



More than 500,000 lights will shimmer every Saturday and Sunday this month in the Oregon Coast Aquarium's "Sea of Lights" celebration.

"Pennies from Heaven"

Even donations of less than 99 cents to Project Care can create "a miracle day" for people hit by hard times

She stared at the social services building and took a deep breath. In her 55 years, she never thought she would need to ask for help. "Rose" (not her real name) is a Central Lincoln customer. She still gets tears in her eyes thinking of that moment.

What had happened?

About seven years ago, Rose was rear-ended in a car crash by a teenager driving illegally. Years of recovery followed, and her injuries were so severe, Rose now can't work full-time, but does work at least three-quarters time.

Her savings dwindled.

Then an elderly relative became very sick. With no other family members able to help out, Rose went to care for him, but her income plummeted. He passed away. Then a second elderly family member became unable to care for herself, and Rose took over her care as well. Even though things were very difficult, Rose was able to stay out of debt, living frugally.

Then her landlord told her the rent would be doubling. She had no choice, but to move out of her home. Rose immediately started looking for places she could afford, but such rentals on the Central Coast aren't easy to find. She packed up her things, slept on a friend's couch, stayed at campgrounds. A friendly employee at one told her about a rental they'd heard was available, and after several months without a home, Rose had her new place. But her income still hadn't stabilized. Deposits and the costs of moving put her at one of the lowest points she'd ever been: She wasn't able to pay for heat or electricity. Then she heard about the

Project Care funds at Community Services Consortium in Newport.

"It was a miracle day for me," she says. "I qualified for a one-time voucher for assistance, thanks to Central Lincoln customers who donate. I had always prided myself on giving to help others. Not just to my family; but others who struggled. Now I had to ask for help."



Rose wears warm sweaters and scarves indoors to help keep her heating costs down.

Life has stabilized for the careerwoman who was without a home for a time. She's signing up for Roundup for Project Care, which will Roundup her electricity bills to the nearest dollar to help others in need. "Those pennies that went to help me were like pennies from heaven," she says with a smile. "I'm going to help others the way I was helped."

"What happened to me could happen to anyone. And I'm concerned about those who lost their homes and their retirement funds during the recession." Although sharing her story is a hard thing to do, Rose hopes that doing so will encourage you to join her in donating via Roundup, or by making a donation to Project Care.

Currently, just over 1,000 Central Lincoln customers give via Roundup. The most Roundup can cost a customer is 99 cents a month, or \$11.88 a year. The average customer gives about 48 cents a month—\$5.76 a year. Signing up is easy: email us at info@clpud.org or write "sign me up for Roundup" on your payment coupon when paying your Central Lincoln bill, or call your nearest Central Lincoln office (the numbers are on the back of your bill). If most of our customers gave through Roundup, more than \$17,000 a month would be available to help folks like Rose who have fallen on hard times.

Nonprofits in Florence, Newport, and Reedsport screen applicants, and distribute the funds.

"I'm so grateful to the people who donated," says Rose. "I think of them as angels. I'm looking forward to helping others anonymously as they did. That help meant the world to me. Please join me in donating via Roundup."

BILLING DATE	11/09/2015
CURRENT BILL LATE AFTER	11/29/2015
TRANSACTIONS	AMOUNT
Credit Card Pymt. Thank you	11/04/2015 (107.00)
Project Care Roundup	0.71
SERVICE FROM: 10/06/2015	
SERVICE TO: 11/01/2015	

An example of a monthly donation to Project Care via Roundup on a Central Lincoln bill.



College instructor Laura Hamilton and her 100% electric car, which she has fondly named "Glint."

My Electric Story

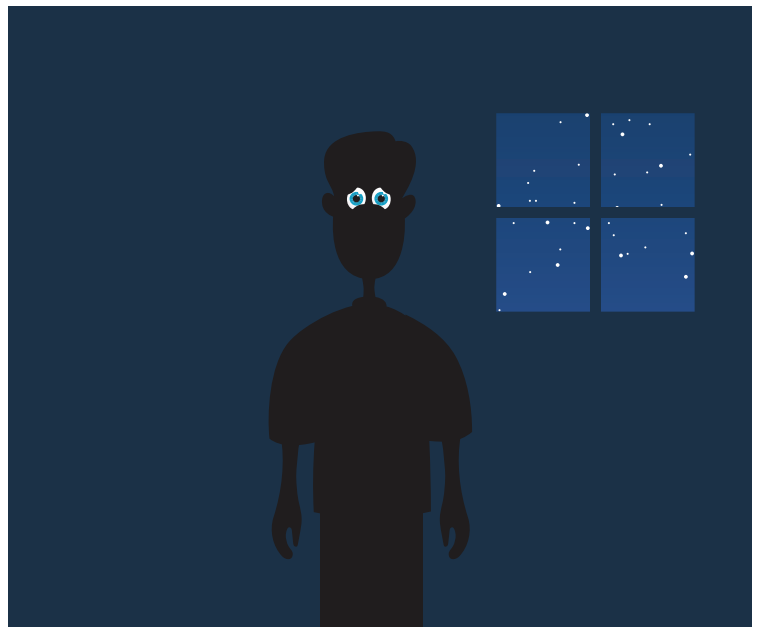
A new feature about customers who use electricity in unusual ways.

As a basic skills and college prep English instructor for Oregon Coast Community College, Laura Hamilton puts on the miles driving between campuses in Lincoln City and Newport. After 15 years, a beloved sedan "had seen finer days" she says with a sigh, and she knew really big repairs were ahead.

Laura did her homework, checked out several makes and models, and decided to buy a used Nissan LEAF which runs entirely on electricity. "It's so delightful," she smiles softly. "No oil changes, no spark plugs, no tune ups; all I have to budget for is tires, windshield blades, and windshield washer fluid." Her savings on gas also go a long way toward covering her \$329.00 monthly car payment.

She charges her LEAF at home using a simple 110 volt charging cord that came with her LEAF, and it costs her about \$1.70 for 95 miles of charge. "I love the idea I can plug in anywhere," Laura says.

Thanks to the dashboard computer, "I know exactly how I am doing with mileage and how much distance I have left." The more efficiently she drives, the more trees appear on the dashboard. "It's pretty entertaining to drive!"



Power Goes Out?

Here's what to do and what happens next

Thanks to the automated metering system we installed a few years ago, Central Lincoln typically knows right away when your power goes out—our system pings us. But just in case, we'd still like you to call our 24/7 outage line—**1-866-484-3783**—to let us know you're without power. That toll-free number goes to a system so robust, thousands of our customers could call in at once and none of you would get a busy signal. It is a computerized system, but the notifications from those calls go to our "real human being" dispatchers here in Central Lincoln territory.

The dispatcher will then send out a serviceman or crew to find out the cause of the problem, and hopefully make repairs quickly. In the meantime, if more than 20 customers are affected, the dispatcher will let our public information officer know the details, and updates will be put on www.twitter.com/CLPUD

"We do our best to make our system resilient, but sometimes Mother Nature is pretty rough, or equipment fails," says General Manager Debra Smith. "We encourage you to keep several flashlights handy, and "shelter in place" supplies to fit your family situation. Although it's tempting to try to "help" us find the cause of an outage we prefer that you stay warm and dry in your home while we do the work."



Energy-saving tips and latest news:
www.twitter.com/CLPUDinfo



Outage info: www.twitter.com/CLPUD
or report an outage at **1-866-484-3783**



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Contact us at
info@clpud.org

