

NORTHWEST PILOT PROJECT

BETTER TIMES NEWSLETTER



Winter 2011

Rose Gandy: "I count my blessings"

Rose Gandy has a vivid memory of the day she stopped drinking and started on her journey to Portland, and a new life: "I woke up on July 26, 2006 with a bitter taste in my mouth, and realized that alcohol had been taken away from me." She has not had a drink since. Rose grew up in a family of alcoholics and was given her first glass of wine at the age of five. "My mother went to the bars and so did I. I always drank – that's what I was taught to do."

Rose had worked as a nurse for over thirty years, specializing in working with patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia. She had raised two daughters as a single mother. On July 26, 2006, Rose was living in Ocala, Florida, with a man who also had an alcohol problem. At the time, she received a settlement of \$6,000, paid off all of her bills, and purchased a 1978 Camouflage Dodge Sportsman van that was made into a camper. Rose decided to head to Portland where her daughter and infant grandson were living. Driving across the country alone, her van broke down in the middle of the desert in Nevada. Rose received help from the Salvation Army and a friend who gave her \$250 that got her to Portland. Her van broke down again in Oregon City where the Zion Lutheran Church allowed her to park in their church lot.



Rose Gandy

She lived in the van, but had to keep moving – no one would let her park at any location for long. After living in her van since late July, she remembers the day a woman member of her church offered to let Rose take a shower in her home. "It took two showers to get me clean – that's how dirty I was. Hot water to bathe with, and fresh water to drink is such a blessing."
(continued on page 4)

**Inside
this
issue**



NWPP recognized, p. 3



Susan Emmons
- 25 years, p. 5



32nd Walk-A-Thon,
pages 8-9

From the Executive Director



Susan Emmons

One Friday in early December I arrived at work to find a man sitting on our sidewalk with his service dog, waiting for our office to open. Our building is unlocked at 8:00, but any of us who arrive earlier just let people in as we are unlocking our office door. It was 7:30 a.m. on one of our bitterly cold mornings.

We introduced ourselves.

It took Jim a while to get up off the pavement: “My legs don’t work as well as they used to. I can’t stand for long – that’s why I was sitting.”

When I asked Jim how long he’d been waiting he said: “Not too long – about an hour.” Jim was not coming to us in a crisis. We had helped him with housing in recent months. He told me that his Housing Specialist had said we would have a Christmas stocking for him and that’s what he had come in for. “I wanted to be sure I wouldn’t miss it.” I knew his worker was scheduled out of the office that morning, so I found a beautiful stocking for him. The first thing he pulled out of the stocking was a chapstick. “This is great. I really need this.” He immediately began using it and explained: “I don’t have any income yet – my disability hasn’t come through – so it’s things like this that are out of reach. My skin and lips get so dry in this cold weather.”

Jim went on to discover a warm hat, gloves, socks, toiletries, a gift card to Fred Meyer, and all sorts of holiday treats, exclaiming at each new present: “Oh wow – I can really use this.” That morning I sat at my desk for a long time, and tried to remember the last time I had felt grateful for chapstick, or for my own warm hat and gloves.

We watched this scene play out again and again during the month of December. One of the reasons we decided to publish an extra newsletter this year – a Winter edition (we usually publish a Winter/Spring edition in late March), is that we wanted to be able to thank all of the individuals and groups that shower us with stockings,

gift bags, gift cards, and knit items for our clients during the holidays. This year seemed particularly special in terms of the thought and care that had gone into the gift bags and stockings we received. Vicki Schmall and her friends organized hundreds of gift bags, each clearly labeled male or female with sizes indicated. One of our clients mentioned to his worker that he had a job interview the next week, and no suitable clothing to wear. He received one of Vicki’s bags, and was delighted to find a new sweater that fit him perfectly.

During 2010 we’ve experienced an increase in the number of people in their late 50’s and early 60’s who have been laid off from jobs, are seeking work, and having trouble paying their rent. Another trend is the extreme lack of available housing that is affordable to our clients. Waiting lists are longer than they have been and units are not “turning over” so we are forced to have people stay in homeless shelters and transitional housing for longer periods of time. We are serving more people who have no income, who cannot find work, who are running out of unemployment benefits, who are waiting two to three years to be approved for their social security disability benefits, and who have complex health issues. We are living in a cruel time.

*"And in a cruel age
I sing of kindness"*

In reading this newsletter you will see that it reads, at times, like a book of names. The names of groups and individuals who made the holidays brighter for the people we serve, the names of volunteers and Board members involved with our annual Walk-A-Thon, and fundraising that is crucial to the work we are doing. It means the world to me, and to all of our staff, to know that so many of you are willing to spend countless hours volunteering, and fundraising for NWPP, to improve the housing opportunities and lives of low-income seniors in our community. Pushkin wrote: “And in a cruel age I sing of kindness.”

