

Press Release –
Central Oregon Council on Aging
(www.councilonaging.org)

Contact: David Hamilton, COCOA Executive Director
Ph: 541-548-8817 – Email: Hamilton@councilonaging.org

Tom Azbell, COCOA Nutrition Manager
Ph: 541-548-6325 – Email tom@councilonaging.org

COCOA Receives \$5,000 Grant From the Chambers Family Foundation

January 8, 2009 – Central Oregon Council on Aging (COCOA) recently received a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from the Chambers Family Foundation, a Eugene based organization. The grant is an award toward COCOA's new Centralized Kitchen and, combined with donations from the community, will help fulfill the need to purchase a food delivery van for that project.

The centralized kitchen project is just one of the steps recently undertaken by the agency to save program dollars, and in this case, provide even better services to seniors living in Central Oregon. Here is how it works.

The COCOA nutrition program provides wholesome meals for seniors prepared by culinary experts, working under the counsel of certified nutritionists. Meals are served at meal sites and senior centers throughout the tri-county area. For those who may not be able to drive, or for health reasons cannot leave their homes, meals are delivered every day of the week by a tireless corps of dedicated volunteers through the Meals on Wheels program.

Meals for COCOA's Madras, Redmond and Sister's meal sites have been prepared at the Redmond Senior Center kitchen for some time, while a food catering company has traditionally provided meals for the outlying locations, as those sites lack adequate kitchen facilities. Over the years it has become more apparent that one good way to cut costs, eliminate food waste, control and better utilize food inventories, would be to prepare food at a localized kitchen and then transport that food to meal sites. The Centralized Kitchen Project, scheduled to launch in the coming weeks, fulfills that need while providing better service to clients at the same time.

The grant received from the Chambers Family Foundation will go towards the purchase of a new delivery van and will augment COCOA's senior nutrition programs. The van will be used to transport prepared Meals on Wheels, as well as congregate meals, from the new centralized kitchen in Redmond to meal sites all across the tri-county area.

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