



# Helpful Happenings

## A Note from Nadia:

Dear Owasso Community Resources Friends,

It is an honor to have joined OCR this past November and now be part of the many great things that our organization thrives to accomplish each year. We continue to work every day in our community through our mission of "Investing in our community... One life at a time!" and our big task of helping those in need. It is often that I am asked one important question: *What is the role of OCR in the community?*

OCR serves many individuals each year, including entire families and disabled adults who experience financial and situational crises. During my life, I have learned that a crisis can defeat hope, spirituality and the will to make things better during these difficult times. OCR is in our community to support families and individuals at times when they are most vulnerable. We serve our community with compassion and integrity to help build on their personal assets and rebuild their strength and hope.

Although our mission is not easily attained, this past year we reached many of our neighbors by proving food bags, emergency utility assistance, school supplies, Thank-giving baskets, Holiday gifts, and counseling to those dealing with domestic violence. As the economy suffers and families struggle we are fortunate to have a helping hand in our community to ensure that everyone meets their basic needs and provides what is needed for their families' well being. In this manner, we hope that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the great community we live in.

On behalf of all those we serve, we thank you for your continuous support.

*Nadia Guevara*

## Spring 2009

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## OCR Volunteer Appreciation Open House

Owasso Community Resources would like to honor our volunteers for the support and services provided to our organization, as well as, for the community. We invite you to attend the open house to meet staff, Board of Director Members, other OCR volunteers, and know more about activities planned for the year. Invite a friend or your family to see what we are about and make a difference together.

Please come enjoy refreshments and fellowship with other volunteers on

*Thursday, April 23*  
*6:00 – 8:00 pm*  
*Owasso Community Resources*  
*109 N. Birch*



### By The Numbers:

- 121 families received Thanksgiving meal baskets.
- 8 food drives were done for OCR in Nov. & Dec.
- 368 children and disabled adults, plus 5 whole families received Christmas presents through the Giving Tree program.
- Over 100 bicycles were given to children through the Giving Tree program.

## **3rd Annual Spring Benefit March 28th**

The '3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Benefit' event will be held on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Bailey Education Foundation Auditorium at Bailey Medical Center. This semi-formal fundraising event will feature their customary silent and live auctions together with a formal seated dinner.

"This year's event will be a smaller, simpler evening with only 200 tickets available," said Nadia Guevara, Executive Director of OCR. "We want to offer our guests an enjoyable evening where they can come to have a lot of fun while support what OCR does for our community."

The evening will begin with a reception, hors d'oeuvres, and silent auction items in the Bistro. At 7:00 a formal seated dinner will begin in the auditorium. There will be a presentation by the Owasso Community Resources Board of Directors explaining all the ways the organization assists Owasso and Collinsville residents during their times of need. To cap off the evening a live auction will begin at 8:00pm.

All of the auction items are donated by Owasso and Collinsville businesses and individuals who support Owasso Community Resources and what they do for the local residents. "We are very excited about the items we've got so far and expect more things to be



donated in the next few weeks," said Michelle Stang, auction committee chair. "We are very appreciative of all the support we have been getting from the local businesses."

Your attendance or donation will help Owasso Community Resources obtain the funds to support its programs such as emergency utility assistance, a food pantry, Back to School Supplies program for Owasso students, Angel Scholarship Activities Program, counseling for adults and children who are victims of domestic violence, Thanksgiving Baskets, and the Christmas Giving Tree. In short, your support will help us strengthen our community and support our mission of

***"Investing in our Community...One Life at a Time!"***

"We are hoping to raise \$50,000 at this year's event to fund our 2009 programs," Nadia Guevara added.

Reservations to the '3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Benefit' are available at Owasso Community Resources for \$100 per person. Event sponsorships are also available at varying levels. Please contact Ann Burney at 272-4969 or [ocr.ann@cox.net](mailto:ocr.ann@cox.net) for more information, reservations, or event sponsorship.

Information about Owasso Community Resources services and the fundraising event is also available at [owassohelps.org](http://owassohelps.org).

