



WINTER | 2017

OREGON ENERGY FUND'S
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

“As a stay at home mom, my children are my fulltime job and my daily joy. But when we lost my husband to a car accident in 2014, raising two young children became my greatest concern. We had just moved to rural Oregon and suddenly, our sole source of both income and support were gone... we were surrounded by boxes and struggling with grief. I knew my children needed me to be strong more than ever before—so I reached out for help.

New neighbors stepped in to watch our little ones, a local food co-op provided some dinners, a church group arrived to help me move furniture and get unpacked, and Oregon Energy Fund provided utility assistance that allowed me to save money for food, transportation, and my youngest child's medicine. I was able to find a job and secure childcare and slowly, we are rebuilding our lives. I am forever grateful to the Oregonians that were there for us when we needed them most.”

—Nina, mother of two, Vernonia

LOOK INSIDE FOR OUR 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



oregon
energy
FUND

oregonenergyfund.org/winternews

LOOKING BACK ON A TOUGH YEAR

OREGONIANS FACED STEEP CHALLENGES OVER THE PAST YEAR

Snowstorms last winter closed schools and businesses for days, forcing many working parents to take time off whether or not they could afford it. During the summer, wildfires displaced many people from their homes, while others were told to stay inside, as an ominous haze blanketed much of the state in dangerously unhealthy air.

While the storms and fires were difficult for all of us, they resulted in financial crisis for the 50% of Oregonians unable to cover an unexpected expense of just \$500. Families faced devastating income shortages as wage earners were unable to work. One of our partner agencies reported 161 individuals requesting utility bill assistance in a single day.

HOW WE HELPED

We responded quickly to these needs, raising over \$1 million to help provide utility assistance across the state. Oregon Energy Fund's emergency assistance has helped thousands of people — including hundreds of seniors living on fixed incomes — pay utility bills that increased due to higher usage.

We began developing new partnerships with agencies to reach more communities and won grants from both businesses and foundations. This will help us build our organizational capacity and serve even more people in the coming years.

WE'RE READY FOR NEXT YEAR

With another tough winter forecasted, we've already set in motion our 2017-18 plan for aid. One of our primary goals is to increase funds by 20% annually for the next three years in order to better address the 78% of Oregonians left unserved.

We'll also be addressing the ever-increasing needs across Oregon by working with more like-minded organizations to keep children, seniors, and the disabled healthy, safe, and housed.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS WORK POSSIBLE

We are able to provide relief to Oregonians thanks to our generous supporters. Thank you for helping us assist so many individuals and families in need this past year.



Brian Allbritton
Executive Director
Oregon Energy Fund

1 in 8 Oregonians
will struggle with
the choice between
paying their heating
bill & buying
essentials like food
& medicine.



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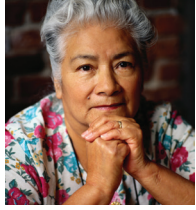
SCOTT BOLTON
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SAVE THE DATE

For our Annual POWER GALA
October 6, 2018

HOW DISASTER STRIKES

The kinds of events that can push a neighbor into a financial crisis include natural disasters, medical emergencies, job loss, or accidents. These can be especially hard on families with young children as well as elderly adults. However, when Oregonians come together, a little bit of help can go a long way.



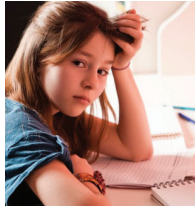
IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP

"My elderly neighbor lost her husband last year and she has been struggling to adjust to being on her own and keeping up with her bills.

We have been concerned because she had so many big medical bills to deal with after his death. She has been so worried because she lives on a fixed income.

I suggested several times that she might try calling a charity to see if they could help, but she would always say "no thanks." She was embarrassed by the thought of having to ask anyone for help.

She finally made an appointment at a nearby social services agency. The staff were very helpful and explained how to apply for energy assistance. Later when I saw her again, she seemed so much more herself. I was so glad to hear that Oregon Energy Fund was able to help her."



