



Sweet Home Emergency Ministries
1115 Long Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386

February 5, 2014

Dear Friends of SHEM,

2014 has arrived and with it, fresh and exciting news to share from SHEM. First, some business items to be dealt with. Some of you will find donation receipt letters included with this newsletter. This is an effort to make our organization as efficient as possible and make the best use of the funds available. Also, due to the increasing cost of postage, SHEM is requesting that as many newsletters as possible be sent out as an e-mail. A form printed on the back of this newsletter can be returned to SHEM for use updating the mailing list to include your e-mail address.

Next is SHEM Board of Directors news. Cassie Fessler has resigned from the Board. Thank you for your service to SHEM on the Board and at Manna. The Board welcomes new member, Brandi Cordova.

2013 was a busy year for SHEM with 3857 food boxes distributed, feeding 13,831 individuals (490 more than in 2012!). 10,919 meals were served at Manna. 210 households received financial assistance.

SHEM coordinated the distribution of 246 Christmas food boxes. Thank you to the churches and organizations providing boxes (and those who contributed their time and resources).

There are many technological changes taking place at the SHEM Pantry. An updated version of TimeTracker is now in use to record time donated by each volunteer. Sensors will be installed to automatically track temperatures in the refrigerators and freezers to prevent food loss. FreeGeek will be providing two computers to replace ones which are becoming obsolete. A flat screen television (thank you, Holley Christian Church) will be used to display information for the clients. During non-operation hours, the television will pivot to display information for those walking past on Long Street. The talented student volunteers from ELCA produced a wonderful, informative promotional DVD for SHEM. You can see it on YouTube.

The time of year when the Feinstein Challenge takes place is rapidly approaching. The Feinstein Foundation distributes a million dollars a year to organizations which work to combat hunger. To help SHEM receive a portion of that money, merely indicate "Feinstein" on your check or mention "Feinstein" when you donate food during March and April.

Thank you to all who have donated time, food, reusable clothing and household items, and financial assistance to SHEM. We are so thankful for our student and youth volunteers, who cheerfully provide help during shipments and service projects. And, most especially, thank you for keeping SHEM in your prayers.

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider"

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