

Spokane Valley Partners
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Partners

Winter Issue
 2010

News from the Spokane Valley Partners

So, how is the New Food Warehouse working out?



Absolutely fabulous! The biggest food drives of the year just ended and all of our food is under one roof. The new (used but new to us) forklift weighs the food as it comes in saving tons of lifting and time. Deliveries are out of the parking lot, alongside the building and under cover. The walk-in cooler allowed us to give out over ten times the perishable fruits and vegetables compared to years past. The extra disbursement space has really reduced the operational stress and smoothed out the customer flow, further allowing for intake of up to three families at a time. Everything is on one level saving time and volunteer energy.

The stainless steel, four shelf, carts have proven very popular when it comes to disbursing food, re-filling shelves and storing food in either the freezer or the cooler. The only problem there is that we need about twice as many as we have. We also are looking forward to the time when we can afford to sprinkler the building (for fire safety), that will then allow us to utilize the top shelf of the pallet racks, a code requirement that we will need to meet in the future.

It is hard to build a block building and have the neighbors happy, but the great design work of the building complements the existing structure, and has received great reviews from the neighbors.

Sponsorships Available

Whether it is the 12th Annual Golf tournament, the 3rd Annual Ladies Night Out, or one of our special service projects we have many sponsorship opportunities available. Business marketing can be tricky, but one sure fire winner is sponsoring one of Spokane Valley Partners events and tying your name or that of your business to the largest food bank in Spokane County and premier social services that in 2009 met the needs of over 70,000 persons. Opportunities range from \$100 to \$4,000. Call Don today for a list of available opportunities (927-1153 ext 13). Multiple opportunities, qualify for a Sponsor discount, so call today!

Partners

News from the Spokane Valley Partners

www.svpart.org

Your gate way to "Whats Up"

This is the SVP web site and the place that makes donating very, very easy. The security of this system is the highest available. With any Debit or Credit card (Master Card or Visa) you can make a donation to Spokane Valley Partners, and print your own receipt. The system is easy and flexible you can donate once or set it up to recur anywhere from annual to monthly. Any spiffs that come with using your card are yours, whether they are cash back or airline miles. Also three months prior to either of our special events entry fees or tickets can be purchased using this system.

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Our Mission

Uniting the community by serving
individuals & families through:
◊ Providing basic life necessities
◊ Teaching life skills that promote
self reliance
◊ Addressing emotional &
psychological needs
◊ Collaborating with other
charitable & government agencies
◊ Enriching the quality of
community life

Ken's Corner

As we begin a new year, I want to share some updates on our programs here at SVP. We continue to operate the largest food outlet in Spokane County, serving approximately 25% of the emergency and supplemental food to county families. We project that in 2010 we will provide 1.4 million pounds of food to area residents. It is now typical for us to serve 250 families on Wednesdays alone. Our clothing bank is also serving record numbers. Utilization of services from our emergency and seasonal programs and those provided by our on-campus partners is also at extremely high levels.

Because of the generosity of our donors and volunteers, we are able to turn \$420,000 (donations) in operating revenue into over \$3 million in services. We have operated with a staff of eight and an administrative cost of less than 7.25%. (The "standard" for our type of organization is 15 %). These numbers are achieved by leveraging all of the in-kind donations and volunteer hours we receive; and for this we are most grateful.

Unfortunately, the hard dollar costs of our operations have been running over \$540,000 per year. No organization can sustain annual loss of \$120,000 for long; and SVP is no different. Our Board has made the difficult decision to reduce our staff (our only significant controllable expense) by two positions. Therefore, we will be contracting externally for some development and program services starting in January 2010. While these cuts are difficult and present some challenges, they are necessary if we are to continue providing the critical services that our community expects from us. And, we remain committed to do just that.

What you can do to help:

- tell a friend, neighbor, relative or coworker of our services, and encourage them to invest in our work
- encourage your church to help, if they are not already doing so (about half of area congregations contribute)
- talk to organizations you do business with about the value we provide or community
- volunteer if you can (we especially need drivers that can pick up food at local groceries and food drives as well as help with administrative tasks)
- serve on one of our event committees (Golf or Ladies Nite Out)
- talk to your local elected officials; and ask them to consider direct financial support as part of their annual budgeting process (yes, cities can do this)

SVP Clothing Bank Comes Through

This past August a new to Spokane mother of a family of five, (husband herself and their three children) came into the clothing bank. Due to being new to the Valley and a recent car break down and the husband having to rely on day labor, the family suddenly found themselves homeless. They were now living in a tent in the back yard of an acquaintance. Their only possessions were a small suit case of clothes per person, a hot plate and the tent. The food bank stepped in with an allotment of food (all had to be non-perishable). The clothing bank gave them bedding, pots and pans and a few utensils, then Rose, our Clothing Bank Manager remembered getting a child's swimming pool donated. Add to the pool a few towels some soap and shampoo, razors, shaving cream, tooth brushes and tooth paste. That was when mom lost it, she was hoping to "get by" and wondered if keeping her kids clean could be possible. The tears of joy and thanks came quickly.

Second Annual Ladies Nite Out a Big Success

The second annual Ladies Nite Out was held November 12th at the Mirabeau Park Hotel. Attendance at this year's event was up thirty percent over the inaugural 2008 event. The Ladies enjoyed a beverage of their choice and very fresh and substantial hors d'oeuvres. They had fun bidding in both the silent and the live auction, and trying to win their favorite bottle of wine by tossing bands at the bottles.

Great friends, good food, toss in a few bargains and of course all to help one of the Valley's most effective Charities and I would call the second annual Ladies Nite Out that raised nearly \$18,000 a total success.

A huge Thanks goes out to Co-Chairs Ann Miller and Barbara Olson and to their great committee members; Anne Martin, Sherri Beckerman, Tatyana Bistrevsky, Connie Dullanty, Pam Stewart, and Sharon Jayne. Also a special thank you to the many volunteers who gave up an evening to help make this year's event the best ever. Planning for next years event will begin in early January, anyone wishing to join the committee; should call Don Kaufman at 927-1153 ext 13.

Painless ways to Help!!

Albertsons Community partners card. If you have linked your card to Spokane Valley Partners then we receive a percentage of every dollar that you spend, and swipe your card at Albertsons.

To link your card to SV Partners; log onto www.albertsonscp.com enter your Preferred Card number, and enter SV Partners Community Partners ID # which is **49001015369**. Now just swipe your card every time you make a purchase at Albertsons and every quarter a check arrives for us to support the Smart Start program.

Yokes uses the E Scrip card. These cards are available here at S V Partners. Just email Don Kaufman at SVP, devdir@svpart.org with a note that you want your own E Scrip card and he will activate your card and mail it to you ready to use. E Scrip on behalf of Yokes sends us a check every quarter that also supports our Smart Start program. Just remember to swipe your card every time you shop.

Thank You Albertsons and Yokes!!

Seeking E-Mail Addresses

SV Partners is seeking better, faster and more economical ways to communicate with our donors and friends. To that end we are asking that if your willing to share with us your email address that you send an email to Don Kaufman at devdir@svpart.org in that email would you tell us if you are willing to receive your newsletters via email. None of our addresses (street or email) nor phone numbers, are sold, rented or exchanged, they will only be used by SV Partners.

S V Partners Wish List

**Sponsors for 2010 Programs and events.
Men and women to volunteer for the Golf Tournament
and/or the Ladies Nite Out Committees.**

Layette items for new babies:
Disposable Diapers
Children's under wear and socks
Personal hygiene items
Clothing bank volunteers
Top Ramen
Mac and Cheese
Cold Cereal
Laundry Soap
Copy paper