

Gas, Food Prices Push Struggling Families Over the Edge



If you feel like your grocery receipt totals have been higher in recent months, you are probably right.

Food prices are rising, and gas prices continue to increase at a blistering pace. This is forcing many of us to cut spending and rearrange our budgets.

Unfortunately, these price increases are spelling hard times for more and more families, some of whom are forced to turn to charitable organizations like PACS for food assistance.

"We're getting maybe 15 to 20 new people a day, where before it was just six or seven,"

Nurses Answer the Call for Help

You may recall a recent plea for nurses in the PACS Facts. It was part of an effort to fill what has been an ongoing shortage of volunteer RN's in the clinic.

The response is a miracle and an answer to prayer. Seven new nurses have signed on to volunteer at that PACS Family Health Clinic.

said Traci White, PACS Social Services Manager.

According to Traci, many of these new clients are extremely embarrassed by their situation and are quick to point out that they have never had to turn to a charity before.

Fuel prices have spurred inflation and weakened the US dollar. The weak dollar makes our commodities more attractive to other countries, helping the US to close the trade gap. Unfortunately, as more commodities are exported, a shrinking supply within the US drives up prices even farther. This can have a devastating effect on low-income American

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They will allow volunteer doctors to see more patients and provide the opportunity for new doctors to join the clinic. Two new doctors have already joined as volunteer care providers.



Johanna Von Kuster, RN, reviews a patient chart in the PACS Family Health Clinic.

The new nurses will also

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Think About It . . .

- *I pray that we are still a young and courageous nation, that we have not grown so old and so fat and so prosperous that all we can think about is to sit back with our arms around our money-bags.*

—Lyndon B. Johnson

- *A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.*

—Jesus Christ

- *It is not how much we give but how much love we put into giving*

—Mother Teresa

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Director's Corner: No One is a Stranger



by Leonard Yost

In Matthew 25 Jesus says the King will say to the righteous at the end of time, "I was a stranger and you invited me in."

A couple of weeks ago, on a Friday afternoon, I stopped at Fred Meyer to shop for a base cabinet for a television my wife Linda and I had recently purchased. They had one I liked and it was on sale for only one more day. I hesitated to purchase it without Linda's approval, so the department manager offered to give me a 30-day rain check to protect the sale price.

The customer service receptionist, while preparing the rain check, asked where I worked. I informed her that I was the Executive Director of Portland Adventist Community Services. She said, "Do you mean PACS?" I said yes. She told me that she and her husband visit our thrift stores often. Her husband, who is mentally challenged, loves looking at merchandise in the Home Store.

She shared with me that during their visits to the Home Store her husband has been treated with courtesy, dignity, and respect. Then she said something that warmed my heart. "We don't feel like strangers at PACS," she said.

She shared with me that during their visits to the Home Store her husband has been treated with courtesy, dignity, and respect. Then she said something that warmed my heart. "We don't feel like strangers at PACS," she said.

In response to the statement, "I was a stranger and you invited me in," Jesus said the righteous will respond to the King, "Lord, when did we see you a stranger and invite you in?" The King replies, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." At PACS there are no strangers, all are welcome.

You can help PACS reach out to those who feel estranged. I want to invite you to partner with us. By supporting PACS financially, volunteering, donating goods, shopping in the stores, praying for PACS, or telling others about this unique ministry, you are having a direct effect on "the least of these."

Please prayerfully consider how you can help.

A Big Thank You to . . .

- Leonard and Linda Yost for a \$1,000 Awards Dinner Sponsorship
- Walla Walla University School of Nursing, Washington State University and Linfield College for providing student nurses/nurse practitioners to help in the clinic.
- Those who have contributed to the Temple Builders Fund.
- Northwest Newschannel 8 for their Great Food Drive for the Oregon Food Bank. It is helping PACS and other Oregon food pantries keep shelves stocked.

Planning Underway for 2008 Awards Dinner



The Fourth Annual PACS Awards Dinner will take place on October 19, 2008. It will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel near the Portland Airport.

The event will feature a gourmet meal, a silent auction, a speaker, and the presentation of the Barbara Nelson Award, which is given out to an individual, individuals, or an organization that shows outstanding leadership in meeting the needs of our community.