At the beginning of this new year and this new decade, the number of people in need of our services is greater than any we have ever known. But the number of people joining us in our work is expanding too. We’re grateful and hopeful about what we can accomplish working together. There is still so much to be done.

- Susan Emmons

165 Years with NWPP

The following is a list of our NWPP staff: their names, the date they began employment at NWPP, and their position. People we work with in the community compliment us on the professionalism, consistency, knowledge, compassion, dedication, and experience of our staff. As a group we have been with NWPP for 165 years. We are proud of the gifted team we have assembled, and the number of years they have dedicated to this work.

Date of Employment	Staff Member	Position
8/1/09	Brenda Carpenter	Deputy Director
2/1/96	Rebecca Childs	Housing Program Manager
8/10/00	Dena Chilikos	Volunteer Coordinator
10/16/06	Chris Corrigan	Housing Specialist
1/8/07	Jason Coulthurst	Information & Referral Specialist
9/16/85	Susan Emmons	Executive Director
3/13/06	Jessica Larson	Housing Specialist
6/15/06	Wayne McIlhenny	Transportation Coordinator
3/13/88	Cindy Mosney	Housing Specialist
8/15/84	Dorothy Oreste	Assistant Bookkeeper
2/13/07	DeeDee Richardson	Receptionist
1/27/04	Wendy Rudman	Executive Assistant
7/17/06	Heidi Scofield	Housing Specialist
5/1/06	Sia Sellu	Housing Specialist
1/22/07	Caroline Smith	Housing Specialist
9/11/89	Bobby Weinstock	Housing Consultant

NWPP Among 100 Best Nonprofits in Oregon

On September 29, 2010, Oregon Business magazine announced its second annual “100 Best Nonprofits to Work for in Oregon” and we were thrilled to learn that NWPP ranked 4th overall in the state. Rankings were determined by a survey based on employee input that covered 50 workplace qualities in five categories: benefits and compensation, work environment, decision making and trust, performance management, and career development and learning.



Rose Gandy

(continued from page 1)

In November 2006, Rose was referred to Northwest Pilot Project. At the time, the resources available to help Rose required that she be homeless. She decided to sign over the title of her van to a young woman with two small children who were members of the church in Oregon City that had helped her. The church agreed to pay for the work required to fix the van for the young mother and her children. On the day before Thanksgiving in November 2006, Rose moved into Jean's Place, a shelter for homeless women operated by Transition Projects.



Rose Gandy at NWPP's 12/10/10 Holiday Luncheon

Rose stayed at Jean's Place for three months, while she worked with NWPP Housing Program staff to apply for a subsidized apartment. Rose told us that her experience with Northwest Pilot Project was different than what she had experienced with other organizations. "It was not just a lot of lip service. Every single thing the staff said would happen did happen – verbatim. There were no surprises, no discrepancies. It was made extremely clear to me what I had to do, and what NWPP would do."

"It was like coming out of a dark place into the light."

March 2011 will mark Rose's fourth anniversary in the permanently affordable apartment that NWPP helped her move into in 2007. When one of our Housing Specialists first took Rose to look at the apartment, she asked her if she thought she would be comfortable there. Rose took one look at the spacious one bedroom apartment with a balcony and said: "It would be a dream to live here." Northwest Pilot Project staff used resources from our Emergency fund to pay deposits, pay for a bed, and moving costs. Rose received a beautiful bedding kit provided by St. Luke's Lutheran Church. She said that even today it's hard to find the words to describe what it was like for her to move into this apartment. "It was like coming out of a dark place into the light."

Because the apartment is subsidized, Rose pays 30% of her income for rent. Rose paid no rent for years, because she had no income. She had food stamps, and relied on her church and NWPP for laundry soap, toiletries, and other items not covered by food stamps. It took Rose three years to get her Social Security Disability benefit. Today she is happy to be able to pay 30% of her income for rent.

Rose counts her blessings, which she says are many. She is able to help her daughter and grandson. She loves her apartment, and

enjoys watching the hummingbirds at the bird feeder outside her window. She recently finished a quilt for her grandson that took her four years to complete. She enjoys crafts projects and searching out the best deal on materials.

Rose said she was happy to share her story with our readers if it meant that "even one person would be helped in the way that I was. I was nobody – just another face in the crowd. Northwest Pilot Project treated me with dignity and respect, and went above and beyond for me. I will never forget it."

