



WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Philomath Community Services | *People Helping People*
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Welcome to Winter 2025! As we embrace the beauty and tranquility of the winter season, we are reminded of the special moments this time of year brings. Despite the cold and the longer nights, each day brings a little more light and new opportunities.

Winter is a time for reflection and planning, and we at PCS are excited about the future. With gracious community support and a clear vision, we are working on innovative strategies and thoughtful analyses to enhance our operations. Our goal remains to empower *People Helping People*, as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Please take a moment to see what we have accomplished this past season, thanks to our neighbors like you. We are deeply grateful for your continued support, and we are always here for you. Thank you for being a part of our journey.

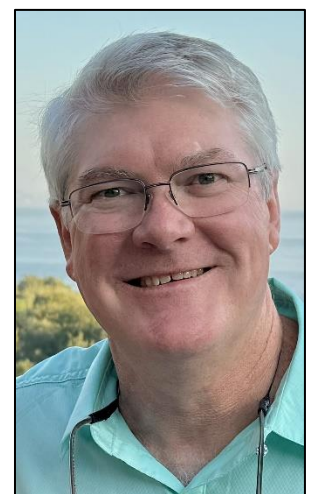
End-of-Year Address

As 2024 comes to a close, Philomath Community Services (PCS) Executive Director Sharon Thornberry [shares highlights](#) and offers a vision for 2025.



Welcome aboard, Mike!

We are delighted to announce that Mike Goodrich, a long-time Philomath resident and recent [mostly] retiree, has joined our PCS Board. Mike brings extensive board and committee experience in the building trades, along with valuable skills in group decision-making, financial management, management expertise, and construction-related regulatory knowledge. We are excited to see him apply his life experience to meaningfully engage with both our leadership and volunteers. Welcome, Mike!



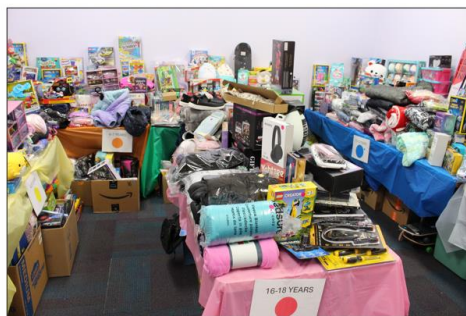
Newsletter Signup

If you are reading this but have not signed up for our newsletter, please [subscribe here](#).

Spreading Holiday Cheer

Another great year for Holiday Cheer! With over **260** children participating, our resources were fully maxed out, offering free “shopping” opportunities for parents and guardians to brighten the season for their kids. We served over **100** families and distributed over **2,000** pounds of toys and clothing. This was accomplished, thanks to **45** volunteers putting in **250** hours!

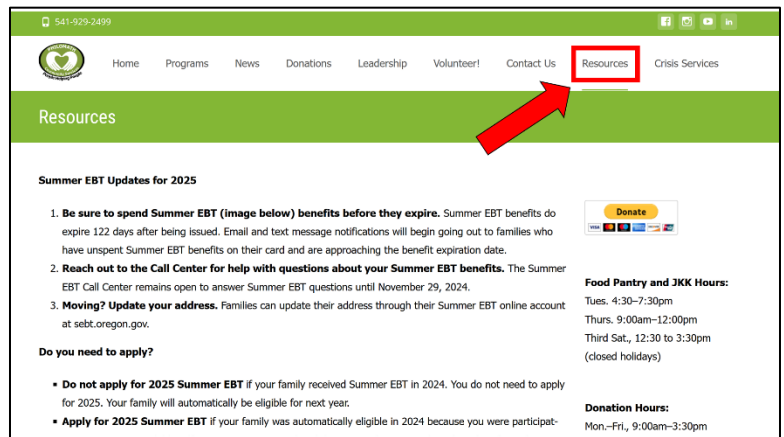
Check out these magical photos of all the toys that were distributed. Heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers and donors. ❤️



New “Resources” Page on Website

Take a look! [Here is a link](#) to the new Resources page. This is one small part of a larger revamping of our website that has taken place this past season.

Feedback is always welcome (our [Contact Us](#) form is monitored daily,) in case you have suggestions for ways we can improve our online presence. We want our website to work for **you**.



