

Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. 2018 Annual Report

Programs for Low-Income

Emergency Programs—Provided food, lodging, and utility assistance to 367 people in 175 households in order to prevent eviction, and utility shutoffs, and to establish permanent housing. Additional services were available for Veterans.

Energy Assistance - Helped 3,509 people in 2,492 low-income households offset the high cost of winter heating bills with a one-time payment to their fuel vendor (included clients that heat with wood). Some furnaces were replaced.

Food Bank Program—Local food pantries in all four counties provided 12,372 food boxes to 30,508 individuals (duplicated count). Fresh produce was also available at senior centers and other sites

Self-Sufficiency Programs—Assisted 86 people in 33 households with security deposits and partial rent payments for up to six months. Adults participated in monthly meetings and trainings designed to increase their self-reliance.

Weatherization—Reduced heat waste, improved indoor air quality, and addressed health and safety issues by conducting extensive diagnostics, caulking, insulating floors, attics, and walls, sealing duct work and replacing doors for 15 people in 13 households. Exhaust fans were installed and some furnaces replaced.

Programs for Everyone

Homeownership Programs— Homebuyer and budget education workshops; pre-purchase, foreclosure, and financial capabilities counseling; and, for eligible households, mortgage payment assistance was provided to 830 people in 441 households.

Transportation—Provided 80,820 rides for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and members of the public to their employment, job training, schools, grocery stores, banks, medical appointments, and other destinations. In addition to persons riding the fixed route or summer shuttle whom we could not count individually, we picked up 1,141 passengers at their homes.

Kids Club—A State-Certified Daycare Center for children grades K-6 served 116 children with 16,349 hours of child care. Kids Club was created to reduce the number of children home alone.

Housing Rehabilitation—Seven people in four low- and moderate-income households were awarded loans for repairs to preserve the quality of their homes. Repairs to roofs, foundations, electrical, plumbing systems, and kitchens were common. The loans were 0% interest and will be repaid when the ownership of the property changes.

Tax and Legal Aid— Procured legal assistance for 38 seniors and 11 low-income persons. Tax preparation numbers were not available.

Newsletters and Outreach—Ninety newsletters, presentations, and social media posts regarding activities and services reached nearly 22,000 people.

Programs for Everyone

Summer Lunch Program—To ensure that children received at least one nutritious meal per day, 5,698 free meals were served during the summer months to youth ages 1-18 in La Grande.

Information and Referral—Responded to 28,852 requests from 9,407 individuals for information on services and opportunities available within the communities.

Programs for Seniors

Health Programs—Held evidence-based workshops on Living Well with Chronic Conditions and Chronic Pain, Diabetes Self-Management, and Diabetes Prevention. Health clinics provided senior citizens with blood pressure checks, flu shots and foot care. We served 1,104 people with 2,854 interactions. The PEARLS program provided one-on-one sessions with professionals to cope with minor depression, often after the loss of a loved one or serious illness.

In-Home Care (OPI) - Assisted 125 frail seniors, 60 years and older, with daily activities such as bathing, dressing, light housekeeping, cooking, and shopping. Hours of services provided was 18,413.

Options Counseling—Trained professional staff provided 400 hours of guidance to 269 individuals and their families to address immediate needs or plan for the future. They were taught how to choose services and made aware of local, public and privately -paid options.

Programs for Seniors

Recreation—More than 520 recreational activities such as dances, card games, billiards, and exercising brought together 5,292 people (duplicated count).

Caregiver Support—Provided services to support 29 family caregivers with 1,119 hours of service. When caring for an elderly spouse, an elderly friend, or if over 60 and caring for a grandchild, Community Connection provided equipment, minor home modifications, and individual counseling, as well as a short-term substitute for the caregiver. Powerful Tools for Caregivers six-week workshops empower one to take care of himself while caring for a relative or friend.

Senior Meals— Served 1,098 adults over the age of 60 (including spouses), regardless of income, 45,065 hot, nutritious meals. Also served 11,047 meals to 597 volunteers and people under 60. Lunches were served 22 times per week at 8 sites. The meal not only assured at least one nutritious meal daily, but the interaction served the individual's social needs and provided a place to meet friends, play cards and bingo, dance, etc.