And When We Looked There – The Shelves Were Bare

Our lobby library needs donations of new or used books. Our clients are very appreciative of our library which allows people to take and return books, or keep the books. As people are waiting in our library they enjoy having the books as a resource. The shelves are looking a little bare these days. For more information about donating books: please contact Dena Chilikos at 503-478-6861 or by email: dena@nwppilotproject.org

Celebrating Susan Emmons – 25 Years with NWPP

NWPP's Board of Directors wanted to organize a celebration in honor of Susan Emmons on her 25th anniversary with the organization – September 16, 2010. Susan told Board members she would prefer not to have funds spent on a celebration, but encourage people to donate to NWPP's Emergency Fund in her honor. NWPP Board member Ann Middleton wrote this article reflecting on Susan Emmons.

It has been my pleasure to serve on the NWPP Board for much of Susan's tenure. I have been an NWPP volunteer for over 20 years because Susan's passion for providing safe, affordable housing for poor, elderly, and disabled people is infectious. Her leadership style reflects her concern for individualizing NWPP's clients and responding to their unique circumstances. She shares life stories of our clients in our newsletters. These mini biographies educate donors, politicians, volunteers, and funding sources to the facts about homelessness and poverty. Susan is a wonderful teacher and historian. I don't think there is anyone in Oregon who is more knowledgeable about changes in the housing stock in downtown Portland over the past 25 years. As a board member, I am proud of the statistics Susan and the staff keep. Those statistics enable Susan to provide data to Portland's City Council, the Housing Authority of Portland, and to funding sources including foundations, public agencies and private donors. Susan doesn't speculate. She educates herself with facts and shares them so that others are equipped to make informed, thoughtful decisions which help our clients.

Susan is a "glass half full" kind of person. She focuses on solutions and collaborations, not on blaming or making excuses. By consistently modeling this outlook, Susan has gained the respect of many in our community. Her optimistic passion focuses staff, board, and volunteers in committing to issues of justice, and giving voice to the needs of poor and homeless people.



Susan Emmons honoring NWPP volunteer Alexandria McHugh

Susan maintains her grace and poise regardless of obstacles including prejudices about homeless people and decreased funding and community resources. Her enthusiasm and perseverance sustain us. Her values are always reflected by her actions. Her creativity is demonstrated at our annual Volunteer Recognition luncheon when she demonstrates her skills as a milliner. The hats she constructs to honor volunteers for all seasons are treasured. She tickles me with her spirit for finding the perfect little memento to recognize someone's contributions to NWPP. I am particularly wowed by her heartfelt, handwritten thank you notes in this email age. Susan is nurturing and empathic, spirited and fun. She is an amazing team player who generously shares accolades related to the work and accomplishments of the NWPP. I recently saw a billboard which proclaimed, "Well done is better than well said." Susan has capably provided both the voice and the actions to help homeless people in Portland. It has been my privilege and joy to work with her.

– Ann Middleton, LCSW, Social Worker,
Legacy Good Samaritan Hospital
Rehabilitation Institute of Oregon

Yes I want to honor Susan Emmons and her 25 years of service

I want to contribute to NWPP's Emergency Fund.

_____ \$25 _____ \$250 _____ \$2,500 _____ \$25,000 _____ Other:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please Charge \$ _____ to my Credit Card number: _____ Exp: _____

Verification Code (on back of card – last three numbers on signature strip) _____

Please return this coupon in return envelope to: NWPP, 1430 SW Broadway, #200, Portland, OR 97201

To give online, visit our website at www.nwpilotproject.org.

Holiday Stockings: Many Hands and Many Hearts

Dee Dudek has been involved with NWPP's Holiday Stocking project for the past three years. This year she set a goal of creating and filling 50 stockings and she accomplished this goal. When she delivered them to the agency in early December, we commented on how beautiful they were, and how much thought had gone into each stocking. Dee replied: "The real story behind these stockings is how many hands have touched them."

When Dee first became involved in our holiday stocking project through her friend Carolyn Ostergren, she immediately thought of involving **Telecom Pioneers**. Telecom Pioneers are present or retired employees in the Telecom industry and their partners. 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of Telecom Pioneers, the largest industry-based volunteer force in the country (for more information about this group, please see their website: www.questpioneers.org). Dee became involved with the Pioneers through her husband, **John Dudek**, who has thirty years of work experience in the industry, and is the Pacific View Telecom Pioneers Vice President and Chapter Web Master.

Carolyn Brown, a Pioneer and long-time employee of **Conway Trucking**, asked them to be involved the first year the Pioneers took on this project. Carolyn organized donation barrels at Conway so that employees could contribute to the stocking project. Carolyn is currently the Telecom Pioneers Oregon Chapter Vice President. Conway Trucking continues to be involved with the stocking project, and this year **Patricia Sharp**, Conway's Volunteer Coordinator, created donation boxes with signage, and lists of stocking stuffers taken from NWPP's website. The donations poured in.

