

## **Sandwich Ministry Blessings**

**By Donna Tyler**

Many blessings and special things happen each Sunday afternoon. I'll pick out a few to share with you.

***A very special thing happened just before we started to pack up last Sunday. A woman about 35-40 years old pulled in and came over to us. She asked who I was with and I told her no one and that I am independent. She said, " I went past here and saw something was going on in the parking lot and I just had to turn around and come back in to tell you that 3 years ago I was right there with them." She pointed to the group sitting at the picnic tables. She then said, "It is wonderful what you are doing and keep it up for it is so needed and she added, I know, I was there." Kathy and I both thanked her for making the effort to turn around and come back to tell us this.***

***I was asked by my friend Joan Mahaffy to talk about my "Sandwich Ministry" to a group of women who meet once a year at Christ Lutheran Church in Coos Bay on April 6th. My first response was "NO" but then the voice said, "You can do this". It was not easy for me. I was shaking and a few tears came to my eyes, " I had put some tissues up my sleeve just in case I needed them and I did" but I got through it. I am not a speaker and the last thing I want to do is to speak to a large group of people in front of a microphone. I guess the Lord does not agree with me.....I got an email from Joan saying their pastor mentioned me in his sermon the following Sunday and that many women were touched by my talk about the homeless and my "Sandwich Ministry". She said I did an excellent job. She also told me to thank Pastor Eric for pushing me into speaking the first time.***

***A friend from my grief group who is on my email update list, was so touched by the story of the man who has been sober for 8 weeks that she gave me her husband's official NFL Kansas City Chief's jacket along with a small bag of star lapel type pins to give to him today. She said she'd like him to put one star for each week he is sober. She had it wrapped in a plastic bag and I met her outside the library just before going to the Devereaux. Center a few Sundays ago..... He was there waiting for me and came right up to my car and was going to open the back door and take out the tables, but I stopped him. I then told him about this and pulled out this beautiful jacket and he goes "Wow, that's a K.C. Chiefs coat" and I said , "Yes and it is very valuable but she wants you to have it and the pins as she was very touched by your story of becoming sober." He said to thank her very much. He was in shock. He then helped me set up and after we got through most of the crowd, he was standing next to me and he does this to be there in case I need his help for anything. I turned to him and said, "Maybe you could write her a little thank you note." He said he'd like a card and I told him I didn't have one with me but I had a scratch pad in the glove compartment. He said, "Get it and I'll write to her". So, I did and he did write a note and I gave it to her at our next grief group meeting.***

***This same woman's husband died 3 years ago and she has not been able to go bring herself to go through and clear out his things, but the story of Ron trying so hard to succeed and her wanting to do something for him, gave her the motivation she needed and she knew her husband would have wanted her to do this.***

***Blessings after blessings continue to happen for the people we feed and help clothe and for the people who are touched by their stories and want to help them in some way.***