Meals-on-Wheels—Nutritious noon meals were delivered to the homes of 509 frail, elderly individuals who were unable to leave their homes. During the year, 48,521 hot meals were delivered during the week and frozen or fresh meals were delivered for the weekends.



Executive Director's Message

On behalf of Community Connection, I am pleased to issue this annual report for Fiscal Year 2018, a year that underscored the challenges facing our area but presented us with many opportunities.

Nearly 9,000 people in our region live in poverty--an alarming number! Our needs assessment highlighted lack of access to food and lack of affordable housing as the top barriers people face every day. In response, we put into motion an analysis of the food bank system, which is still underway. On the housing front, our staff build partnerships to help clients attain rental housing in addition to our other housing programs for home-buying, home repair, and foreclosure mitigation.

Stagnant federal funding for senior programs makes sustaining our senior meals program an ongoing challenge; local support and extensive fundraising are essential but rest assured, we are dedicated to preserving this flagship program!

Internally, we continually refine our accounting system to respond to ever-changing requirements, while investments in technology protect agency data and provide staff the tools they need to be effective.

Looking ahead, the new tax on employee wages will bring significant resources to our county's public transit programs. Planning for the new services must include focused public outreach to ensure the funds' greatest and highest uses.

As the director of this fine organization, I could not be more proud of the services Community Connection provides and the board members, volunteers, and staff who make it all happen. They are THE BEST!

Margaret Davidson, Executive Director

Financial Statement

Schedule of Support and Revenue

July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

In kind Goods & Services	\$965,667
Contributions	\$159,787
Fundraising	\$26,045
Grants, Awards, & Contracts	\$5,495,201
Program Fees	\$714,811
Other	\$109,877
Total Revenue	<u>\$7,471,388</u>

Statement of Functional Expenses

July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

Operating	\$3,743
Energy Assistance	\$1,096,454
Transportation	\$1,867,548
Housing	\$208,808
Food Bank	\$173,133
Youth	\$255,807
Seniors	\$1,595,606
Weatherization & Rehab	\$566,162
Emergency Assist. & Self-Sufficiency	\$447,521
Community Services	\$121,775
In kind & Other	\$958,819
Total Expenses *	<u>\$7,295,376</u>

*including Management and General Expenses \$576,444
and Fundraising Expenses \$4,434

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$5,700,904
Net Assets at End of Year	\$5,702,564

Board of Directors

Steve McClure-Chair, Union County
Scott Myers-Vice-Chair, Grant County
Joe Adamson-Secretary, Baker County
Al Altnow, Grant County
Paul Castilleja, Wallowa County
Jan Ensign, Grant County
Tom Hiatt, Union County
Cami Miller, Union County
Bruce Nichols, Baker County
Roswitha Parks, Wallowa County
Barbara Roberts, Wallowa County
James Stivers, Wallowa County

Office Locations

Administration Office

2802 Adams Avenue, La Grande, Oregon 97850
(541) 963-3186

Baker County Senior Center

2810 Cedar Street, Baker City, Oregon 97814
(541) 523-6591

John Day Senior Center

142 NE Dayton, John Day, Oregon 97845
(541) 575-2949

Northeast Oregon Public Transit

2204 E Penn Avenue, La Grande, OR 97850
541-963-2877
www.neopt.org

Union County Senior Center

1504 Albany Street, La Grande, Oregon 97850
(541) 963-7532

Wallowa County Senior Center

702 NW 1st Street, Enterprise, Oregon 97828
(541) 426-3840

Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc.

Serving Baker, Grant, Union, and Wallowa Counties

ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal Year 2018

Mission Statement:

The mission of Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. is to advocate for and assist senior citizens, children, low-income persons, and persons with disabilities in attaining basic human needs and in becoming more self-sufficient.

This will be accomplished by providing direct client services; stimulating a more efficient use of existing resources; broadening the available resource base; and providing decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing for low and moderate income persons.