Last summer Dee was thinking about purchasing festive holiday material for the stockings, and mentioned this to **Donna Hager**, a member of a group at Christ Community Church in N.E. Portland that makes handmade quilts that are donated to bedding kits for NWPP clients. Donna immediately gave Dee a stack of Christmas fabric to use for the stockings. Another woman Dee knows, **Patsy Moreland**, heard about the project and offered to cut out the 50 stockings and sew them. When Dee returned from an early October vacation, Patsy had 50 stockings completed.



*Dee Dudek and Santa at NWPP's 12/10
Holiday Luncheon*

"The real story behind these stockings is how many hands have touched them."

Dee told us: "It's become an annual tradition for members of our Pioneers group to decorate the stockings in early November. **Bob & Kim Charron**, long-time Pioneer Partners, hosted the gathering in their home. This year they made Italian wedding soup, and had tables set up with glue, glitter, decorating supplies, puff paints - a house full of people - everyone sharing glue guns."

The decorated stockings then traveled to Dee's house where all the boxes and bags of donations from Conway had been delivered. Additional donated items from Pioneers members, employees of **Packaging Resources**, **Newberg Jazzercise**, and **Lake Oswego Jazzercise** were accumulated. Dee told us: "I like that we can do so much as a group - the interconnection makes a huge difference." Six Pioneers stuffed the stockings with fifty of everything that had been collected.

Dee was struck this year by how some people reviewed NWPP's list of suggested stocking stuffers, and bought everything on the list. During the decorating party, some participants sparked new ideas for next year's stockings. Dee told us: "I already have a box labeled NWPP stockings for 2011. We have so much fun working on this together - we get more out of it than we give." Our profound thanks to Dee Dudek, Telecom Pioneers, and all those who participated in creating fifty beautiful stockings, touched by so many hands with care, kindness, and love.

From the Board of Directors

My name is Dale Latham and I've supported NWPP for 22 years as an active member of the Board of Directors. This year I'm the Vice-Chair of the Board and the Chair of our Development Committee. In my years on the Board, I've watched the Walk-A-Thon grow from a small but enthusiastic event that involved 50 walkers and raised \$15,585 in 1988, to the agency's major annual fundraiser involving 220 walkers, 12 teams, 18 businesses, and raising \$135,000 in 2010.

But this success did not happen without hard work. In 2004 our Board was faced with some difficult budget decisions as traditional sources of funding for NWPP services were decreasing. The needs in our community were greater than ever, and as Board members we grappled with adopting a budget that was fiscally responsible, while balancing it against the needs of our clients. We made the decision not to cut our services, but to form a Board Development Committee, and create a strategy to raise more money. It worked! In 2005 we raised \$109,000, an increase of over \$24,000 in just one year!

Since 2005 we have created new strategies to improve our Walk-A-Thon. As Board members we created a Board Match to help new walkers and teams to get started, and to motivate past walkers to return. For more details on our Board Match – please see our website: www.nwpilotproject.org. Following the financial meltdown of 2008, our Development Committee spent a year planning last year's event, and we were thrilled with the result: In 2010 we were delighted by the number of new walkers who joined us. We had twelve wonderful teams that included 122 walkers, and overall we raised \$135,000, more than ever before. Of course it doesn't hurt to sponsor a walk that is leisurely, lasts only an hour, and is followed by lots of balloons, prizes, pizza, and live music in the lovely Park Blocks!

Over the years, many of us who started out as timid fundraisers have become bolder. One Board member

developed a letter writing approach for getting his pledges, and the next year many of us tried it. We have a sample letter, and explanation of this strategy on our website. In 2010 Board members raised \$34,000 with the letter writing approach. All NWPP Board members make a commitment to spend time at the agency "job shadowing" our Housing Specialists, participate in a Housing Tour of buildings our clients live in, and learn about the day-to-day operations of NWPP. It is this exposure to the work of Northwest Pilot Project that has made

us so committed to raising funds for the organization. We have 100% Board participation at our Walk-A-Thon and I have been told that our Board raises substantially more than the boards of many more well-known non-profits.

This year our Board set an aggressive goal of **\$150,000** for our May 1, 2011 Walk-A-Thon because the needs of NWPP's clients are greater than ever. Our corporate sponsors cover all the costs associated with the walk, so **all** of the money raised by walkers goes directly to help very low-income seniors find and maintain their housing.

I am personally committed to making it easy and fun for you to get involved in our Walk-A-Thon. I would be delighted to speak to any group or individual about how to get started. Just call me at 503-284-6453 or send me an email at marilyn.latham@comcast.net. I can't wait to hear from you!

- Dale Latham, Chair, Development Committee



Dale Latham at the Walk-A-Thon

Did You Know?

