

# KLAMATH & LAKE COMMUNITY ACTION SERVICES HOMELESS BENEFITS PROGRAM & REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE SERVICES

FEBRUARY 2011

NON ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION FOR DISABLED HOMELESS AND LOW  
INCOME INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO APPLY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Klamath & Lake Community Action Services

Helping People. Changing Lives.



1803 Main Street  
Klamath Falls, OR 97601  
Tel. (541) 882-3500  
Fax (541) 882-3674

Check us out @

<http://klcas.org>

Social Security Applications			
Referrals in December		Total Referrals as of January 31	
Total Referrals	28	Total Referrals	35
Accepted for Representation	18	Accepted for Representation	16
Ruled Out	8	Ruled Out	11
Pending Decision	2	Pending Decision	8
		Awards	4
		Denials	2

## A BUSY MONTH....

December and January were busy months here at Klamath and Lake Community Action Services. Our energy assistance program is in full swing and our facility has been busy helping folks keep their heat turned on. It was also a busy time for the Homeless Benefits Program as we received a flurry of Social Security awards toward the end of the month. Four deserving disabled folks will now be able to keep roofs over their heads and take care of their disabilities

Don't forget, these awards are also a win for our community. I estimate these four awards alone will pump about \$160,000 into the local economy during this coming year. Looking ahead, we hope to win at least 30 more awards in 2011, bringing hundreds of thousands of dollars to our community AND taking a burden off our local medical community by allowing the hospital and clinic to back bill and recoup past services they provided.

## AND THEY WILL KEEP GETTING BUSIER....

Our Representative Payee Program is now up and running. We have been inundated with inquiries

from a variety of community partners, confirming our suspicions that this is a huge unfilled need in our community. If you know of someone who has an out-of-town payee and they would like to have their money managed locally, send them our way. Changing to a local payee is fairly easy but takes about 3 weeks to get through the Social Security system. Having a payee appointed for someone who does not already have one is a little trickier. Contrary to what you would think, the SSA does not like to appoint payees for people. They will, with a doctor's recommendation, but even then reluctantly. That said, If you know of someone receiving SSI or SSDI benefits and that person is putting their housing, food, or other basic needs at risk through financial mismanagement, please give us a call. We can help with the process of getting a payee appointed and keep those folks safe and housed!

## YOU GOTTA EAT SOMEWHERE.....

As most of you know, Klamath and Lake Community Action Services offers many programs to fight poverty and keep people housed. Sometimes these efforts are readily

visible as they provide money directly into the pockets of needy individuals. Other programs, however, are meant to stabilize families and help them maintain their foothold in their climb out of poverty. One such program is Sunshine Tykes Daycare. It is a free to very low cost daycare and preschool that allows low income folks to access quality daycare while they take care of business with DHS, the courts, or what have you. You have only to look to your own children or grandchildren to realize what a valuable service this is for folks with limited resources.

While the service is free to our clients, the daycare is costly to operate and in danger of being discontinued. How can you help, you might ask? Attached are coupons for Old Town Pizza here in Klamath Falls. All you have to do is go there February 17th, between 5:00pm and 9:00pm and eat! Present the coupon and order your meal. When you do, 15% of your bill will be donated by Old Town Pizza to Sunshine Tykes!

**Homeless: An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.....**