

THE WORKS



Strengthening lives to change community. Strengthening community to change lives.

Fall 2014



Domestic Awareness Walk a Success!

On Friday, October 24th, it was a perfect day to walk for Domestic Violence Awareness!!! Thank you everyone who showed up in support of this important issue. Thank you to our speakers, especially the survivors who shared their stories! Thank you to all the volunteers who made it possible. And thank you to the sponsors!!!



Adopt-A-Family



Community Works is asking for help through our Adopt-A-Family for the Holidays, which provides our clients with the joy of the holiday season. This year we plan to bring happiness to 30 families with your help. To share the joy of giving as an Adopt-A-Family donor, please contact Christine Leusch by email at cleusch@community-works.org or call 541-779-2393 ext. 228.

Community Works News

- **Special thanks to Donna and Matthew Epstein** for their contribution of \$5,000 through their foundation to support the Victim Services Programs of Community Works.
- **Out with the old and in with the new!** Thank you Garrison's Home Furnishings for donating 9 new mattresses and 2 new recliners to Dunn House Shelter.



Alissa, Brian and little Taylor Garrison

Before and After...



News10 has partnered with the Grange Co-Op and southern Oregon Wendy's locations to help kids in need this holiday season. Anyone can drop off unwrapped toys from November 24th through December 18th at any Grange Co-Op or Wendy's location. Community Works will be distributing the toys to the clients and families we serve. Watch KTVL News 10 for details or check out our website at www.community-works.org.



From the Executive Director...

Dear Friends of Community Works:

With the anticipation of change as fall rolls into winter, we look forward to the shifts into the upcoming seasons of caring and giving. In this issue, we share photos related to the nationally-recognized Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, featuring the “No More Silence, It’s Time to Walk and Talk” walk which was held on October 24th, in downtown Medford (starting at the Jackson County Courthouse and ending at the Lithia Commons Pear Blossom Park). We offer thanks to the several local leaders who spoke at the event, and also thanks to the three survivors of domestic violence that shared personal thoughts and experiences, educating the walk participants. We appreciate the nearly 200 people who joined together for this walk, focused on bringing the community together to raise awareness about the prevalence of domestic violence, with a goal of raising commitment to the work that needs to be done to address this problem.

I would like to announce that Community Works is pleased to welcome Christine Leusch as their new Development Director. Christine joins the team with 25 years demonstrated success in planning and executing successful fundraising programs, and building relationships with our community. She has a passion for philanthropy and believes strongly in the mission of Community Works. Prior to moving to the Rogue Valley in 2010, Christine has worked for several non-profit organizations including the Teton Regional Land Trust, Museum of Western Colorado, and the American Heart Association. In addition, we want to give recognition and appreciation to our new Board Chair Travis Snyder, who has contributed to this November 2014 issue of THE WORKS.

We have been honored by the monetary and in-kind donations that have been received in recent months. Our community’s contributions provide the resources to sustain the work that we do in responding to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as high-need youth and their families, who are working to overcome severe life crisis or trauma. We welcome, appreciate, and need our region’s caring donations.

We ask that you continue to consider contributions to the causes of cultural change by way of helping people to move forward toward using their own strengths in a productive and positive way.

Sincerely,

Laura O’Bryon
Executive Director

From the Board Chair...

Dear Friends:

As the new Board Chair of Community Works, I wanted to introduce myself. I have had the honor of being on the board for three years and have personally seen the results of the powerful work we do in this community. Just last month I was at an event where a young woman and her friend came up to me and shared a heart wrenching story of a serious situation she went through, and how if it was not for the services and direction that Community Works offered her, she felt she would not be here today. It is these moments when we are reminded that all the hard work we do really does make a difference and changes lives. I am honored to be a part of an organization that is fully dedicated to bettering our community.

Being born and raised here in beautiful Southern Oregon and being raised on a small farm, I learned the value of hard work at a young age. I also learned the importance of helping others. My parents were always helping others, either with food from our garden or meat from our herd, and we always had someone living with us. It is important to my wife and me that our two boys also learn the importance of helping and giving back. And we have opened up our home as well.

I first learned of Community Works through my friend and business partner at Precision Electric. It was his passion and support of Community Works that inspired me to get involved. I hope now, through my passion, that I can inspire others to get involved as well.

I welcome the many challenges we face in this new environment. Community Works staff and Board of Directors are dedicated and passionately working on ways to strengthen our commitment to our community. With government programs being cut left and right, Community Works becomes more vital and necessary for the well-being of our community. I am constantly amazed and encouraged to see how many people are willing to step up and help out. We are blessed to live in such a wonderful place. Besides the beauty of our mountains and lakes, we live in a place of opportunity, with a community that cares for the well-being of others. I thank you for your continued support. Without you, lives wouldn't be changed.

Thank you,

Travis Snyder
Board of Directors Chair



Thank you!



Medford Earth Angels Foundation, founded by John L. Scott employees, works to improve the quality of life for those in need throughout their community. They made a very generous donation of \$2,500 to Community Works to support our Transitional Living Program. Truly Angels on Earth!!!