At our November 2010 Board of Directors meeting, our Annual Audit was presented by our auditor, McDonald Jacobs, PC. We are very proud to report that during our Fiscal Year 7/1/09-

6/30/10, NWPP spent only \$57,534 on fundraising (4% of our total budget), and raised \$563,354 from individuals, churches, businesses, foundations, and special events to support the programs and services

of NWPP. We know our donors appreciate the fact that we operate our organization cost efficiently, and the contributions they make go directly to support the programs and services they hold dear.

32nd Annual WALK-A-Thon

Sunday, May 1st is your opportunity to
WALK FOR NORTHWEST PILOT PROJECT

How you can walk for Northwest Pilot Project

1. Call 503-227-5605 to receive your Walk-A-Thon materials, or see our website: www.nwpilotproject.org
2. Use the Walk-A-Thon pledge sheet and get as many pledges as possible before May 1, 2011.
3. Ask friends, co-workers and family members to join you.
4. Arrive on Sunday, May 1st by 12:30 p.m. to register, and join us for our 32nd Annual Walk-A-Thon from 1-2 p.m. in the South Park Blocks by Portland State University.



What You Can Win

Great prizes in all age categories including gift certificates to shopping, restaurants, and other surprises.
Terrific prizes for our top teams!

We Need Your Help

Our Walk-A-Thon is our major fundraiser of the year. Our corporate sponsors cover all of our expenses for the Walk-A-Thon, so that all money raised by walkers goes directly to support our quality services to low-income seniors.

The goal of this year's Walk-A-Thon is **\$150,000**. Call 503-227-5605. We'll send you everything you need to participate in our Walk-A-Thon, or go to our website: www.nwpilotproject.org and you will find everything you need to participate. It's easy and it's fun. Start getting your pledges today!



Can't be at the Walk-A-Thon? Sponsor Me!

If you are unable to participate in this year's Walk-A-Thon you can still show your support for **NWPP – SPONSOR ME!**

Here are my vital statistics: I'm Cindy Mosney. I joined the staff of the Northwest Pilot Project in 1988, and have walked in 22 Walk-A-Thons. I'm a Housing Specialist, and focus on outreach and emergency services to women in crisis.

I WANT YOUR PLEDGE. The needs of low-income seniors are greater than ever before, and we hope this will be our best Walk-A-Thon ever. Please fill out the coupon below and return it in the enclosed envelope. You will be billed for your pledge after the May 1st Walk-A-Thon. Thanks for supporting me, and the work of Northwest Pilot Project.



Count Me In!

I want to support Cindy Mosney at the
May 1, 2011 Walk-A-Thon with a flat pledge of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$125 Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Teams Help NWPP to the Top!

At our 2010 Walk-A-Thon, 122 individuals participated in our Team Competition and raised **\$29,408** for NWPP, and helped us to have our best Walk-A-Thon ever. It's easy and fun to form a team. Contact **Brenda Carpenter** at brendac@nwproject.org or: 503-478-6874 to receive information on how to form a team, or go to NWPP's website for all the information you will need: www.nwproject.org.

Prizes will be awarded to the top team in each of the following categories: General (all ages), High School, and Children (pre-high school). At our 2010 Walk-A-Thon, The Fire Rockets were our top children's team raising **\$5,721**.



The Fire Rockets

2010 Holiday Giving at NWPP

The following is a list of individuals and groups from throughout our community who made contributions that resulted in over 1,000 holiday stockings, a full turkey dinner for 150, gift cards, gift bags, presents, and hand knit hats, scarves, gloves, shawls, and lap robes for the seniors we serve at NWPP. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you!

Amy Atkinson
 Bernie's Book Club
 Sheila Bob
 Janet Bowman
 Carolyn Brown
 Bob & Kim Charron
 Child Eyecare
 Donna Clark
 Marilyn Cleland
 and "Knitting Club friends"
 Conway Trucking
 The Craftettes
 Phil Crumpacker
 Daughters of the
 British Empire
 of Oregon
 Dee & John Dudek
 Telecom Pioneers
 Piper Davis & Grand
 Central Bakery
 Billie Dunn
 Elders in Action
 Fed Ex Office Print
 & Ship Center
 (SW 5th & Clay)
 Friends Investing
 Together
 Lyn Cocklin
 Doug Emmons
 First Congregational
 Church
 Fred Meyer
 Beverly & Leonard
 Garmire
 Golden Dragons
 Gerontology
 Association of PSU
 Linda & Don Gertz
 Margaret Grant
 Pat Greenland & Linda Olsen
 Donna Hager
 Diane Heade
 Judith Heath
 Roger & Shani Hodge
 Lynn Holstrom

Holy Family Catholic School
 Mary Junewick
 Kairos Milwaukie United
 Church of Christ
 King City Knitters
 United Behavioral Health
 The Madeleine School
 Marilee Koll
 Lake Oswego Jazzercise
 Tracy Marsden
 Tim McMahon
 Daisy Miller

