



GATEKEEPER UPDATE

Winter 2015

GATEKEEPERS' GENEROSITY AND HOLIDAY CHEER!

Gatekeepers from Portland General Electric and Portland Water Bureau contribute yearly to the holiday gift drive for Multnomah County Public Guardian clients. They go shopping, wrap gifts and then drop them off for delivery. Public Guardian clients are those who have medical or cognitive issues that require a guardian or conservatorship to act in their own best interests. This year Gatekeepers from PGE and Portland Water Bureau bought and donated around 120 gifts for clients who would otherwise receive nothing during the holidays.

Multnomah County's Public Guardian Program serves 160 of our community's most vulnerable citizens and the program relies heavily on the generosity of these Gatekeepers during the Holiday Season. In addition to gifts each person gets a visit from a Department of County Human Services volunteer. Portland General Electric and Portland Water Bureau Gatekeepers have been participating in this program for almost 20 years now.

Thank you!



Top Picture from left: Carol Stahlke, Shiela Thrower and Suzanne Allen from Portland Water Bureau

Bottom Picture from left: Tyler Richardson (PGE), Mark Sanford (Public Guardian Manager), Shannon Coffman.

**Multnomah County Aging & Disability Resource Connection
(503) 988-3646**

www.ADRCofOregon.org

Kamron, a Multnomah County Deputy Public Guardian, shares this story about a Public Guardian client who received a gift from a Gatekeeper last year. M* is a 72 year old woman who has lived in her own apartment for many years. Despite her growing health and cognitive issues she has lived as independently as possible with the help of community programs. Christmas has always been one of her favorite holidays but due to her decreasing ability to do things on her own, she is not able to put up her favorite holiday decorations or go to her church's festivities. Last year, through the annual gift drive, she received a small, potted Christmas tree and a new holiday sweater from a participating Gatekeeper organization. The gifts brightened her holiday, and were accompanied by a thoughtful and kind Delivery Elf who took the time to visit and get to know her. M* was very touched and mentions the occurrence a year later.



There are so many ways to give. Gatekeepers are involved in various ways working to improve the lives of seniors and adults with disabilities. Besides making Gatekeeper referrals and participating in the Public Guardian gift drive there is also the ADVS Risk Fund. Donating to the Risk Fund provides direct assistance to clients who have an immediate and urgent need and who have no other services available to them. There is a need for more individuals or businesses to step forward and participate in the Public Guardian gift drive since each year there is a shortage in gifts. If you want more information or to become involved in the gift drive or to contribute to the ADVS Risk Fund please contact Amie Oliver, Gatekeeper Coordinator, at 503-988-8206 or amie.oliver@multco.us



Multnomah County Aging & Disability Resource Connection
(503) 988-3646
www.ADRCofofOregon.org