

Celebrating 20 Years

# POTLUCK IN THE PARK

Serving a free hot meal to anyone in need since 1991

Christmas Newsletter | Winter 2011 | Issue 38

## A POTLUCK CHRISTMAS DINNER

### OUR 18th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS

dinner will be held Sunday December 25th at the YWCA of Great Portland, 1111 SW 10th Avenue from 1 pm-4pm. This will be the 16th year that the YWCA has co-hosted this popular event.

### Last Year We Served Over 1010 Guests

As is our tradition, guests will dine on turkey dinners with all the trimmings, wonderful desserts and beverages. Guests and volunteers will be entertained by local jazz musicians performing throughout the banquet. This is Tom Grant's 18th year of entertaining our guests with his cool jazz. Tom will also host a fantastic line up of talent at Winter Warm 5, our annual benefit concert, see page 2 for more information.

Students from Cathedral Elementary will distribute socks they have filled with toiletries and candy. Fred Meyer volunteers will hand out warm wear, including hats, scarves and gloves gleaned from their Giving Tree Project at the main office. Last year, Freddie's volunteers collected 1100 gifts, and are bringing more this year. Guests can have their photos taken with Santa, and use cell phones loaned by volunteers to make free calls to their friends and families. A coffee and pastry cart will be available for those waiting in line. Pet food from The Pongo Fund will be distributed and kennels for guests' pets will be available during the meal.



*Musicians Al Craido on bass, Patrick Lamb on saxophone, Ramsey Embick on piano and Tim Paxton on drums performed last year.*

### VOLUNTEER SIGN UP IS OPEN!

**NO WALK-INS PLEASE.**

Call the Christmas Volunteer Hotline at **503.255.7611** or go online to **potluckinthepark.org** to add your name to the list.

### DON'T MISS THIS INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY

to serve the needy and join the Potluck Family on Christmas Day. We couldn't do this without your help! Volunteers are needed starting on Saturday, Christmas Eve to transform the YWCA into a holiday dining room. On Christmas Day, we need volunteers from noon to 10:00 pm for a variety of tasks. Please include the names of ALL of the people in your volunteer party. Once you have registered, our volunteer coordinator will contact you.

We are very grateful to all our supporters for their donations to our banquet. Special thanks to **West Coast Productions** and **Peter Corvallis Productions** who donate much of the equipment needed for the banquet. Each year, **Sherman Clay Pianos** donates a beautiful grand piano for the musicians. **Hilton Hotel** and **Doubletree Hotel** donate much of the food, and **Loaves and Fishes** allows us to use their Central and Elm Court kitchens.

# WINTER WARM 5

A holiday concert to benefit Potluck in the Park



## RENOWNED JAZZ PIANIST

and recording artist TOM GRANT leads an all-star lineup of entertainers accompanied by drummer Jeffery Frankel, string bass and bass guitarist David Captein and jazz jam legend Ron Steen. Singers include: Shelly Rudolph with her sultry approach

to rhythm and blues, Marilyn Keller, a vocalist who can do it all, and Nancy King, the Pacific Northwest's pre-eminent jazz singer and one of the leading jazz singers in the world, best known for bebop-based scat singing. Also joining this unique concert is Sweet Baby James Benton, who has been called Oregon's Ray Charles for his mellow tenor voice.

The evening includes a delicious meal at the historic Acadian Ballroom, graciously donated by Barton Productions Catering. Doors open at 4:30 pm. The silent auction and buffet start at 5:00 pm followed by the concert and live auction from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Auctioneer Steve DeAngelo, of DeAngelo's Catering will conduct the live auction and paddle raise. Auction items include an Oregon Coast Getaway, a Hawaii vacation, Langdon Farms golf package, back-yard barbeque package, and delicious food and wine.

*The event is sponsored by The Association of Catering & Event Professionals, Comcast, K103 and KTVA Productions.*

## The Oregonian

### A TRADITION OF GIVING

**THE OREGONIAN'S SEASON OF SHARING** holiday fundraising campaign benefits Oregon and Southwest Washington individuals, families and social service agencies. Over 350 agencies applied and 20 finalists were selected for the 2011 Wishbook. Last year, the agencies featured received checks for over \$5000. Reporter Grant Butler interviewed long time volunteers and board members Denise Williams, Julius Brown, and Cheri Baber for the article Serving up Potluck in the Park for two decades. On Christmas day, the Oregonian will publish a second article on Potluck including how readers responded to the featured stories. Potluck is very grateful to the Oregonian's Executive Editor Peter Bhatia, Marjorie Helton, the newsroom committee, the editorial department and the generous donors who have made our wishes come true.

**GENERAL ADMISSION** \$65 ticket includes buffet supper and two beverages; **VIP** \$100 ticket includes a private reception, CD's from the artists and a private seafood buffet with unlimited beverages.

*Reserved Table of ten/ \$550.00*

*VIP Reserved Table of eight/ \$700.00.*

**Buy Tickets online** [www.potluckinthepark.org](http://www.potluckinthepark.org)  
**or call 503.432.9477**

### WITH GRATITUDE

We are very grateful to everyone who has helped Potluck accomplish our mission in 2011. Space does not allow for us to acknowledge all the volunteers, churches, non-profits, businesses, foundations, health care practitioners and individuals who have contributed; time, money, expertise and in-kind donations. Your support is invaluable and we are humbled by your kindness.