Packaging Resources
 PGE employees
 Portland Opera employees
 PSU Facilities employees
 Vicki & Rod Schmall
 Brittany Hawk
 Paige Cameron
 Roxanne Stewart
 Barry & Cyndi Saylor
 Patricia Sharp
 Susie & Bob Summers
 Commissioner Nick Fish



Violet Costanzo attends our annual holiday luncheon every December. She graduated from St. Mary's High School in 1940, and loves seeing the St. Mary's students who have been involved with our annual luncheon for over 25 years. Violet is pictured here at our 12/10/10 luncheon with some of the St. Mary's students who served the turkey dinner and sang carols.

Sabine Hines
 Gene & Carol
 Cabbage
 Bev & Steve
 Battaglia
 Marilyn Sturdevant
 Beth Boyce
 Heidi McLennan
 Ann Adams
 Abby & Amanda
 Lam
 Dr. Brett Johnson,
 D.M.D.
 Bernadette Galluci
 Candy Smith
 Christ Episcopal
 Church
 Sofia Barbado
 St. Mary's high
 school students
 Sharon Sickler
 Tess Sole

Sharon & Vashti Miller
 Patsy Moreland
 Newberg Jazzercise
 OHS Otolaryngology Clinic
 Don O'Leary
 Seattle-Northwest Securities Corp.
 Oregon Recovery Homes and
 Recovery Association Project
 Carolyn Ostergren
 Orion Lumiere
 Chrissy Washburn

Judi Kanipe
 The Spirit Group
 Annie Stutzman
 St. Thomas More Parish
 Jacqueline Wilson
 Mike & Nadine Zimmerlund
 LAIKA
 Ladies at St. Andrews Church
 Bill Welcer
 OASIS employees and volunteers
 United Health Group

Why I Walk for NWPP: Judy Murphy

Judy Murphy has participated in 23 Walk-A-Thons. A staff member in NWPP's Aging Program for fifteen years, Judy retired in 2001, but continues to support us as a volunteer and walker.

Judy walks because: "I know the money I raise will go right to the heart of the work. I've always loved the dedication NWPP has to its mission to assist the poor, the homeless, and the elderly in greatest need. I know that help is available to anyone who comes to the office, that everyone is treated with dignity, and that no money is wasted."

Judy encourages family and friends to walk with her. At our 2010 Walk-A-Thon Judy had three enthusiastic grandchildren with her, and had recruited a friend who brought her three grandchildren. Judy told us: "I will always have a place in my heart for NWPP. See you in May!"



Right: Judy Murphy at NWPP's 2010 Walk-A-Thon

Twelve Ways to Support NWPP and Low-Income Seniors



Jillian Detweiler served on the NWPP Board of Directors and is one of our top fundraisers

1. Walk in our May 1, 2011 Walk-A-Thon.
2. Form a Walk-A-Thon team.
3. Ask a friend to walk with you in the Walk-A-Thon.
4. Ask your neighbors to sponsor you in the Walk-A-Thon.
5. Ask a co-worker to join you at the Walk-A-Thon.
6. Get your synagogue or church involved with the Walk-A-Thon.
7. Ask your doctor to sponsor you in the Walk-A-Thon.
8. Ask your family members to join you at the Walk-A-Thon.
9. Get one pledge a day for 30 days for the Walk-A-Thon.
10. Ask your employer to match your Walk-A-Thon pledges.
11. Ask someone at your health club to sponsor you in the Walk-A-Thon.
12. Ask a neighborhood business to sponsor you in the Walk-A-Thon.

Dennis Johnson: Perseverance and Hard Work

Dennis Johnson's life had been going very well. He had a job he liked, and was caring for his mother while living in Seattle. In 2007, when his mother died suddenly, all that changed. His housing became unstable. Dennis could not afford to pay the high rent on his own. Dennis remembered how much he enjoyed visiting Portland, and decided to make Portland his home.

Even though Dennis was a trained mechanic and maintenance worker, employment was very hard to find the summer he moved to Portland. He depleted his savings, and ended up living in his van. He had food stamps. His homelessness stretched to eighteen months.