Philomath Fire & Rescue Open House and Health Fair

We enjoyed our time at the Philomath Fire & Rescue Open House and Health Fair sharing information and seeing some of our neighbors—even Smokey the Bear! It was a fantastic opportunity to connect, exchange ideas, and strengthen our community ties. What a lively event for fun and activities.

We're grateful for the enthusiasm and participation of all who attended. We are looking forward to more events like this in the future!




Wish List

We would be delighted if you have any of the following **unused** items to drop off:


- ★ Disposable cloth or paper bags.
- ★ Face masks.
- ★ Monetary donations.
- ★ More details on the [Donations Page](#) of our website.


Thank you for your generosity!

Highlights from This Past Season

 **Salmon Distribution:** The PCS Gleaners recently completed their tradition of a salmon distribution! Fresh, nutritious salmon for their members. Thank you to the Gleaners for this service to our community.



 **Trunk or Treat:** Philomath Area Chamber Commerce recognized the PCS van and our wonderful volunteers as the “Best Dressed Trunk.” Congratulations to those involved!

 **Citizens Bank Seasonal Fun:** Check out these spooky pumpkins that were at Citizens Bank in Philomath! An emerging tradition, Citizens Bank employees decorate or carve pumpkins, then the community votes with dollars on their favorite pumpkin. The bank then matches the dollars in a donation to PCS. What a great neighbor.



Every Lit Bit Helps

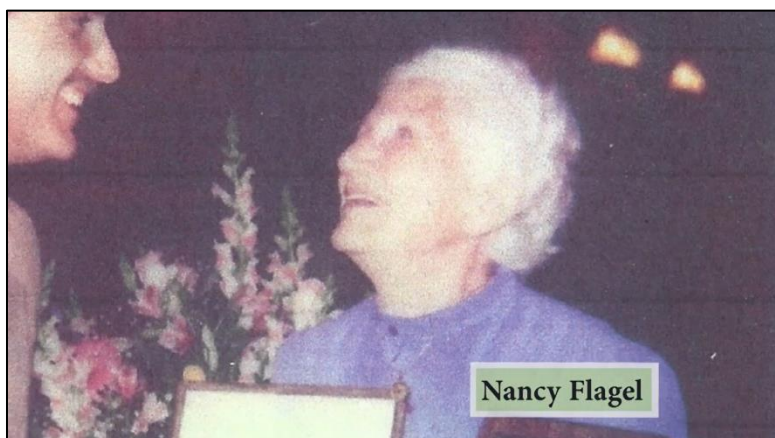
Big thanks to Sew it Seams for collecting this generous donation for PCS! It is inspiring to see businesses and organizations in our community reach out to support one another through PCS.



In the News

PCS has roots that go back decades, thanks in no small part to visionary leaders like Nancy Flagel. Philomath News did a nice piece on PCS this past season.

[Enjoy the read here!](#)



Message from the Garden

The Garden has been wrapping up Fall projects, including the final harvest of apples. There are still some winter crops growing that are trickling into the pantry. We have been putting the Garden to bed and prepping for the 2025 season, which includes creating a program that will provide Nancy's Food Pantry with plant starts. If you would like to help in the coming garden season, please reach out to the garden manager, Natalie, at garden@philomathcommunityservices.org.

Additionally, stay tuned for updates about plot rentals for the 2025 season.

— Natalie, Lupe's Community Garden Program Manager

Thank you, Girl Scouts

A huge thank you to the Philomath Girl Scouts (troop 10310) for their incredible generosity! The girls had so much fun shopping for Philomath Community Services. Special thanks to their awesome troop leader, Becca Deeds.



Honoring our Dedicated Volunteers

We are so proud of the PCS Gleaners for having been recognized by the Benton Community Foundation (BCF) as the 2024 Outstanding Volunteer Group at their annual Philanthropic Achievement Awards.

This incredible achievement was accepted by the wonderful Patty Nobles and Tim Worl, whose dedication and spirit truly embody the heart of our program. A huge thank you to BCF, Patty, Tim, and the entire Gleaners community for your hard work and dedication.

And thank you, BCF, for your continued support and allowing space for PCS to recognize our outstanding volunteers.



That's it for now! Thank you for reading.

PCS Online

Join us on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Nextdoor!



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