



Congregations Helping People Holiday Newsletter 2019

Year-end giving requests come from many agencies for many good reasons. We hope that you include CHP as part of your ministry in our Salem-Keizer area to our neighbors in crisis because of need for housing, electricity, and also transportation to work, to school, to medical appointments. We can also help people get essential identification for access to hiring paperwork, housing programs, establishing medical care and obtaining medication.

Our neighbors come to us in states of illness, family brokenness, unemployment, prison release, debilitating depression, and extreme poverty. A couple in their 80's are struggling with the husband's life-threatening illness. His oxygen machine has doubled their electric bill. Their furnace is broken, and they cannot afford its repair; they hope to heat with wood. Multiple medical appointments have depleted the gasoline they put in their car. Social security just isn't enough to live on. This is just one of the many heart-rending stories we have heard recently; we do what we can, including listen, for our neighbors in poverty.

Clients often express their remarkable gratefulness and relief when we are able to fully or in part solve their immediate problem, and thus give them time to catch up on bills and get on their feet in a more stable way. If the funds come from the grants we have through the City of Salem, I let them know that, "These are your tax dollars at work." When the funds we use come from our supporting congregations, I let them know that churches in Keizer and Salem provide this assistance. The list of participating churches is displayed prominently at CHP so that our clients know that you love your neighbors in this way and have a commitment to keeping CHP open.

We do need your dollars. And we need your time. Perhaps the New Year will be an opportunity for you to get to know some of your neighbors by volunteering for a morning at CHP; or if you have Board skills, perhaps you would like to add your wisdom to our Board. Please give Becky Strader a call at 503-391-4365 or email her at Rebecca.Strader@chpsalem.org to chat about details.

Blessings for your holiday celebrations.

Becky

(The Rev.) Rebecca Strader