South Medford Walmart employees chose Community Works as their Women in Retail Legacy Project. From March to September they collected materials to create 108 backpacks for women and children receiving help through Victims Services. Thank you!!!



Robb Mayers and Adroit Construction worked tirelessly for weeks this summer removing and replacing a damaged handicap ramp and sidewalk at the Dunn House Shelter. There was a wood handrail before and now there's a metal fabricated one. In addition, Robb has had a landscaper come over to improve the area around the ramp and they've fixed up other areas in the yard. All was done by generous donations to Community Works.

From Youth & Family Services: Gypsy Will Never Give Up

Gypsy is 19 years old and has a 1 year old daughter. When things didn't work out with her and her boyfriend, she became homeless. Gypsy couch-surfed with friends but there came a point when she knew it wasn't the healthiest thing for her child. They entered the Magdalene Home, which offers pregnant and parenting teens a safe place to live and gain valuable skills. **After 6 months, Gypsy applied to the Transitional Living Program through Community Works.** This program places homeless and runaway youth into apartments that the agency rents. Clients learn skills on how to obtain employment, budgeting, time management, educational advancement, cooking and many other skills that fit their individual needs. Gypsy entered the program a short time ago, and is enjoying the support, structure and opportunities the program has to offer. Gypsy has only 3 credits left to graduate from high school. She then plans to attend Rogue Community College and work in the child care field. **When asked what advice she would give others in similar situations, she simply stated "never give up".**

From Victim Services: Maria Says It's Not Okay Anymore

Change takes many forms and especially for Maria. Her family is from Central America yet Maria grew up in Oregon. Her father told her she was supposed to do what her husband said or did to her. It was expected; it was part of their culture. Maria had been married for 6 years with a 4 year old son. **Her husband would get drunk at night and hit her until she had to hide.** She felt that there was no one she could turn to. One day a friend at her son's daycare saw the bruises on her face and told her about **Community Works Spanish speaking support group INOKA (It's Not Okay Anymore).** She learned that being treated badly is not acceptable, and she did not have to live this way.

Maria's been participating in the INOKA group for 12 months, and during that time she's found her voice, gained independence from her abusive husband, and moved out to her own place while getting a job. She did it with the support of participants of her weekly group and eventually her family and friends. **It's been difficult,** yet with the love and care of people around her **Maria has realized the joy of life.**

From Lithia Springs: A New & Improved Website

Lithia Spring's Mission Candles Program introduces **a fully redesigned website www.missioncandles.com!** The new site is visually stunning and more detailed than ever before, now offering sales of all our candle products online with our ecommerce shop. Utilizing the latest technology, our new website provides convenience and accessibility to purchase our high quality candles on the web. We're certain the new website will make most anyone excited about candles.

Anyone can now purchase our candle products through www.amazon.com. Simply search for our trademark **Cheerlites®** product at the Amazon site and customers can purchase them with their Amazon accounts. This is another convenient way to purchase our great products and support the youth we serve.

Mission Candles is an integral part of Lithia Springs Programs and Community Works. We are a residential treatment program for at-risk youth located in Ashland, Oregon. Young men and women earn a high school diploma and learn to become more productive contributors within their communities. As part of this program they are mentored by skilled professionals in the manufacture of our candle products to the highest standards. We are a non-profit company and all proceeds are utilized to provide needed services for these at-risk youth. **This is a unique program and provides a valuable service to the youth and the community.**



Community Works
201 West Main Street, Suite 3D
Medford, OR 97501

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DO YOU SHOP AT FRED MEYER?

Use your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to support Community Works! We are now enrolled in the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program so

every time you shop at Fred Meyer with your Rewards Card you can support the work of Community Works! You can link your card to Community Works online at www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4. You must register your Rewards Card online and select Community Works (or organization # 87531) as your Community Rewards Organization. If you do not have a Rewards Card, you can sign up for one at the Customer Service Desk of any Fred Meyer store.



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Community Works every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Community Works. Visit smile.amazon.com and select "Community Works, Inc." (Medford, Oregon) to receive donations from eligible purchases. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation to Community Works!

Giving to Community Works

Did you know?

You can refer your friends or family on-line to make a financial donation to Community Works and help locals in need? It's also a great birthday or anniversary present if you donate in someone's honor.

Donate on the website:
www.community-works.org/donate

Donate by phone at: 541-779-2393

Donate by mail to:
Community Works
201 West Main Street Suite 3D
Medford, OR 97501

Donations from our website wish list are accepted at 201 West Main Street on Thursdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Call ahead , 541-779-2393 for larger donations, furniture or other items.

**Please write checks to
"Community Works"**

Support Community Works through your Estate

Legacy or planned gifts through your estate can create opportunities for Community Works to help people in crisis and operate our many programs for years to come - leaving an important impact for the future. For more information contact Christine Leusch at 541-779-2393 ext. 228 or by email at cleusch@community-works.org.