



Birch

Community Services, Inc.

DECEMBER 2014

Windows of Opportunity



Thankful · Thankful · Thankful · Thankful · Thankful

Thanks to hundreds of donors, the 932 families we served last year have been presented with a gift, a window of opportunity if you will, to make progress toward self-sufficiency. They take this opportunity to heart and are profoundly grateful.

At BCS the goal of our staff, volunteers and participants is to be attentively aware of the blessings we receive on a daily basis. That's not hard to do when each day encompasses a steady stream of gifts, ranging from Starbucks Coffee and Dave's Killer Bread to chicken, fresh fruit and vegetables, shredded cheese and yogurt – with a myriad of delights in between. It is this provision which creates a special opportunity for our families to make progress toward their financial goals.

As our families load their carts with a variety of food, we can observe the joy and satisfaction they feel, knowing their children will eat well that week. Many climb the stairs to find school clothes, work clothes, or Danner boots to brave the winter's cold. Others take the time to register for numerous class choices, from specialty subjects like Gluten Free Cooking or Cheese Making, to Chickens 101 and Home Maintenance for Dummies. Shoppers are surrounded by their peers, volunteering as they cheerfully offer the sacrifice of service to each other.

In a similar way, Birch Community Services has had some wonderful windows open for us over the last year, and I am humbled and contented to see that great things are being accomplished here.

In January of 2014 our board of directors met and began to develop our vision for the future. As we looked forward, we also looked back. This little front porch operation has changed the lives of thousands of people, but each year we ask ourselves, "How can we do this better?"

2014 enlisted the help of our first Development Manager, and as Ray Keen prodded movement of BCS recognition in the local community, more businesses and volunteers joined the ranks of service and became aware of Birch Community Services. Personally, I met with a mentor, Jack Goodnow, a retired banker who reviewed our finances with encouragement and exhortation. The vision grew, changed, and grew some more. We developed a new plan, made some changes, and sought the input of our board. Our new and improved Sustainable Families Program (SFP) had grown!



Included in the basic services we've been providing, we saw a great need to have a mentor meet one-on-one with each family as they join the BCS program: someone who can personally evaluate their finances and other needs in their family, and give guidance. Our mentors will give the extra attention needed to assist those who have never made a budget, or encourage those who are moving in the right direction. They will make follow-up appointments to confirm progress is being accomplished. A Program Manager will cultivate, train and coordinate the mentors, in collaboration with our financial classes and other important training. Mentors will help our families to reach their goals faster, graduating more quickly from the program into self-sustainability, allowing us to serve even more families. Funding for this program for 2015 has already been achieved thanks to The Autzen Foundation, The Collins Foundation, The Hoover Family Foundation, The Jackson Foundation, The Oregon Community Foundation, The Rose E. Tuck Charitable Trust and individual supporters. Thirteen mentors from financial institutions and businesses have offered their services to our families, and some have made a commitment to also contribute financial support to this important program.

With the hiring of the Sustainable Families Program Manager, we take a major step toward our vision, a five-year plan that culminates in the ownership of our own building. Now THAT'S a big goal! We are excited to move forward in these areas this year:

2015 Goals

- Hiring a Sustainable Families Program Manager
- Training and commissioning 15 to 20 Sustainable Families Mentors
- Expanding our information system and replacing our aging phones and office computers
- Refurbishing our shopping carts
- Expanding our participant job-and-life-skills training

As the board and staff hike up our britches, take a deep breath and a giant step forward, we ask you to cheer us on with your prayers and support. We will need it!

And, as ever, we are so *Thankful!*

With blessing,

Suzanne & Barry

Mission Statement

"The mission of Birch Community Services, Inc. is to provide a community where people can be responsible and accountable for meeting their basic needs, and to equip them with tools to overcome financial difficulty."

Thankful 2014



Dress for Success Oregon

In September 2014, BCS began a new referral relationship that mutually benefits the clients of both organizations. Dress for Success Oregon is an anti-poverty nonprofit organization that has been helping low-income women successfully transition back into the workforce since 1999.



