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 St. Francis Church
 St. Patrick Catholic Church
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 St. Vincent de Paul Society
 Trinity & Youth Ministries
 Trinity Baptist Church
 WW Friends Meeting

Save the Date

Soup-Port Helpline 2007
 April 18th
 11-1:30



HELPLINE

Helpline Was There For Us: One Family's Story

WHEN THEIR HOME BURNED, just before Christmas last year, Margy and Ornice Henson lost pretty much everything they had. Thanks to Helpline and the American Red Cross, the couple was able to make a new start.

Helpline, working with its partner agencies in our community, helped the Hensons find temporary housing and provided blankets, food, furniture, linens, dishes, and clothing. This was the second time this family had faced the daunting task of rebuilding their lives after a fire. In 1977 their household goods had burned in a storage facility fire while the couple was in the midst of a move to a new home.

The Hensons first became acquainted with Helpline shortly after their first fire. Ornice saw the agency's sign and walked in to inquire about the services Helpline offered the eligibility requirements. They received food, shelter, furnishings, assistance with transportation, and help with utilities payments. "It was the boost we needed to help us get back on our feet," according to Mrs. Henson. When their daughter recently moved to this community, she was ill and in need of medical care and medications. Helpline was able to direct her to the services she needed and assist with purchase of her prescriptions.

To affirm the worth of every person; address the needs of individuals, families, and our community; and advocate for positive life transformation is the goal of Helpline. In the case of the Hensons, our goals were achieved. Today, despite the health challenges the couple faces, the Hensons are in a better place than they were a year ago. They have a new home and are grateful for the blessings of a community agency like Helpline.

"Helpline as there for us when we needed assistance. I can never say 'Thank You' enough, for the many ways the agency



You can help families like the the Henson's who recovered from a fire with Helpline's assistance.

Helpline as there for us when we needed assistance. I can never say 'Thank You' enough, for the many ways the agency has helped our family. God bless Helpline!

has helped our family. God bless Helpline!," Margy declared in recounting her story.

Regular contributions by individuals, churches, and business throughout our area enables Helpline to care well for thousands of people in need from throughout our community. The holidays are an especially good time to remember Helpline with a gift that can positively impact the lives of others. Margy and Ornice's story is not unique.

Helpline is on the job, assisting individuals and families from throughout Walla Walla County year-round and especially during the holiday season. Thanks for including a tax-deductible contribution to Helpline as a part of your year-end giving!

The Henson's story and photographs are published with their permission.

Season of Contrasts

THE HOLIDAY SEASON is a time of contrasts for Helpline – the contrast between need and generosity.

Need is poignantly felt during the Holidays by those who lack adequate means to support themselves and their families. As the holidays approach, there are increased costs. Children



Melinda Townsend
Executive Director

need warm clothes and school supplies. With the colder weather, homes need to be heated which raises utility costs. At the same time that the lower income are struggling to meet the demands of daily living, announcements and advertisements abound with the promise that happiness is rooted in material possessions and that true love is reflected in what we can buy for the one we love. At Helpline, we are aware of the struggle that so many experience during the Holiday Season and we seek to find ways to make the struggle less painful.

In contrast, generosity wells up and overflows from those who have abundance, especially during the Holiday Season. The message of generosity and goodwill echoes throughout the season. Hearts are warmed and softened. Awareness of the needs of others increases. At Helpline, we are aware of generosity that exists in our community. We experience it throughout the year. That said, we are particularly inspired and moved by the amount of generosity we experience during the Holidays from those who support the services we provide.



This generosity, extends through Helpline out to those who are in need within our community.

We invite you to partner with us this Holiday Season. With your generosity, Helpline is empowered to meet the needs of those who struggle to make ends meet. Thank you for joining with us. Happy Holidays!

Meet Our Newest Board Member

Dr. Michael Gillespie

By Sandi Madsen

Joining the Helpline Board of Directors is Dr. Michael Gillespie. An active volunteer in the Walla Walla valley, Mike served on the boards of the Blue Mountain Community Foundation, Releaf, Walla Walla Symphony, the Rotary Club of Walla Walla, and was active as an Eagle Scout Advisor and Boy Scout Troop leader. In 1998, Mike was recognized for volunteerism with the Award of Merit from the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce and is currently returning for a second stint on the Walla Walla Community

College Foundation board.

Mike earned a medical degree from Baylor College of

Medicine and worked in Oklahoma City, Berne, Switzerland, and Oswestry, England prior to establishing his medical practice in Walla Walla.



Michael Gillespie
Board Member

For thirty years, Mike practiced as an orthopedic surgeon and for twenty years served Walla Walla Community College as the athletic physician.

We are delighted to have Mike join the Helpline team.

A Thanksgiving Story

By Melinda Townsend, Executive Director

IT'S NOT OFTEN that we hear from clients after they receive assistance from Helpline. When we do, often as not, they express concerns that we have not been able to help them in the way they wanted us to.

Recently, however, Helpline received a thank you note from a client that had received a minimal level of assistance. The grateful client returned to the agency and gave us \$200 in cash as a donation before leaving town.

Just a few days ago, this same individual sent us a \$100 money order in the mail along with the following note:

"Hello Again, My Friends.

God Bless All of You!

This is an opportunity for me to give back and support those less fortunate than I, as there will always be such.

If the day should come when my support is not needed, please send it to others of your discretion.

I can't explain how grateful I am to you. I've been down many times, but you are the first to make an honest effort. Such a RARE PEOPLE.

Ifv there is anything I can do for you, DO NOT HESITATE to ask.

God Bless All of YOU and Happy Thanksgiving

(A Client)

PS: As I said before, I don't need receipts. Knowing my Brothers and Sisters are fed and off the cold streets is all the receipt anyone can ever ask for."

NEW WAYS TO GIVE TO HELPLINE

TAX-FREE CHARITABLE IRA DISTRIBUTIONS

By John C. Cress

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows individuals to give tax-free distributions from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to qualified charities such as Helpline. Donors will not have to declare the amount of the contribution as income, or pay tax on the gift up to \$100,000. U.S. taxpayers, age 70.5 and over, who are required to take annual distributions from their tax-deferred accounts can apply this law to distributions made between December 31, 2005 and January 1, 2008.

The transfer must be made by your IRA administrator. The law does not apply to donor-advised funds, private foundations, and deferred gifts. Please contact your attorney or financial advisor for more information on this legislation before making charitable gift along these lines.

Tax-free distributions from your IRA to Helpline.

The Helpline Team

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