

## Forest Grove city employees donate to chaplain program

Forest Grove city employees celebrated the holidays by giving to their community. Each department provided a theme basket or item which was raffled at the City Holiday Buffet on Dec. 10, at the community auditorium. The proceeds were given to a designated charity; this year, the Public Safety Chaplaincy Fund was selected as the annual charitable recipient. This year's raffle proceeds totaled \$1,038, which was given to Dexter Danielson, the Forest Grove Public Safety Chaplain.

The chaplains are involved in a variety of situations. They respond to community crises such as fatal car crashes, suicides, homicides, sudden infant death syndrome cases, search and rescue, and hostage situations. Following such traumatic incidents, chaplains conduct stress debriefings or defusing for all emergency responders, dispatchers and commanders who have been involved. They provide these services with much of the expenses com-

ing out of their own pockets.

In these economic times, there are many underfunded organizations that provide such crucial services to our community, and this is a wonderful way to share the holiday cheer. Last year, the city raffle contributed more than \$700 to the Toys n' Joy Drive and the year before, more than \$800 to the Oregon Food Bank.

City employees enjoyed sharing the spirit of the season with food and conversation at the buffet and bringing a toy for the fire department's toy drive, as well as competing for the raffle prizes. In addition to each department's basket donation, other prizes were donated by individual employees, city vendors and the Board of Directors for the Public Safety Chaplaincy.

For more information on the organization, go to [www.publicsafetychaplaincy.org](http://www.publicsafetychaplaincy.org).