

## Pajama, book drive a success with over 1000 donations

*by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources*

The first Oregon Chapter Pajama Program pajama and book drive was a wonderful success with over 1,000 items donated by local residents during the month of February. Collected pajamas and books will be distributed to the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) for the Foster Home Program, as well as to other local agencies who serve Deschutes County children in need.

With the help of the 2007 Leadership Redmond Pajama/Team and Bend, Redmond, Sisters, Sunriver and La Pine citizens and businesses, the goal of collecting 200 pajama sets and 200 books was overwhelmingly surpassed. The drive garnered 535 pairs of pajamas and the same number - if not more - books!

According to Oregon's Department of Human Services, approximately ten children are removed from their homes each month in Deschutes County and placed in foster care because their parents have made decisions that jeopardize their safety or well being.

The Oregon Chapter of the Pajama Program is based in Bend and was founded last fall by Deschutes County Road Department employee Wanda Callahan. The Chapter's goal is to collect new pajamas and books on an ongoing basis to benefit under-privileged children aged five-17 in Central Oregon.

The Oregon Chapter of the Pajama Program has two ongoing Bend drop-off sites for pajamas and books: the Deschutes County Road Department at 61150 SE 27th Street, and the Deschutes County Services Building, 2nd Floor-Commissioner's Office, located at 1300 NW Wall Street.

The Pajama Program is a national, New York-based 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization providing new pajamas and books to children in need. Many of these children are in foster family homes hoping and waiting to be adopted and may also have been abused or abandoned.

For more information about the Oregon Chapter of the Pajama Program, please call 389-9470, 410-0366 or 330-4640.

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