

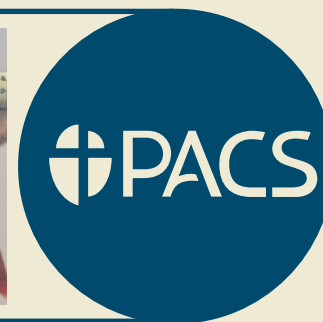
Volunteer Of the Year

Renee Jones

Renee has been an incredible addition to our PACS family. Her kindness and professionalism are invaluable, as is her advocacy for those who are blind and visually impaired.

Renee has been an inspiration for all of us. Her willingness to share her struggles and triumphs has taught us invaluable lessons. From her innovative ways of navigating the office and taking on responsibilities at PACS to her independent travel around town and participation in the Portland Dragon Boat races with other blind teammates, she is a shining example of determination, courage, and kindness to everyone around her.

Thank you so much for the time, dedication, and service you share with us, Renee!



Spring 2024

Newsletter

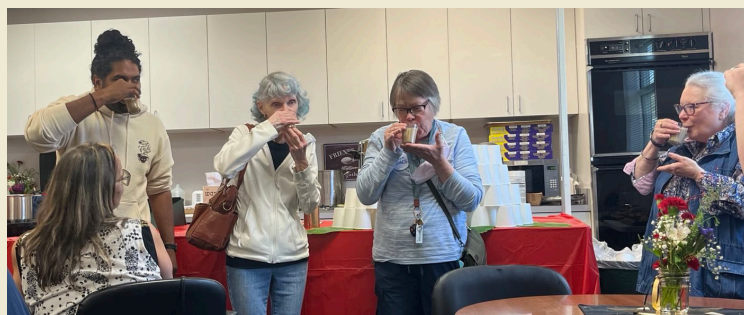


Volunteer Appreciation

It is a week of fun, friendship, and gratitude for all our hundreds of volunteers

Every spring, PACS plans a special week to celebrate our volunteers and show a little of our endless appreciation for all their hard work and dedication. This year, the lineup included a variety of experiences created by staff and some of our fantastic community partners, including lunch every day, chair massages, a Sri Lankan Chai experience, a gold star walk of fame, drawings for many exciting prizes, award celebration, and more!

Our volunteers are the beating heart of PACS' mission, and we can't create a week that can genuinely show how thankful we are for every one of them. We hope that everyone had a good time and felt in some small way just how special they are to us!



Upcoming Fall Festival!

**Sunday
October 6th**

Join us at Rossi Farms for our 3rd annual Fall Festival! We will have engaging activities for all ages, live entertainment, and of course... delicious food!



Snapshots of PACS



Lydia / Food Pantry Mgr.

I started at PACS nineteen years ago to learn English. Someone gave me an English Bible, and I learned to read by putting it next to my Bible and reading one verse at a time, back and forth. I felt safe here, and I felt like I could help. They cared about me when I was homesick but didn't know the words to explain it yet. I was able to learn here.



Shashu / Food Pantry Mgr.

I am a single mother, and PACS helped me to feed my family by giving me food and a job. Now, I am happy to work at PACS because I can help others. I recently saw one of my longtime friends when she came to get groceries, and she was so happy for PACS!



Leah / Thrift Store Mgr.

I appreciate that every day is a different day and a different challenge, and I appreciate that I have lots of love and support from my volunteers and coworkers. I get compliments on the store as the manager, but it's not anything I did! Everyone is a part of it. One big happy family.



Allie / Volunteer

I love the support I get from everybody here and the wonderful people. Everyone is really good at being nice to each other and responds to anything I need. I love it when the kids come into the book room and find something; their eyes light up so wide with happiness. I love to see the next generation of readers!



Sam / Mobile Food Pantry Mgr.

I've been doing this for many years, but every time I consider retiring, I go out and see all the people who need help. When I take out the Mobile Food Pantry, someone will always come up and say something to me like, "Thank you for coming, I didn't have any food for tomorrow." That keeps me coming back.



Carol / Dental Clinic Mgr.

Here in the clinic, patients come in who have been struggling to find dental care, and not only do we get to fix their smiles, but we also get to really love on them in the process. That's not always possible in a dental office driven by production. I love that we can take the time to go a little slower here and focus on kindly and lovingly helping the whole person, not just their teeth.



Kristin / OR Vocational Rehab

Kristin does amazing work with the Portland deaf community as an ASL translator and job coach. She shared this story with us:

I had a client who was very shy and had a lot of trauma in her background. She was very nervous about being out in the community and working, but she started as a volunteer at PACS stocking shelves and then became a cashier. With the support of everyone there, she built her confidence for a year, and then I got her a job at Marshalls.

After Easter, they had a lot of merchandise that never sold, and she recommended that they donate it to PACS. Thanks to her, they donated many brand-new things to PACS, and it was a beautiful full-circle moment!

Now, she is a lead at Marshalls. She could do that, thanks to the support she got at PACS!



Krissy and Jeremy / Volunteers

While there are many reasons we volunteer at PACS, the primary one is that it helps us keep perspective. The week can be very challenging, and then we come to help out in the food pantry on Fridays, where we experience how much joy we can bring and how thankful folks can be who have so much less than we do. In short, it helps reset our brains and hearts.

There are some regulars whom Jeremy has particularly struck up a relationship with, mainly Central City Concern staff. We banter and chat about life and how many boxes they take that day. They make us smile every week.

*Come join the fun!
If you're interested in becoming a
PACS volunteer, check out
pacsonline.org/volunteer
to learn more!*

Tribute Donations

We exist because of donors, both those who drop off items at our store and those who give financially. These donors have given in honor of others this year, and we couldn't be more grateful. Thank you!

In honor of Lloyd and Lorrie Wescott's 75th anniversary and Lloyd's 95th birthday:

David and Darlene Hergert
Dean and Shirley Wescott
Edythe Robbins
Sherrie Jo Williamson
Thomas and Judith Kramer
James and Vivian Robertson
John Steinbaugh

In honor of their anniversary, and in memory of Dr. William Rippey, Gwen Gingrich, and Harold Burden:

Lloyd and Dolores Wescott

In memory of Harold Yost, Maxine & Cliff Fellows, and Helen Ferrier:

Shari Ferrier

In honor of Emma Kaufman's 90th birthday:

Irma DeTour

In honor of Cameron Seiler:

Bruce Seiler



Your Gift Changes Lives!

Thanks to you, PACS can help thousands of people through our food pantry and the Gateway Grace Dental Clinic. Will you give today? Just \$20 can feed a family of four for three days!

Visit: www.PACSONline.org/donate
Or text: "PACS2024" to 44-321

And join with us as we foster dignity among those we serve.



Donate Today!

Community Partners Spotlight



MHCC Dental Hygiene

The Mount Hood Community College Dental Hygiene school has partnered with our Gateway Grace Dental Clinic to provide regular dental cleanings to patients while allowing students to learn under supervision. It's a win-win!





Fawn - USPS Mail Carrier

Fawn has been delivering our mail for years, and she always makes us feel special. We know she will always get us our mail safe and sound, which matters greatly when you get as many letters as we do! Thanks, Fawn!

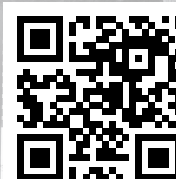


Hood View Adventist School

Hood View teachers and parents bring their students to volunteer at PACS. They bring us so much life and energy! Thank you!

 PACS (Portland Adventist Community Services)
 @pacspdx

www.pacsonline.org




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