Financial Beginnings

This new curriculum for our participant financial training will help BCS families to establish prudent financial practices. Financial Beginnings is a volunteer-driven, community-oriented nonprofit which relies on professionals from around Oregon and Southwest Washington to help deliver their programs.



Bountiful Gardens

Our participant families helped plant, weed, and harvest 2,898 lbs of fresh produce from two BCS Gardens in 2014. In August Brian and Julie Sunderland hosted the Birch Bluegrass Celebration where about 70 guests joined us to learn about our teaching gardens.



Replication Seminar

We hosted our third annual replication seminar this year; training others in our service model based on responsibility in a community of accountability. Six autonomous sites have opened across the US based on the BCS model.



Season of Sharing

The Oregonian selected BCS as one of 15 Oregon Nonprofits from among hundreds of applicants to be highlighted in their community giving campaign.

Celebrating 23 Years of Service!

1992

1998

2004

2010

2014



A Gift of Bread

300
Families
Annually



National
Recognition

600
Families
Annually



Today

What we accomplished with your help in Fiscal Year 2014



37 months
average on program

200 families
graduating annually



7,113,265 lbs.
food

359,001 lbs.
household goods

44,519 lbs.
boots

604,301 lbs.
clothing

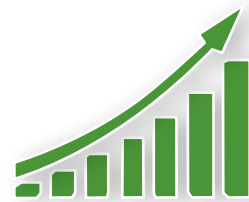
932

**Families
Served
Annually**



98% increase
in family emergency savings

28% reduction
in monthly debt payments



8

Replication Seminar
attendees trained

1 new
additional site
launched



150

product donors

8.1 M

**Pounds
Distributed**

Tomorrow

What we will accomplish with your help in the next 5 years



24 months
average on program

500 families
graduating annually



10,600,000 lbs.
food

530,000 lbs.
household goods

50,000 lbs.
boots

890,000 lbs.
clothing

1,200+

**Families
Served
Annually**



150%+ increase
in family emergency savings

50% reduction
in monthly debt payments



50+

Replication Seminar
attendees to be trained
annually

5 new
additional sites
launched annually



260

product donors
annually

12. M+

**Pounds
Distributed
Annually**

2015



Participant Training

2016

Mentorship



Expanded Gardens

2017

New Product
Donors



2018



Replication

Warehouse
Equipment



2019



Building Acquisition

2020

1200
Families
Annually



Thankful for Inmar's Bountiful Giving



In 2014 Inmar donated 220,425 lbs. of food to Birch Community Services, helping families in need. Cans of soup, crackers, and spaghetti sauce go a long way when there is little in the cupboard. With Birch's focus on fresh food, Inmar's donations help us balance our provision with non-perishable products.

Thirty-three years ago, John Whitaker founded Inmar and started the a company called Carolina Coupon Clearing, a

business for clearing coupons for retailers. At the time, the advanced technology of the coupon industry involved weighing coupons by the pound. John and his team of former IBM associates had a novel ideal. They decided to apply technology to the practice of coupon settlement. Today Inmar has taken that philosophy of applying technology to complex transactions and operates intelligent commerce networks that improve the quality, efficiency and collaboration among retailers, manufacturers and other trading partners.

The families Birch serves are truly grateful for the generosity of Inmar which has totaled over 2.4 million pounds of product donations since 2005.

2.4 M
Pounds
Donated

HOW TO GIVE PRODUCT

1. Contact us 24/7 at 503.251.8860 or email us: donate@BirchCommunityServices.org
2. We will schedule a pickup at your convenience.
3. We show up at the scheduled time.

BCS accepts:

- Near and past expiration date food fit for human consumption
- New or like-new clothing and footwear
- New or like-new household items

(Contributions are tax deductible.)