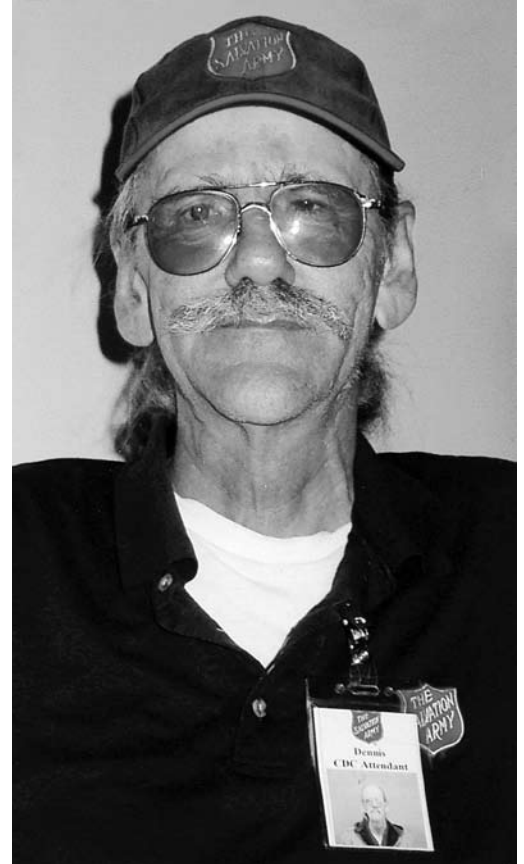
In June of 2008, Dennis put himself on the waiting list for Transition Projects (TPI), a men's homeless shelter in Portland. In September of 2008, after three months of waiting, he had a bed at the shelter.

Dennis was sent to Northwest Pilot Project by his TPI case manager, Emily. NWPP staff member, Jason Coulthurst met with Dennis, and helped him get on subsidized apartment waiting lists. Dennis talked about his job search, and how much he wanted to work: **"I want to work. I'm used to hard work."** He then was recommended for a job interview with the Salvation Army. Dennis asked Jason for assistance in filling out the job application, as it had been a long time for him. He had the interview, then three days later was called back for a second interview, and was offered a position at a donation center.

In December of 2008, Dennis found a room in a single room occupancy hotel in the downtown area

and he moved in. Jason gave Dennis a kitchen kit to help him at his new room. In early November of 2009, Jason told Dennis there was a studio apartment available at a subsidized building downtown, and he was at the top of the list for it. Dennis wasted no time in getting his application in. On November 28, 2009, he moved into his new apartment. "When I saw my apartment, I wanted to jump up and down, it was so clean."

Dennis' path to permanent housing consisted of many steps over time. Through it all, Dennis didn't give up. "I'm happy, I'm really happy. I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for Jason and Emily." We see Dennis' success in a different way. Dennis was persistent in his unflinching determination to find employment, and an apartment he could afford on his income. Dennis is 63 years old. He has an apartment he loves, and a job he's good at. He will never be homeless again.



Help Us Keep Our Database Updated

Our newsletter is published four times each year. We make every effort to keep our database updated. Please let us know if you are receiving duplicate copies, if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, or wish to receive it electronically, or if you have changed your address.

Contact Wendy, our Executive Assistant at: wendy@nwpilotproject.org or 503-478-6877.

Memorial Gifts

During the period of July 16, 2010 through December 31, 2010, Northwest Pilot Project has received gifts in memory of:

Rae Bordo

Jamar Pearson

Mary Coolidge Campbell

Maggie Campbell

Maurice Christian

William Christian

Bob Curlette

Ellen Evans

Michael Eilers

Judy Murphy

Donna Goode Exley

Richard Portwood

Theresa Flowers

Pat Greenland

David & Susan Emmons

Rose Mary Sankovitch

Wanda Hobson

Robert Lequia

Judy Murphy

Steve Graham

Cindy DaRugna

Esther Greene

Lois Meessen

Donna Slepach

Miriam Kramer & Family

Vera Kramer & Family

Esther & William Greene

Robert Kurkjian

Ed & Flo Happold

Peggy & Robert Fujimoto

Amy Sessions & Jerry Sharon

Rick Harmon

Jane Malarkey-Harmon

Doug Larson & Kristie Duyckinck

Ervin Hummel

Joanne Hummel

Jerome LeGette

Florine Cranmer

Lucile Middleton

Philip & Shannon Alexander

Margaret Moilien

Skip Wayne

Franklin Weinberg Fund

Peter Paulson

Skip Wayne

Franklin Weinberg Fund

Victoria Sierra

Stella Martinez

Charlotte, Vince, & Gus Stonecker

Susan Gayfield

Walking for NWPP's Emergency Fund

Marie Brown was 81 years old when she was displaced from her downtown apartment where she had lived for seventeen years. Northwest Pilot Project helped Marie and the other residents of her building find other housing and endure the arduous task of moving. Marie served on our Downtown Aging Services Advisory Committee, and was already involved with us at the time of her housing crisis, but she became even more committed after her experience of displacement, and became a loyal walker and supporter.

In this picture Marie is 86 years old. Every Walk-A-Thon Marie changed her costume, and gradually involved children, grandchildren, and friends to walk with her. She always said she was walking for NWPP's Emergency Fund, because she knew what it was like to receive resources from the fund during her crisis. Marie also said: "You're never too old or too young to walk for Northwest Pilot Project." She participated in 15 Walk-A-Thons.