A DAUGHTER'S PERSPECTIVE

"My mom was devastated when she lost her receptionist job after 16 years. After she and my dad were divorced, she was able to support us with her job plus the income from the guest room that we rented out. Unfortunately, our roommate injured her back and was put on medical leave so she couldn't pay her rent. We live very modestly, but the double blow left us in a bad position and we couldn't afford to pay the utility bills.

When she told me that, I asked myself, "How were we going to refrigerate or cook our food without power? How would we keep up with our homework without lights? Most importantly, how would this affect her chances of getting another job soon?"

I got so stressed out just thinking about it. But a good friend told mom where she could go to apply for energy assistance. Fortunately, we were able to get the help we needed from Oregon Energy Fund."



THE CONSEQUENCES OF A WILDFIRE

The Stewarts were people you may have read about during the fires last summer. With little notice, they had to evacuate their Gorge home. With just a few hours to prepare, the older couple grabbed essential items: birth certificates, clothing, photos, and a few personal items, and headed to Portland stay with their daughter.

Fortunately, their house did not burn, and they were allowed to return home. But, Mr. Stewart had to be treated a few times for emergency respiratory conditions triggered by the smoky air. To prevent another attack, the couple kept the windows shut and the AC on to combat the effects of the smoke and the extreme summer heat. Unfortunately, this increased the couple's energy consumption significantly, and they were hit with a devastating combination of medical bills, utility costs, and other expenses from the fire that they couldn't afford.

Oregon Energy Fund provided energy assistance to help ease the Stewarts' burden.



THE 1.5 INCHES THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

"I didn't believe it could happen to me. I'm a good driver. But last winter with just an inch and a half of snow on the ground, my truck was T-boned by another driver. That's what messed up my hip and set off a chain reaction of consequences.

Because of my injury, I wasn't able to work for a while. Because my truck was totaled, I wasn't able to use it in my business as a contractor. That meant a huge loss of work and income. The medical bills from the ER visit and treatments that followed piled up.

Thank goodness I was able to get energy assistance to keep the lights on and get myself back on track."

OUR GENEROUS BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

ORRCO

ORRCO is the largest sponsor of our innovative Oil Reclamation Project. This program salvages unused household heating oil to fund our energy bill assistance. ORRCO also salvages unused commercial oil products from sources like business fleets, municipalities, and automotive repair shops.

WEST OREGON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

West Oregon Electric Cooperative, serving over 1,200 square miles of rugged, rural terrain partnered with Oregon Energy Fund to offer support in the form of charitable giving options on their customer bills. Co-op members now have the opportunity to "round up" their bill, as well as giving one-time and recurring contributions. These dollars and cents provide support to our neighbors in western Oregon, helping to power individuals and families in need.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR GREAT BALLS OF FIRE!!!

Salvador Molly's Restaurant

1523 SW Sunset Blvd (in the Hillsdale area), Portland, Oregon 97239

Saturday, January 27 –

Saturday, February 24th

Test your spicy food fortitude for a great cause or enjoy watching the show! Help support Oregon Energy Fund by stopping by Salvador Molly's and ordering a mild or spicy item from their special Great Balls of Fire menu throughout February. A portion of sales from each order goes to help Oregonians in need of energy assistance. While you are there enjoy cheering on the spicy food eating contestants who take up the Great Balls of Fire challenge.

Are you up for a spicier challenge? The month-long drive begins with a playful Toughest Tongue Contest and ends with the crowning of the King or Queen of Heat.

Call Salvador Molly's at 503-293-1790 and sign up to participate in one of the Great Balls of Fire contests.

Visit www.salvadormollys.com for details.





THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

Together we raised over \$1 million to provide energy assistance to families across Oregon.

We helped 3,094 individuals, including 442 seniors, 405 people with disabilities, and 1,099 children.

Total revenue:
\$1,143,770*

Total expenses:
\$1,288,084

Over the past year, 83 volunteers donated 791 hours to Oregon Energy Fund.

*Oregon Energy Fund income available for energy assistance is the result of prior year's fundraising activities.