Executive Director Leonard Yost is getting an early start on the search for sponsors in an effort to have more of them this year.

"I'm hoping that through these sponsorships, we can raise at least \$50,000 this year," he said.

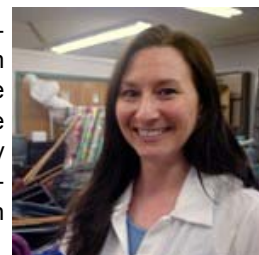
It is an ambitious goal which would nearly double last year's high of about \$25,000, and much help is needed to meet it. Your sponsorship can help us meet the goal.

Another way to help is to donate an auction item, and this can include things like vacation packages, country club memberships, tickets to an event, or physical items as long as they are new and attractive.

If you would like to help by sponsoring or donating an auction item, please call PACS at 503.252.8500.

Julie Eads Joins Staff

Leonard Wade has retired as goods processing supervisor. We will miss him greatly. He has been replaced by Julie Eads, and we are pleased to welcome her to the PACS team. Julie recently moved to Portland from Southern California, and joins PACS as the new afternoon goods processing supervisor.





... high prices, cont.

families, some of whom end up rationing food portions to save money and avoid losing utility service or housing.

Charitable organizations are also affected by rising prices. The Oregon Food Bank has seen the cost of acquiring food skyrocket. Food pantries across the nation are finding it difficult to sustain, much less increase service capacity, even as the need for services is growing.

If God has blessed you with plenty, please consider how you can help PACS be there for needy families during these challenging times. If you do not live in the Portland area, there may also be a local food pantry you can help. Or you can support the Oregon Food Bank, which is a key resource for many pantries in the Northwest. Whatever you can do, be it great or small from your perspective, will make a great difference for someone in need.

... nurses, cont.

help Clinic Manager Barbara Maddox process the enormous amount of patient care follow through that has often kept her in the office late into the evenings.

The new medical doctors include Yale Liang and Joseph Thaler. New registered nurses include Ellen Royas, Melissa Hosey, Johanna Von Kuster, Ruby Hohensee, Bonnie Corson, Roberta Blankenship and Janice Schmidt. Jerilyn Fuller and Dawn Herr have also joined the clinic as volunteer CMA's.

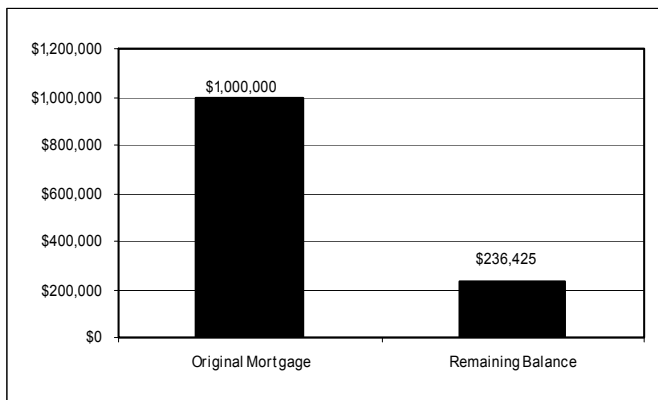
National Nurses Week was May 6-12, and we want to recognize our volunteer nurses and other health care professionals for taking time out of their already busy lives to help uninsured individuals get the health care they need. Each one of them is truly a blessing.

New Board Members

PACS would like to welcome the following individuals to the Governing Board: Jon Corder, Vice President for Finance at the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; Sallyann Gabriel, a retired RN; and Robert Hastings, Treasurer for the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Help Secure PACS Future with Your Economic Stimulus Check

PACS must cut expenses to ensure that services can be maintained at a high level for the needy during a recession and rising prices. One expense we intend to eliminate is our mortgage payment. You can help us pay off the mortgage more quickly by donating your economic stimulus check to PACS and designating it to the Temple Builders Fund.



Car Donations . . .



... another way you can help the needy.

Call 503.252.8500 to learn more.

The PACS Facts is a publication of Portland Adventist Community Services. PACS Administrative Assistant Brian Vistaunet is writer and editor. **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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All profits benefit the PACS Food Pantry and the PACS Family Health Clinic