

Community Matters

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May 2011 ▲ Oregon ▲ In the Community to Serve®

Council On Aging RSVP Begins Safety Outreach for Seniors



Central Oregon Council On Aging RSVP is collaborating with the Bend Fire Department and Cascade Natural Gas to create a new program called Safety Outreach for Seniors (SOS). Our Bend District employees currently assisting with SOS are service mechanic, Tom Pitcher, operations aid, Jamie Vohs and district manager, Sue Potje. They would like to announce this new and noteworthy service to our Bend area.

RSVP Director Marie Phillis said, "Seniors in Deschutes County may face many challenges, such as decreased memory, mobility, sight or hearing. These issues can render traditional fire and life safety measures and technology ineffective for this population. In order to ensure the safety of seniors in our communities, an innovative and customized approach

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Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, Cascade Natural Gas Celebrate a Region on a Roll

On March 30, staff from Cascade Natural Gas joined with more than 500 community leaders from across the greater Tri-Cities to celebrate "Region on a Roll," an annual event recognizing the outstanding achievements of Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce members whose actions helped contribute to the economic growth of the Tri-Cities. Cascade Natural Gas was pleased to partner with the Benton Franklin Utilities Coordinating Council (aka: 811 "Call Before You Dig") as one of five gold sponsors of

this meeting, proudly expressing our support for Kennewick's thriving business community.

During the awards ceremony, Monica Foster of the Cascade Natural Gas Conservation Team helped recognize the achievements of the Tri-Cities Cancer Center with an Impact Award for their partnership and involvement in the chamber. The Cascade Natural Gas Conservation Team and Kennewick District Staff, including Teresa Esparza and Ron Coffell, were on hand to offer information about commercial and residential rebates available to customers for high performance gas equipment and measures, and to remind residents to take advantage of 811, the free service that enables the community to learn the location of utility-owned lines (power, water, gas) on their property.

Prior to the event, the Utilities Coordinating Council (UCC) and Cascade Natural Gas also partnered with the chamber on several local radio broadcasts to further promote the



Cascade Natural Gas Corporation Conservation Analyst, Monica Foster, left, and Lori Mattson, president and chief executive officer the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, present Tom Cothran executive director of Tri-Cities Cancer Center with the Impact Award.

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Council on Aging

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is necessary. The safety needs of seniors living independently must be evaluated on an individual basis, with the appropriate referrals made to provide needed services to each senior."

RSVP is looking for retired veterans or people 55 years or older who want to be part of this important service. Bend Fire personnel will teach SOS volunteers how to evaluate the home environment of seniors and recognize where there may be deficiencies that could place them at risk for death or injury. Call Central Oregon Council on Aging RSVP today at (541) 548-8817. For more information about volunteering with RSVP, visit www.rsvpc.org.

Central Oregon Council on Aging (COCO) is a 501c3 organization dedicated to promoting dignity, well-being, security and independence for Central Oregon Seniors and the designated AAA. RSVP is a partner agency of COCOA

Cascade in the Community:

Employees Volunteer at 2011 Special Olympic Winter Games

In early March, the weekend that many Cascade Natural Gas employees look forward to all year finally arrived! Over the weekend of March 4-6, many Cascade employees traveled to Wenatchee, Wash., and volunteered their time to help make the 2011 Special Olympics Winter Games a success.



Wenatchee has been the host city for the Special Olympics for a number of years. This program brings around 1,500 Special Olympic Athletes, 300 coaches, 700 volunteers and 2,500 family members and friends together.

There were many Cascade employees who volunteered their time for this event and several have special memories and comments they would like to share. Shawn Porterfield, financial analyst, and her husband, Larry, look forward to this event every year. Shawn said, "It is truly an honor to be a part of these athletes and their pursuit to achieve all levels of accomplishment and athleticism. You know it when you see it – that determined look, that extra mile or lap, that high-five jump, that pat on the back, that enormous smile. It's the power of sports. For people with intellectual disabilities, Special Olympics is often the only place where they have an opportunity to participate in their communities, develop and believe in themselves, and feel like champions."

Teresa Esparza, district manager of our Kennewick office, has volunteered now for seven years and said, "This is truly a rewarding experience and a great event to be a part of every year."

Mari Valdez, operation aide, and her family enjoy volunteering, "I have been participating in the Special Olympics for four years now. Every year we meet new people and catch up with old friends. It is very exciting to be part of such a great organization, and having the honor of helping make so many dreams come true. For the last two years my nieces and nephew who are in high school have volunteered, and they have learned so much by watching the focus, determination and commitment from each athlete to win that shiny medal in the end. I look forward to volunteering for Special Olympics Winter Games for many years to come."

Cascade Natural Gas is proud of its employees, who served our community by volunteering at the 2011 Special Olympics Winter Games.



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meeting and highlight services available to area customers. Tina Beach, Cascade Natural Gas' standards and compliance manager, spoke about the UCC and the importance of calling 811 before you dig. Allison Spector, the conservation manager, spoke about Cascade Natural Gas' partnership with the chamber and what the conservation department has to offer to our community.

Cascade Natural Gas was happy to be involved in the event and looks forward to future opportunities within our local communities and chambers.

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