave behind continues to inspire staff and volunteers as they serve others.

Wes is survived by his wife, sons Wesley and Joel, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## A Big Thank You to . . .

- Trader Joe's, who contributes thousands of pounds of food to the PACS Food Pantry.
- Ron Meisner, Food Distribution Manager for working extra hours in the food pantry to cover short staffing.
- The Adventist Medical Center employees for giving more than \$5,000 through their employee giving campaign.
- Joseph E. Weston Public Fund for \$7,000 Temple Builder's donation (Mortgage Fund).
- The Rose Tucker Foundation, \$3,500 Grant for the clinic.
- The Wheeler Foundation, \$4,000 Grant.
- The Vera L. Smith Charitable Foundation, \$5,000 Grant.
- Sunnyside SDA Church for gloves and hats drive.
- Joan Brady for collecting warm clothing items.
- Portland Adventist Academy Seniors for a large food drive.

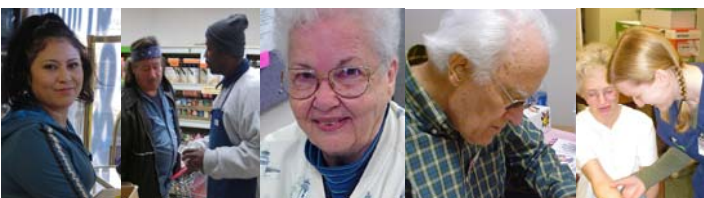
## . . . donations, cont.

by donors with sizable financial resources, and hundreds of small and medium sized donations poured in from church members and other individuals responding to our annual *Campaign for Community*. Church pastors increased the involvement of their respective churches, often allowing multiple bulletin inserts and extra service time for a video presentation informing church members about PACS and appealing to them for support.

The flood of donations capped off nicely what had been an unusual year for PACS. Rhonda Whitney, executive director of 13 years accepted a position with the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at the end of 2006, where she is now community outreach director. Volunteer coordinator Carol Paulson served as interim director for four months until Leonard Yost arrived as a permanent replacement for Rhonda.

Leonard spent his first few months on the job acquainting himself with PACS policies and operations. He then went to work on his four-point plan to increase the financial stability of PACS. The plan includes increasing the PACS donor base, increasing grant applications, growing sales in the thrift stores and gift shop, and paying off the mortgage on the PACS facility to free up extra funds.

We need your help to meet these goals. By volunteering, donating, shopping in our stores, and telling your friends about PACS, you can help us continue Christ's mission in serving others.



Show your care by donating or volunteering. Learn more at

[portlandacs.org](http://portlandacs.org)

*The PACS Facts is a publication of Portland Adventist Community Services. PACS Administrative Assistant Brian Vistaunet is writer and editor. Photos were taken by Brian Vistaunet and Marilyn Patchin. If your area has a local Adventist Community Services outlet, please support them! We pray that our newsletter is a source of inspiration, but we in no way want to take away from local support of other ACS branches.*

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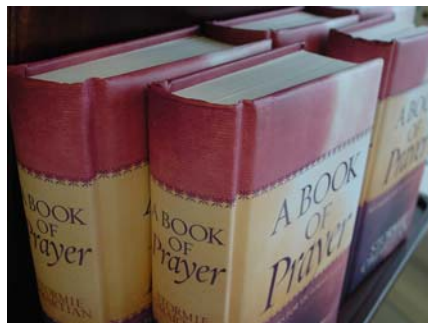
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## Books that Make Excellent Gifts

- A Book of Prayer
- What Little Girls are Made Of
- Simple Acts of Friendship
- Mama Knows Best
- Letter to a Grieving Heart
- Fish Tales
- A Little Book of Manners for Boys
- Many More Titles Available



## The PACS Gift Shop

11020 NE Halsey St, Portland ♦ 503.252.8500 ♦ [PORTLANDACS.ORG](http://PORTLANDACS.ORG)  
All profits benefit the PACS Food Pantry and the PACS Family Health Clinic