## **OCR Hosts Breakfast for Church Leaders**



OCR Executive Director Nadia Guevara explains OCR's services to the leaders of area churches.

Owasso Community Resources hosted a free breakfast for area church leaders on Thursday, February 12th, at Bailey Education Foundation auditorium. Although we had hoped more could have attended, we greatly appreciated those who were able to come.

The meeting was beneficial to both OCR and the church representatives to bridge the gaps in communication and build stronger relationships in our community in order to meet the needs of

the residents of Owasso and Collinsville. There were some good questions and ideas presented by the local church leaders that we plan to follow up on.

Thank you for all of the support on this event!



Church leaders enjoy a presentation and breakfast provided by OCR.

## Volunteer Opportunities at OCR

### March:

*Annual Benefit-* Saturday, March 28. Adults and teens ages 16 & up are welcome to help serve in different areas for our annual fundraiser. Approximately 5-11pm will be the event hours, but you are welcome to volunteer as long as you like. The benefit includes a silent & live auction with a formal dinner. Volunteers can help serve dinner, assist with silent/live auction, check-out, and clean up.



### May:

*OCR Garage Sale-* Friday, May 1 OCR will be holding another garage sale in our parking lot at 2nd & Birch. Items will be needed to sell. Please consider donating items to our sale! Donations will be tax deductible. We will begin collecting items Monday, April 27, at the OCR offices. We will need volun-

teers to price and organize items on Thursday, and to help with the garage sale on Friday.

*Mail Carrier Food Drive-* Saturday, May 9 is the annual Letter Carrier Food Drive. Owasso mail carriers will be picking up food items left at mailboxes to be delivered to the Standing In The Gap warehouse where food will then be counted & sorted. OCR is a beneficiary of the collected food, and many hands are needed the entire day. Typically, 15-16,000 items are donated! You can volunteer from 10am – 6pm. Stay as long or little as you can. Groups are welcome...soccer, scouts, church...just let Lori know who you are and when you'd like to help.

### June:

*SummerFest-* A new family event to raise funds and awareness of OCR will take place; date TBA. Volunteers will be needed to help promote, set up, operate the event, and clean up. More details will follow as the date nears. Watch your email for information. An exciting time to come!

### Do You Like To Scrapbook?

Owasso Community Resources would like to find one or more volunteers to keep up our scrapbook. We have lots of newspaper articles and photos we would like put into a scrapbook. OCR has limited supplies but would provide the book.



To volunteer for any of the events or be entered on the OCR volunteer mailing list, contact Lori Lane. Email [ocr.lori@gmail.com](mailto:ocr.lori@gmail.com) or phone 272-4969. New volunteers can complete a volunteer form for our database to be kept up to date on service opportunities.



## OCR Food Pantry is Moving!

Requests for food assistance is growing monthly. We know more demand for food will be coming this year, so OCR is planning to move and expand the pantry here in the Old Central Building. We hope to make this change in May or June.

We will be asking for volunteers one evening to help make the big move. We will need a bunch of people willing to assemble shelving, carry and organize canned goods. This would be a good volunteer opportunity for a group or family! Please contact Lori Lane at 272-4969 or [ocr.lori@gmail.com](mailto:ocr.lori@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping move our food pantry.





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*Investing in our  
community...  
One life at a time!*

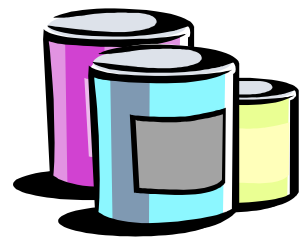
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**WANTED:**  
Refrigerator or Freezer

We are still in desperate need of either an additional refrigerator/freezer or small stand alone freezer. Fresh and frozen food items are accepted now, but we are low on storage for these items.

**Top Ten Items  
Needed in the Food Pantry**

1. Peanut butter
2. Jelly
3. Crackers
4. Tamales
5. Rice
6. Cereal
7. Hot dogs or hamburger
8. Laundry soap
9. Instant mashed potatoes
10. Diapers



PLUS: Paper and plastic sacks