For more information on how to get involved in our Walk-A-Thon – please see pages 7, 8 and 9.



Marie Brown

Rent increase. Fixed income. Now where do I live?



Ralph had lived in his one-bedroom apartment in SE Portland for nineteen years. Living on his Social Security income of \$685 per month, he paid \$300 each month for rent. When his building was sold he received a notice from the new owners that they planned to renovate the building. His rent increased from \$300 per month to \$500 per month.

Ralph describes himself as "a working man, who never made much money, but always paid the rent

on time. When I got that notice about my rent increase, I knew I had to move, but had no idea where to look. It felt pretty hopeless."

Ralph was referred to NWPP, where Housing Program staff worked quickly, utilizing resources from our Emergency Fund to help keep Ralph in his apartment until a more affordable apartment could be found. Additional resources from our Emergency Fund were used to help pay for the deposit and moving expenses when Ralph moved to an apartment that will be permanently affordable to him.

NWPP's Emergency Fund is central to the work we do in the community to help people like Ralph and Marie (see article above) who find themselves in a crisis through no fault of their own. Our Emergency Fund is funded through individual contributions, foundation grants, and the money that walkers raise through our annual Walk-A-Thon. We could not do the critical work we do in the community without this fund. For more information on how you can contribute to our Emergency Fund please see page 15.

NWPP Housing Program Focuses on Permanence

Northwest Pilot Project has been providing personalized housing placement services for elderly, disabled, homeless, and poor people for over thirty-five years. We believe that every individual in our community deserves to live in decent, safe, accessible housing that is affordable to them, no matter what their income is. We emphasize an approach that includes understanding the situation of each person we work with, and respecting their dignity, and uniqueness as individuals.

We are interested in outcomes, and knowing whether our services do lead to housing stability and permanence. We know we are achieving phenomenal success rates, because we stay connected with people for years. Over the thirteen-year period from July 1, 1997 through June 30, 2010, NWPP staff helped **5,682** people to find and keep permanent housing, and 88% of these people are successful in their housing over the long term.



NWPP's Emergency Fund Urgently Needs Donations

Every year Northwest Pilot Project touches the lives of 3,000 elderly, disabled, homeless and poor people. As the demand for our services continues to grow, our challenge is greater than ever before to maintain our vital services, and to continue to respond to unmet needs in our community.

This year we have set a goal of raising **\$166,000** for our Emergency Fund. The Emergency Fund is used to pay for housing application fees,

housing deposits, moving expenses, furniture, medical expenses such as prescriptions and emergency care, bus tickets, and meal vouchers.

These resources are crucial to the success of our Housing Program, and our ability to respond quickly to people who come to us in crisis. All donations to NWPP's Emergency Fund directly benefit the people we serve.

As an organization we've made a commitment to have adequate

emergency funds so that our staff have sufficient resources to offer the services we are committed to, and to fulfill our mission.

We need your support! Please use the coupon below and the return envelope in this newsletter to make a gift to NWPP's Emergency Fund.

Your support will make it possible to help someone sleep safely in their own bed, in their own apartment.

Count Me In!

I want to contribute to NWPP's Emergency Fund.

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 Other:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please Charge \$ _____ to my Credit Card number: _____ Exp: _____

Verification Code (on back of card – last three numbers on signature strip) _____

Please return this coupon in return envelope to: NWPP, 1430 SW Broadway, #200, Portland, OR 97201

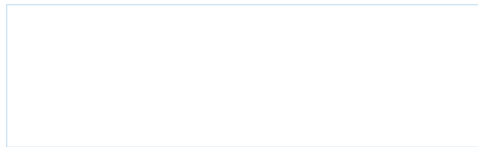
To give online, visit our website at www.nwpilotproject.org.



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Come Walk with Us – Sunday, May 1st!

NWPP's major fundraiser of the year is scheduled for Sunday, May 1, 2011. Join us as we celebrate 42 years of service to our community, and hope to raise **\$ 150,000** for the crucial services we provide to low-income seniors in Portland.

If you have never been to our Walk-A-Thon, imagine yourself walking in a green and sunlit park with people of all ages, with balloons dancing in the gentle breeze, with music by the great local band **Hollowdog**, and with Hot Lips pizza served to all.

We'll be in the South Park Blocks by
 Portland State University
 S.W. Park & Harrison St.

12:30 – 1 pm	Registration
1-2 pm	Walk-A-Thon
2-3 pm	Pizza, Prizes, & Entertainment

For more details see pages 7, 8, and 9. Come join us for a great time, and to help us guarantee that every senior in Portland has a decent place to live.

