



# SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

## Philomath Community Services (PCS)

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Spring is settling in across West Benton County, with longer days, early blooms, and that gradual shift toward the busy seasons ahead. At Philomath Community Services, this quieter kind of spring energy feels just right as we move from winter work into the activities that make summer great, such as our Celebrating Service & Community event this upcoming August.

March on Hunger wrapped up with a strong community response, and those contributions have significantly strengthened our food inventory. The garden volunteers and members are preparing for planting, volunteers are returning to their seasonal routines, and several new board members are stepping into leadership roles as we look toward the next chapter of PCS.

### A Special Honor for PCS

In January, U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley presented a U.S. flag—flown over the nation’s capital—to Executive Director Sharon Thornberry and Program Manager Karen Rowe, recognizing their service through Nancy’s Food Pantry. A link to the video is [here](#).



### Newsletter Signup

If you are reading this but have not signed up for our newsletter, please [subscribe here](#).

## Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic Recap

In late February, community members gathered at Lupe's Community Garden for a hands-on fruit tree pruning workshop. The sunny afternoon brought great turnout, shared learning, and plenty of practical skill-building. It was a wonderful way to kick off the growing season together. Thanks to all who came out!



## March on Hunger: Another Success!

This year's March on Hunger showed just how much our community cares. Thanks to your generosity, PCS collected **4,700 pounds of food** (over two tons!) to support neighbors who rely on Nancy's Food Pantry. From canned meats and boxed entrées to hygiene items and pantry staples, every bag left on a porch or driveway helped restock our shelves and strengthen local food security. This year, food drive barrels were put out at the following locations, so big thanks to these organizations:

- ★ Dollar General
- ★ BCSCU
- ★ Les Schwab
- ★ Philomath City Hall
- ★ Philomath Community Library
- ★ Citizens Bank
- ★ Pioneer Connect
- ★ La Rockita
- ★ PYAC



We're grateful to everyone who donated, spread the word, or volunteered. Your support keeps March on Hunger thriving and ensures families across Philomath have dependable access to nutritious food as we head into spring.

## PCS Community Members Recognized at 2026 Samaritan Awards

We are incredibly proud of the PCS community members recognized at this year's Samaritan Awards. Congratulations to **Dale Carter** (PCS Facilities Manager), **Shelby Gilstrap** (PCS Gleaners Member), and **Diane Crocker** (Philomath City Council Liaison to PCS). Their dedication, service, and steady leadership make a real difference for our neighbors.

And [here is a link](#) to the Philomath News feature with full award details.

## A Boost for Local Families

This past winter, PCS received a one-time allotment of **5,000 diapers** from the Lane County Diaper Bank to support families in our community. Every box in this delivery represents less stress for parents, healthier babies, and a stronger foundation for households working hard to make ends meet.

We're grateful for partners like the Lane County Diaper Bank who help ensure essential supplies reach the families who need them most. This is community in action.



## Reminder: No Dumping!

We're grateful for the generosity Philomath shows PCS year-round. Please remember, though, that **dumping items on our property is not allowed and is illegal**. To donate properly and ensure your gifts truly help, please visit the [Donations page](#) on our website. Thank you for respecting our space and supporting our work.



## Farewell and Thank You!

PCS extends heartfelt gratitude to Eneida Hallenborg (pictured to the right) as she retires from our Board of Directors.

Her bilingual expertise strengthened our commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that vital materials reached every corner of our community. Eneida's steady leadership on Governance, her thoughtful work with Public Relations, and her role as liaison to Lupe's Community Garden all reflect her deep dedication to service. As she relocates to Michigan, we honor the care, clarity, and compassion she brought to PCS. Eneida leaves a lasting imprint, and we wish her every success as she continues her community-minded work in her next chapter.



## Fresh New Board Members!

Welcome, Rocky and Alba! PCS is excited to welcome two new board members whose experience and community commitment strengthen our work.

**Rochelle "Rocky" Rainey** brings deep local roots and decades of public health experience, including international work in water and sanitation. A Philomath resident since 1994, she's energized by PCS's mission and excited to give back to the community she's long called home.

**Alba Sederlin** grew up in Mexico and has extensive experience serving multicultural communities. With a strong academic background and a collaborative, team-centered leadership style, she brings thoughtful insight and a genuine commitment to community engagement.

We are grateful to have both Rocky and Alba on the PCS Board as we continue growing into a vibrant spring season.



**Clockwise from Top/Left:**  
Rochelle Rainey, Connor Smith,  
Taraleen Elliott, Jean Goul,  
Eneida Hallenborg, Alba  
Sederlin, Laurie Lewis, Sharon  
Thornberry, David M. Low, Mike  
Goodrich, Jodi Russell, Tom  
Klipfel, Sandy Heath

## PCS Online

Join us on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Nextdoor!



Donation Webpage



Main Webpage

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🌸 *Thank you, and have a wonderful spring!* 🌸

*Philomath Community Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and an equal opportunity provider.*

