



Helpful Happenings

Local Scout Troops Show Giving Spirit by Helping Others

Today, more and more youth are finding value in community service, but to a select group of dedicated youth, community service is a way of life.

For two consecutive years, Girl Scout Troop #2012 has shown their leadership by coming together and organizing a community-wide toilet paper drive for our food pantry. While searching for a service project two years ago, Girl Scout Troop #2012 learned of needs of families in our community. They found that while WIC, the food stamp program, and area food pantries work very hard to provide basic human needs to families by providing food for the hungry, other household essentials are not provided. Troop #2012 took action.



Together, they made the decision to help us add toilet paper to our food pantry. They coordinated their first toilet paper drive last year, collecting about 1,000 rolls. This year, as they continued their support and commitment to helping those in need, they were able to collect 2,038 rolls, more than doubling their goal from last year. Their efforts in organizing the toilet paper drive will assist over 500 families this year!

In addition to help from our Girl Scouts, OCR also received help from Christopher Bird and Braden Frazier of Boy Scout Troop #18. The boys gave their time as they worked tirelessly re-organizing food boxes in our storage and food pantry. Christopher and Braden's, hard work will be recognized soon, as they are awarded a Merit badge reflecting dedication to community service for their volunteer hours at OCR.



THANK YOU!
Boy Scout Troop # 18
Girl Scout Troop # 2012

Summer 2011

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By The Numbers:

- OCR provided Food Assistance to 170 client households in the 2nd quarter of 2011 which equals \$7,310.00 (at \$10 per Bag)
- 173 families were helped through our Emergency Utility Assistance for the 2nd quarter of 2011.
- In the 2nd quarter of 2011, our volunteers have contributed a total of 426.6 hours. Our efforts are greatly multiplied by our dedicated volunteers.

Would you like to **receive our newsletter electronically?**
Please contact Pat
at 918-272-4969 or
phardy@owassohelps.org

Helpful Happenings

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Hunger in our community?

Evelyn's Story

Do you know what it is like to experience true hunger? To go to bed hungry, not knowing where you or your family's next meal will come from? Can you imagine how a parent must feel when they find themselves unable to feed their family?

Evelyn is an Owasso resident who can answer these questions for us. She is a married women in her 40s. The couple has lived in Owasso for over 20 years and together they raised three children. Evelyn's husband is thankfully employed, however, unemployment has affected more than one person in their family. Evelyn was laid off 18 months ago, as well as, one of their adult children. Unfortunately, with little options, their daughter opted for moving herself and her infant back into her parents' household. Together, they are trying to recover and working to get back on their feet. In the past two years, Evelyn's circumstances have changed drastically. Her home now consists of 3 adults, one infant, and only one income to support them. Along



with baby needs, there are two more mouths to feed. Sharing her desperation, Evelyn said, "A lot of changes in my life brought me here today...with only one income and struggling to pay the mortgage and utilities, the amount of food we have at home is not enough". At times, she must rely on area food pantries to feed everyone in the household. "The food is very helpful," Evelyn said. Then, sounding bewildered, she added in a low tone, "Things are just totally different for me."

Recession and unemployment have been radically changing lives throughout this area. Many Owasso and Collinsville families move closer to hunger everyday. Yet, many in the community still have a hard time believing that people right here in this area are suffering from hunger. There are degrees of severity of hunger and while, we are not seeing our neighbors starving before our very eyes, there are many families that are suffering behind closed doors. This problem leads to a slow drain on the health of the community. Many of the families we serve are also facing the increasing burden that it is not fair that they are facing hunger. Many did what they were supposed to do – got educated, got trained, bought a house – and they don't know why they are in this situation. Sadly, however, they are in this situation with many others. Do your part to help a neighbor in need!

Summer is ending and we need your help!

Join us this summer by supporting our School Supply drive, four locations in Owasso are helping us collect school supplies for local youth who need the extra help this year.

From July 10th through August 1st, 4 locations will be collecting new school supplies. Our most needed supplies include: **crayons (24 count), 3 ring binders (1 inch), rulers, scissors (round tip), highlighters (any color), and pencils.**



Faith Lutheran Church,
9222 N. Garnett Rd



Dollar General
8787 N. Owasso Pkwy



Dollar General
505 E. 2nd Ave.



Church of the Nazarene
9000 N. 145th E. Ave.

***Thanks to your participation in the campaign,
we are able to help over 500 student each year!!!!!!***

Helpful Happenings

Top Ten Items Needed in the OCR Food Pantry

1. Jelly
2. Frozen Meat (11lb frozen rolls of hamburger/hot dogs/pot pies)
3. Canned Meats
4. Stuffing and Instant Potatoes
5. Shampoo
6. Deodorant (men's/women's)
7. Diapers size 4 and 5
8. Macaroni & Cheese
9. Baked Beans/Pork and Beans
10. Pudding and Jell-O



“A picture is worth a thousand words.”



What does this picture of a very empty freezer say to you?

Please take a look at the “Top Ten” items that are needed in the OCR Food Pantry to the left. These are items that we are either dangerously low on or completely out of in our pantry. During the summer our clients have a greater need than ever for basic food items. Children are out of school and home all day. They are not being provided with the meals that they would normally receive during the school day.

Please donate to our food pantry today!

Volunteer Opportunities

Bilingual volunteers needed

Back To School Supplies Program Week of August 8 - August 11

Morning, Afternoon, and Evening hours available for volunteers
If you would like to help us motivate and get children ready for school,
contact us at 918-272-4969 to sign up.

We will need additional volunteers this year with the addition of the
Caring Van and the Mobile Health Screening Unit.



More Than Your Average School Supply Drive...

Year after year, we work during the summer preparing for the distribution of school supplies to students from Pre-K to the 12th grade. Working with families in the area, we've learned about the struggles and challenges they face when someone is not covered by medical insurance. When medical problems arise, the cost of treatment for uninsured families can have devastating consequences. This year, we are partnering with two amazing groups to help us provide two additional services during our Back to School Supplies distribution day. Immunizations and health screening are essential in preventing illnesses and our goal is to eliminate barriers that prevent children from receiving on-time immunizations and to promote early detection of illness.

The **Oklahoma Caring Van** delivers immunizations to protect children and adolescents from dangerous illnesses at no cost to their families. The program will provide free immunizations to uninsured kids. Our partnership with the **Owasso Lions Club** will make it possible for the **Oklahoma Lions Mobile Health Screening Unit** to be available providing free screenings for visual acuity, hearing, glaucoma, blood pressure, blood sugar (diabetes) and bone density.

Taking action early can help prevent illnesses and can make a difference in the ability of families to cope and work through an illnesses of a family member

Both services available during our Back to School distribution day!

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*Investing in our
community...
One life at a time!*



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