*Utzinger accepts the Humanitarian Award from City Commissioner Dan Saltzman*

**THE SPIRIT OF PORTLAND AWARDS** are presented every year to those who have made positive contributions to our city and neighborhoods above and beyond the average volunteer or staff commitment. On October 27, **David Utzinger** received the Humanitarian Award for “Stepping up to help in times of crisis.” In his acceptance speech David said,

*“While I feel quite honored, I received this news with considerable unease. Given how many others of you have stepped up in a big way in the last few years to make Potluck what it is today... I will accept this award on behalf of the entire organization.”*



**UMPQUA**  
B · A · N · K

Umpqua Bank associates hosted a canned food drive, ten Portland-Metro stores collected non-perishable food items and supplies for Potluck. Group Hug!



In yet another year of great economic uncertainty, Potluck has been chosen to participate in the Willamette Week Give!Guide. Last year, this community fundraiser brought in more than \$8000. The Give!Guide's goal — and now ours — is to develop new donors, with a special emphasis on identifying new donors under the age of 36. The first \$2000 donated to Potluck in the Park will be matched by Portlandia, our newest business partner. In addition, Willamette Week will be providing approximately \$100,000 worth of incentive gifts to people who give.

Make sure everyone you know hears about this great opportunity to support Potluck and earn valuable and fun incentives in the process. Donations are accepted now and until midnight on Saturday, December 31. Make contributions online via [www.wweek.com/giveguide](http://www.wweek.com/giveguide)

## *Special Thanks to:*

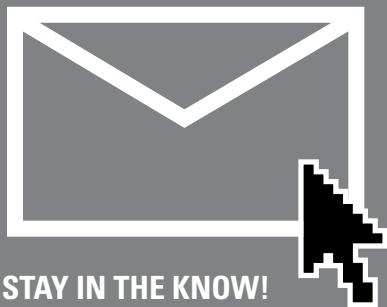
### **Christ Church Episcopal Parish Kitchen Teams Since 1992**

*Together we can provide nutritious food and an atmosphere of community to anyone in need.*



### **Hands On Greater Portland**

*Volunteers who serve weekly from 2–6pm!*



STAY IN THE KNOW!

## THIS IS OUR FINAL SNAIL-MAIL NEWSLETTER.

To sign up for the email newsletter send an email to [newsletter@potluckinthepark.org](mailto:newsletter@potluckinthepark.org) with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject field.

**Potluck in the Park**  
**PO Box 12443**  
**Portland, OR 97212-0443**

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## OUR HOLIDAY LETTER

As we commemorate our twenty years of service to Portland's neediest citizens, we want to take a moment to acknowledge the accomplishments of our many volunteers and supporters. Although our meal count has increased over 25% since 2008, we've never run out of food or had to turn anyone away.

For much of our history, Potluck has been one of Portland's best kept secrets, except among the guests we serve. In the last five years, our great word-of-mouth has reached a broader community attracting new donors, corporate sponsors and business partners. Because of partnerships with food and supply donors like Oregon Food Bank and Birch Community Services, Potluck has successfully met the escalating demand for our services.

But Potluck still needs your financial support. Your donations help us buy food to supplement the donated food, help us buy the 1000 plates, forks and napkins we use weekly, help us rent the kitchen space where we store over 3000 pounds of food and supplies gleaned each week. Even with no paid administration or staff it still costs over \$1.50 per guest per week to make Potluck happen.

We're writing to ask for your financial support during this challenging economy.

*Your donation will help Potluck in the Park continue our mission to serve a free meal to anyone in need, every Sunday rain or shine.*

*If you are one of our regular volunteers, thank you so much for all the time and talent you contribute. Please accept our sincere appreciation; we couldn't do it without you! If you've never been to Potluck or it's been awhile, we hope to see you at the park soon.*

*If you are a business, you can participate in a matching gift program to double or triple your contributions. Please check with your HR Department to find out how your gift can be matched!*

*On behalf of the Board of Directors, and the Potluck family, we wish you a peaceful holiday season.*

*In community,*  
**Cheri Baber**  
**BOARD CHAIR**

Donate by Mail send your check to:  
**Potluck in the Park PO Box 12443**  
**Portland, OR 97212**

**DONATE NOW!**  
**[www.potluckinthepark.org](http://www.potluckinthepark.org)**

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Cheri Baber, Board Chair*  
*Mary Hunger, Board Secretary*  
*Mylen Shenker, Board Treasurer*

#### **Board Members**

*Julius Brown*  
*Anthony Fell*  
*Alison Gilmore*  
*Larry Gilmore*  
*Augusta Shipsey, Corresponding Secretary*  
*Denise Williams*  
*David Utzinger, Park Logistics*  
*Becki Bosley, Incoming Treasurer*

#### **Advisory Board**

*Maxine Borcharding*  
*Sharon Darcy*  
*Shelley Darcy*  
*Stephen Kelly*  
*Peggy Reuler*  
*Don Richardson*  
*Clare Simons*

### JOIN US ONLINE!



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[twitter.com/PotluckPortland](http://twitter.com/PotluckPortland)