COAST

\$44,464	Assistance Provided
120	Households
88	Seniors/Disabled
274	Children

MID-VALLEY

\$12,766	Assistance Provided
240	Households
34	Seniors/Disabled
94	Children

SOUTHERN

\$66,910	Assistance Provided
159	Households
63	Seniors/Disabled
153	Children

METRO

\$272,558	Assistance Provided
584	Households
217	Seniors/Disabled
499	Children

COLUMBIA GORGE

\$5,382	Assistance Provided
11	Households
5	Seniors/Disabled
19	Children

CENTRAL

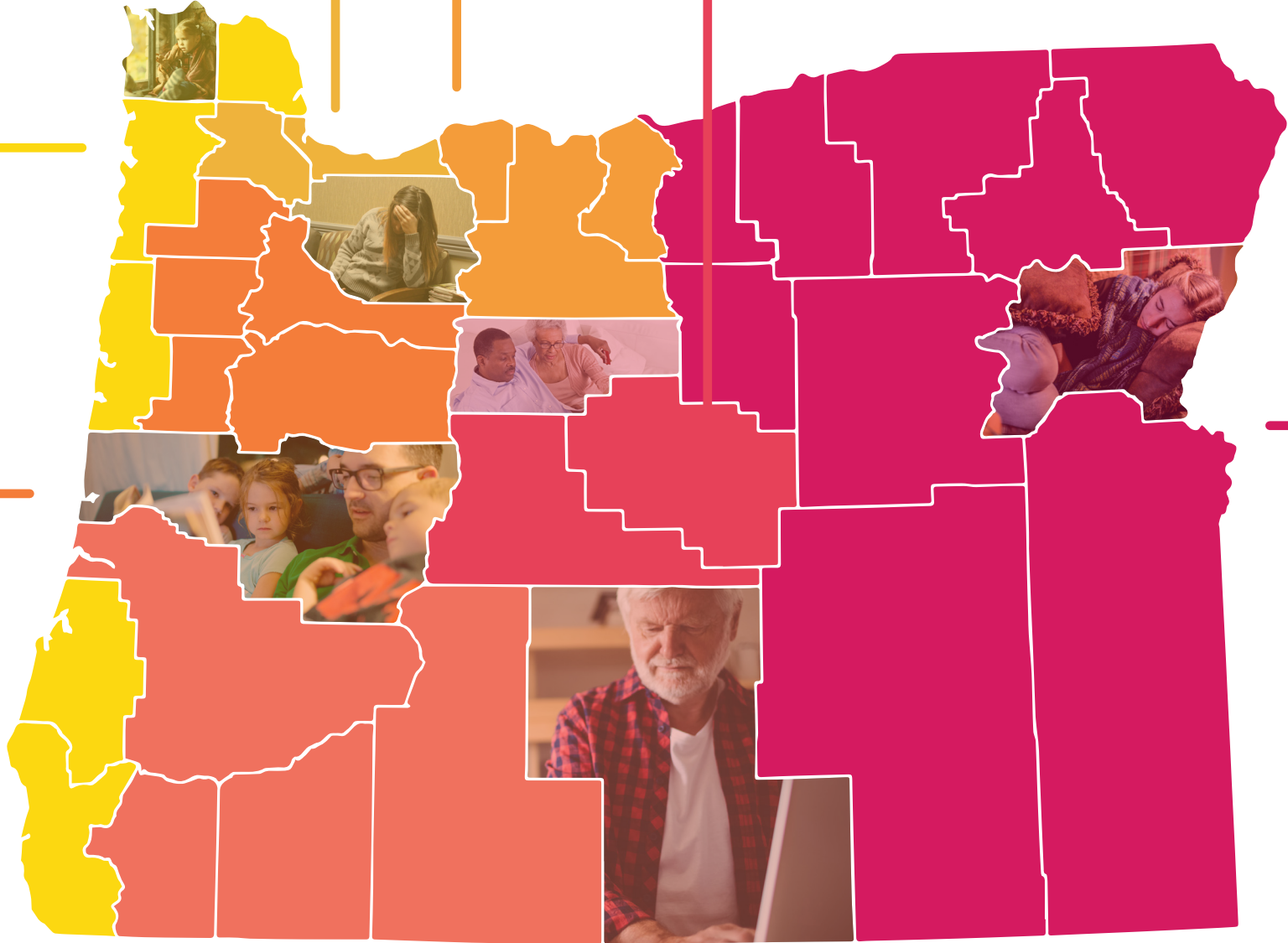
\$24,511	Assistance Provided
76	Households
24	Seniors/Disabled
46	Children

