



PEAS-Talks!

People Engaged in Acts of Service
Outreach Newsletter

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North Cascade Seventh Day Adventist Church

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800 Peacock Lane, Burlington, WA 98233, 360-757-7577

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The PEAS

There were once three peas who lived in a pod. They looked at each other and at the walls of their pod and decided that the whole world was green. Summer slipped away, fall came, and the pod split wide open. To their dismay, the peas discovered that not only was the whole world not green, but that most of it was varying shades of brown. There were even some other shades of green. In panic, one pea took hold of the edges of the pod and tried to pull them back together again so that its world could be all green again. A second pea slipped out of the pod and became just a brown as it could as fast as it could so that no one would notice. The third pea looked at the walls of the pod and at the world outside and decided that **its particular shade of green was precisely what the world out there needed.**

*Remnant in Crisis, by Jack Provonsha, 1993, Review & Herald, p. 169

Focus On

All Spruced Up Thrift Shop

Clunk! As LaVonne VonBergen chats with a customer about vegetarian food selections, a man plops a metal wheel on the countertop behind her. *All Spruced Up* is busy today, and several people are perusing newly organized clothing racks, kitchen goods, and bookshelves. In the back, rooms are stacked with donations in process.

Times are exciting at *All Spruced Up*, our church's thrift shop! It helps our community in ways other than providing inexpensive shopping. NCSDA offers gift certificates for (prescreened) needy to shop for necessities, like interview clothes and blankets.

All Spruced Up also donates all their extra funds to approved charities. They have donated to SAS's worthy student fund, donated to a Kingdom Assignment, and given items to the Job Corp. as well. At all times, there is a box of free items by the front door to help people in need of basic items.

Next Tuesday, February 10th, there are interviews to fill the new Director position. For the last year, Jacira Lopes has been running the store very successfully. However, for health reasons, she has decided to turn over the reins to someone else. Jacira will remain as a volunteer, and may help the new Director as he or she plans for a big future.

Since the Adventist Book Center (ABC) next door closed its doors officially on January 31st, *All Spruced Up* has taken over the space and is expanding. Last Thursday, January 29th, *All Spruced Up* volunteers officially started moving into the new storefront next door. *All Spruced Up* bought the old freezers and refrigerators and the ABC donated shelving and other supplies

after they left. **All your most favorite products of vegetarian food are still available.** A thoughtful volunteer drove to Auburn to pick up immediate staples to sell! The food selection is limited at the moment, but a delivery truck arrives February 12th with more supplies. Jacira is hoping to offer tasty samples to clients as this program progresses. Yum!
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If you have friends who think there is no more vegetarian food sales, please let them know there is still a great selection.

Volunteers have moved the kids' section, reorganized a new kitchen section, and are still working to fill shelves for the new half of the store. Volunteers are desperately needed to complete this huge task. If you have even an hour, please consider helping to sort, clean, price, and distribute the items in the store. Just drop by – even



The New Expansion

a little time helps a lot! If you would like to volunteer on a regular basis, just call or stop by to schedule a time that works.

Thanks to the Wilson family for their support! Garrett has created a fantastic website – check it out sometime <http://thriftshop.floft.net>. Sharon has helped price some high value items, silverware and dishes.

There is a need for help to sell high value items on Ebay or Craigs List.

Thanks to SAS, and particularly Wes Paul, who constructed a much-needed storage unit at the SAS School for off-season or extra- large items. Right now, it contains furniture and 60 or more winter boxes of items that are in need of sorting. This will make the job easier, as it allows more room to sort off-site, then bring the priced items directly to the store.

More Outreach Opportunities...

Evangelistic Meetings

When: through Feb 7
Contact: Ira Bartolome, 757-7577
The evangelistic series is going great. We have 11 baptisms in the next two weeks confirmed! How exciting to be reaching people for God! Thanks to all the volunteers who dedicated their time and love to this series.

Kingdom Assignments

When: Update Day on Feb 14th!
Contact: your church friends!
One assignment that is going strong: Ken and Lisa Knudsen are collecting new and gently used books for homeless children in Skagit County, to be distributed through Community Action in Mt. Vernon. They are accepting donations or new and gently loved books. Their goal is 800 books all together by February 14th. They collected books from Skagit Valley Hospital staff, friends, and now we are involving NCSDA and Mt Vernon SDA churches, as well as SAS.

Family Shelter

When: As needed,
Contact: Cindy Hartley 595-2947
There are some ongoing needs at the yellow house. Twin beds, small tables, and other furniture items are needed for the families as they move out of the shelter into their own homes. Craft supplies for the kids and snacks for Tuesday night family meetings would also be very appreciated.

Teddy Bear Packs

When: ongoing
Contact: Lillian Stutz, 757-2616
Skagit County Sheriff and WA State Patrol units are provided with packets containing a teddy (no other animals please!) and an afghan. They are a huge comfort to upset children in tough situations. Donations of new or gently used medium sized, huggable teddies or afghans are always wonderful. Lillian has taken care of the packs through February.

Friendship House Dinner

When: 1st Wed/month at 3:00-6:00
1008 S 3rd St, Mt. Vernon
Contact: Lydia Apt, 826-4374
Each month, one sabbath school class sponsors the NCSDA evening's meal. This time, the Youth group sponsored a soup, salad, and garlic bread supper! They served 52 hungry people.

Cold Weather Shelter

When: Nights below 25degrees
Contact: Tressa Farnsworth, 424-9146
Since there has been little need so far this year, we are switching to an on-call basis for cold nights. The Mount Vernon shelter we work with will feed the homeless people dinner and then call us if there is a further need for shelter. Our volunteers will be called at 8:00pm and the shelter opened at 9:00pm on cold nights. We will not be serving soup suppers at this time.

Blood Drive

When: May 9th, 8:00-2:00
Where: NCSDA church
Contact: Vicki Jacobs, 707-2506
Keep taking your vitamins to build strong blood! Especially iron!

Food Baskets

When: ongoing
Contact: Lanita Penninger 428-8923 or Carol Atkins 757-0967
Even after the holidays, we still get (Love, Inc. approved) requests for a few food baskets per month.

Baby Packs

When: ongoing
Contact: Lillian Stutz, 757-2616
New mothers in need are provided with a basket of helpful items for a BRAND NEW baby to keep it dressed and warm. (No formula needed) Always useful are: blankets, thermometers, infant Tylenol drops, and of course cash! Lillian has taken care of the packs through February.

Oil Changes for Single Moms

When: March 8th by appointment
Contact: Jeremy Schmidt, 855-7614
We are ramping up for the next oil change – it is coming soon! Able bodies are needed that day to help clean cars and change oil. If you know of any single moms who could use this service, please let Jeremy or Bruce Prince (756-9955) know their names. We will also be looking in the community at large for moms we can help.