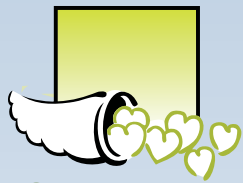
Thankful for our Generous Providers

** Donors over 10 years*

*Albertsons
7-Eleven
*Alpenrose Dairy
AlSCO
Amazing Pet Products
Anawim Christian Community
Angels of God (Memorial Lutheran)
Auntie Anne's Pretzels
Bake Mark
Baskets of Blessings
Bay Valley Foods
Bed Bath & Beyond
Cascade Athletic Club
Centennial Park Community Garden
Central Garden Distribution
Central Refrigerated Service, Inc.
Charlie's Produce
Chef George, Inc.
Chipotle Grill
City Of Gresham
Clackamas County Gleaners
*Classic Foods
Colton Helping Hands, Inc.
Columbia Gorge Helping Hands
Community of Faith
Conway
Costco
Crossroads Cupboard
*Danner Shoe Manufacturing
*Darigold
Dave's Killer Bread
Deja Vu Consignment
DePaul Industries
Diamond Line
Dirt and Aggregate
Diversified Transfer and Storage
Everyday Deals
*Excel Brokerage
Extended Stay America
Farmers Brothers Coffee
Feed the Children
Feed the Hungry
First Inc.
Food Front
*Franz Bakery
Fred Meyer
Frito-Lay
Fulton Meats
Gartner's Country Meat Market, Inc.

*Georgia Pacific
Gibson Truck Lines
Good News Community Health Center
*Grand Central Bakery
Grayrose Marketing Group Inc.
Graziano Produce
*Gresham Rotary
Grocery Outlet
Halcyon
Harry's Fresh Foods
*Helen Bernhard Bakery
*Henningsen's Cold Storage
Heritage Specialty Foods
Home Depot
Hope Station Community Svcs, Inc.
Impact Northwest
*Inmar Inc.
Integrity Logistics
JBS Distribution
JoLa Cafe
Keen Footwear
KeHe
Kinco International
LDS Church
Legacy Emanuel Hospital
Love Joy Bakers
LTA Bros.
M.H. Trucking
Macy Farm
Mariane Kahl
Marsee Foods Inc.
*McTavish Shortbread
*Medical Teams International
Metro
*Mildren Design Group
Montavilla Farmers Market
New Cascadia Bakery
New System Services
Northwest Children's Outreach
NW Paper Box
Odwalla
Oregon Children's Ministries
Oregon Fish and Wildlife
Organically Grown Company
*Oroweat Baking Co.
*Pacific NW Outreach
Pacific Seafood
Parkrose Deliverance Tabernacle
Penzeys Spices

Pepsi
Pilgrim's Pride
Pizza Hut
Popcorn Indiana
Portland Fruit
Portland Nursery
*Portland Rescue Mission
Potluck in the Park
Pressure Safe, LLC.
*Provista Specialty Foods
Red Lobster Restaurant
Reddaway
*Resers Fine Foods, Inc.
Restaurant Depot
Right Price Market
Rinella Produce
Rivermark Community Credit Union
Roma / Performance Foodservice
*Safeway
Salvation Army
Sanctuary Church Food Pantry
Schwartz Brothers Bakery
Shepherd's Door
*Shriners Hospital
Silk Espresso
Snow Cap
Starbucks
*Sunshine Dairy
*Sunshine Division
Sygma
*Systems Services of America
*Teeny Foods
*The Barn
The Commerce Bank
Three J's Distribution
*Trailblazer Foods
*Union Gospel Mission
*Unisource
*United Salad Co.
Used Equipment Source
Valley Pride Trucking
Ventura Foods LLC
Vitality Farms
Walgreens
WCP Solutions
Winco Foods
Zarephath's Pantry
*Zupan's



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Our 23rd Year!
Serving The Working Poor Since 1992

Every donation makes a difference at Birch Community Services.

Here is what your donation can do:



\$10 Provides financial training for a family.

\$50 Trains a family how to grow
their own food.

\$100 Feeds a family of five for a month.

www.BirchCommunityServices.org/give



For more information about
Birch Community Services giving options,
please contact: **Ray Keen** at **971.235.2868** or
Ray@BirchCommunityServices.org