"Last winter, when the temperatures dropped our heating costs rose a lot. My husband and I live on a fixed income and we didn't have enough to keep on top of these bills. I am so glad Oregon Energy Fund could help us."

EASTERN

\$11,394	Assistance Provided
19	Households
11	Seniors/Disabled
14	Children

"My neighbor's husband is on hospice and because she spent her resources on his care, she was not able to keep up with her bills. I told her where she could call to find help. Later, I was so glad to hear that Oregon Energy Fund was able to help her with energy assistance."



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COAST

Care, Inc., Clatsop Community Action, Oregon Coast Community Action, St. Mary's Society of St. Vincent dePaul, The Salvation Army - Coos Bay

METRO

Care To Share, Clackamas County Social Services Division, Impact NW, SnowCAP, Washington Community Action Organization, Human Solutions Inc., The Salvation Army - Hillsboro, Sandy Community Action Center, SEI

MID-VALLEY

Catholic Community Services, Community Services Consortium, The Salvation Army - Salem, The Salvation Army - McMinnville

SOUTHERN

ACCESS, Klamath & Lake Community Action, The Salvation Army - Klamath, The Salvation Army - Medford

COLUMBIA GORGE

Mid-Columbia Community Action Council Inc.,

CENTRAL

Neighborimpact

EASTERN

Community Action Program of East Central Oregon



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	Ms. Mary E. Harrison	Mr. James A. Neal and Mrs. Karen M. Neal	Mr. Orin Setzer		
	Mr. Jeffrey I. Hartnett and Mrs. Susan E. Gibson Hartnett		Mr. Chester A. Smith Jr. and		

“Our family had a string of bad luck that started with someone stealing my mom’s purse. Because they used her ID and credit cards, she had to deal with identity theft, which was very expensive. Then, our roommate who was helping to pay rent lost her job. Fortunately, when we got a shut off notice because we couldn’t keep up with the utility bills Oregon Energy Fund was there.”



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WE BELIEVE IN **POWER** FOR ALL.

OUR PARTNERS GO THE EXTRA MILE

AN IMPORTANT CONNECTION

While John, a retired veteran, had typically paid his bills in a timely manner, a serious medical issue put him in the hospital and everything at his house took a backseat. When his electricity was turned off after he fell behind in paying his bills, a friend of John's contacted the utility company to let them know about the situation. The utility representative listened and understood John's circumstances and helped by contacting Oregon Energy Fund. Oregon Energy Fund was able to offer John assistance that got his power back on and helped him catch up on his bills so he could get a fresh start.



CLACKAMAS PGE SUPERVISOR DISPLAYS COLLABORATIVE AND GENEROUS SPIRIT



A family in Clackamas County was facing serious financial hardship. Out of resources and options and unable to pay their utility bills, their power was shut off. In an effort to raise the \$400 they needed, the father stood outside with his family holding a sign asking for help. Every day the family's mother would bring in money they had had collected to try to pay down the bill.

When a PGE supervisor learned about this family, she contacted Oregon Energy Fund, knowing they've been a critical resource for customers in the past. The customer was able to make a partial payment, but needed help with the remaining \$200. We gladly approved the funds so that the family's utilities could be turned on again.

But PGE did even more. They sent one of their field representatives to walk through the house and help the customer determine what factors might be causing the utility bill to be so high. They also contacted Clackamas County to arrange weatherization training and resources for the family. By working generously and collaboratively, PGE helped this family do more than pay their bill.