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Local 2067 completes \$40,000 'Season of Giving'



With Local 2067 members looking on, local president Jack Tucker (front left) presents a \$5,000 check for energy assistance to PGE representative Kathy Saunders and Oregon HEAT Executive Director Roger Rees.

Surrounded by other local union officers and members, Oregon AFSCME Local 2067 President Jack Tucker presented checks totaling \$10,000 to two energy assistance agencies on Jan. 15, wrapping up the local's 2008-09 "Holiday Season of Giving" which saw the union donate over \$40,000 to a variety of community causes.

Local 2067 represents over 600 Salem workers, including most general service employees and the Salem Housing Authority. The donation to Oregon HEAT, which is a non-profit assistance agency, matches an earlier donation of \$5,000 to Salem Electric. In both instances, the money will go to programs that help elderly and other low-income residents pay their winter heating bills. Local 2067 also presented a \$5,000 check Jan. 15 to Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action; that money will help with similar assistance to low-income users of natural gas.

Since Dec. 1, Local 2067 also made cash donations of \$20,000 to various branches of the Oregon Food Bank network, with \$15,000 coming in conjunction with the statewide Council 75 Oregon Food Bank drive. In addition, the local donated \$5,000 to Salem's own sewer and water department, also for financial assistance to low-income customers. And the local purchased a 10-yard dump truck full of toys for the city's holiday toy drive.

"We believe it's very important for us to be good citizens and participants in our community," said Tucker, who works in the City of Salem's Public Works Department. "City employees are real people, too — we live in the local communities, we pay taxes and we have a vested interest in making our communities better. We see our 'Holiday Season of Giving' program as a practical way to help people in need, and as a group,

we're always looking for ways to give back to our community. It's a high priority for this active group of union members.

"It's also a way to help put a positive face on our union in our community. That's important to us."