

2015 Annual Report

Great Northern Services



“Great Northern is one of the organizations whose existence—along with the real needs of hungry people throughout the state—define our role in rural counties that face barriers to providing food services in remote communities. And we know that in the larger picture just giving food is not enough, which is why Great Northern is such a great organization: it does so much more than food.”

- Melinda Annis, Foodlink Senior Vice President of Food Services





We invigorate communities
by initiating positive social change
to improve economic conditions.

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*“Our desire to help address childhood obesity in our community is rooted in our commitment to preventative care. Our goal was to find local partners who are making a difference in our community in terms of childhood nutrition—and that led to our partnership with Great Northern Services. We provided a community grant in 2015 that helped fund their “Snack Bag” program, their summer lunch program, and the “Cooking with Healthy Habits” program at Weed Elementary School. **It’s a beautiful partnership.**”*

Tom Miller, Senior Director for Mission Integration,
Community Health, and Spiritual Care
Mercy Medical Center Mount Shasta,
a member of Dignity Health



The Path Forward

These are times that call for fresh awareness, collective leadership, and deeper listening, along with creative, strategic, and integrated services to initiate positive social change.

Growing partnerships, significant accomplishments, and changes in response to real needs characterize Great Northern Services in 2015. The successes we have selected to share with you in this report say it all and would not have been possible without you—our supporting partners. We thank you for your trust and your commitment.

The path forward is one of continuing growth as we seek to address overarching concerns of the community as a whole. Thanks to the GNS team, our mission has evolved to inspire and ground us even more deeply in a sense of shared purpose. Our new mission better reflects innovative changes in services designed in response to our community's challenges, and it acts as a motivational springboard as we seek to meet the needs of our emerging future.

Our new mission states that we 'invigorate communities by initiating positive social change to improve economic conditions.'

Let's break it down together and take a closer look at what it all means...

Invigorating communities, improving economic conditions: All communities face pressing and potentially devastating infrastructure issues. Great Northern has been working successfully to help manage critical water supply and wastewater treatment system upgrades, and we are poised to continue to provide leadership and assistance in this area. We are also taking steps to successfully strengthen our local economy by nurturing small businesses through low interest loans, consulting, and business training resource referrals. And we are collaborating on a project that aims to expand our community marketplace, which spotlights and promotes local growers and artisan products.

Initiating positive social change: Making a difference for seniors, veterans, and disabled populations is central to our work. Great Northern is enhancing our food delivery system to better serve all who face food insecurity, and we are offering senior snow removal services

during the winter months. We are also initiating projects to help provide basic housing and services to seniors and affordable housing for working families. Mindful that healthy children are our future, we are expanding our successful food programs for children by offering portion control education, providing holiday season snack bags, and adding needed protein to summer lunch programs.

Your partnership, trust, and support at any level continues to inspire us and help us accomplish our shared mission. Enjoy reading more about the impact of our 2015 collective efforts in this report. We look forward to fresh ideas as well as new commitments and partnerships, and we thank you for making a difference with us in 2016 and beyond.

In appreciation and anticipation of sharing the path forward with you,



Bonnie Kubowitz
Executive Director



A positive mission in action creates change

Great Northern is trusted by both old and new partners to 'get the job done', and inspiration is at the heart of those partnerships. Our work inspires support from those who know we can help fulfill their missions by improving the lives of people in Siskiyou County. And we in turn are inspired to create programs and services that put those resources to the best use, with the broadest possible impact, so our entire community moves toward greater security and prosperity.

Great Northern has always been a large help to us at holidays. without you it would be more difficult. Thank you for your help with the 20 turkeys



JEDI

MISSION: "to increase the economic well-being of people and communities through business development and local wealth creation"

USDA

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT MISSION: "to provide economic opportunity through innovation, helping rural America to thrive"

USDA FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES

MISSION: "to harness the nation's agricultural abundance to end hunger and improve health in the United States"

Foodlink

(California Emergency Foodlink)

MISSION: "to feed California's hungry by helping all food banks better serve their communities"

"For more than 30 years, Great Northern Services has been honored to partner with USDA Rural Development to further their mission and our own by improving the quality of life in Siskiyou County through economic development."

"The Community Foundation loves the opportunity to fund organizations like Great Northern who provide essential services 'on the ground,' in the communities we serve. We function like a savings account for our donors who entrust us to use their dollars to touch individuals in need or the causes they care most about. Our partnership with Great Northern's projects and initiatives offer many such opportunities to produce exactly those end results.

- Kerry Caranci, Chief Executive Officer, Shasta Regional Community Foundation

Dignity Health

MISSION: "We put our mission into practice in part through community health and prevention programs, actionable health needs assessments and strategies, community grants and investments, and sustainability initiatives."

Ford Family Foundation

MISSION: "successful citizens and vital rural communities"

California Development Block Grant Program

STATE CDBG MISSION: "Partnership with rural cities and counties to improve the lives of their low- and moderate-income residents through the creation and expansion of community and economic development opportunities in support of livable communities."

Shasta Regional Community Foundation

MISSION: "to promote philanthropy in Shasta and Siskiyou Counties by connecting people who care with causes that matter"

Pacific Power Foundation

MISSION: "to support the growth and vitality of our communities through our charitable investments"

LIHEAP

(Low Income Energy Assistance Program) and D.O.E.

MISSION: "LIHEAP delivers critical short-term heating, cooling, and weatherization aid in every state to our most vulnerable neighbors including the poor, elderly, disabled, and very young."



Inspire

Thank you all so much for the help you provide seniors and the community

Communities benefit
when basic individual
needs are met

Holiday Food Baskets

880

Households served
in 2015

Great Northern is proud to have earned a reputation for getting needed services to the right people. Improving lives by providing needed nutrition and making homes comfortable and affordable all year long is a high priority for us.

Our **Child Nutrition** programs aim to make sure all Siskiyou County children are eating well. The Great Northern Snack Bag program, funded by donations and small grants, serves as a 'nutritional bridge' for children during long school breaks when they don't have access to a school lunch program.

Grant funding has allowed us to help Weed Elementary School teacher Allison Blankenship offer her **"Cooking with Healthy Habits"** program to her classes. Allison teaches her students how to prepare nutritious and delicious foods, and invites parents to be involved as well.

Snack Bag Program

248

Families served
in 2015



Improve

Summer Lunch Program

1,129

Meals served
in 2015

Our **Summer Lunch** program had a highly successful first year at Bel Air Park in Weed, serving more than 1,000 meals to kids 18 and younger. Individual volunteers and different organizations helped make the program even more fun and valuable by hosting entertaining and informative events for the kids after lunch in the park.



California Emergency Foodlink is helping Great Northern help those in need of food assistance with a redesigned delivery schedule that increases the volume of **USDA Food Supplies** distributed in Siskiyou County. This support not only conserves the resources Great Northern must commit to food distribution but also benefits community members who are now able to put more food on the table.



*"Diapers are a basic need. Young families can be faced with having to choose between paying utilities or buying diapers. And because most daycares require plastic diapers for babies and toddlers, employment opportunities for parents can be lost if this need is not met. Great Northern's **Diaper Bank** helps where it counts."*

Crystal Aston
GNS Community Services Manager

Energy Assistance

1,780

Households served,
\$1,109,608 expended
in 2015

LIHEAP funds our **Energy Assistance** program, which pays one energy bill per year for income qualifying households. Having power shut off can often mean residents have no heat and no way to cook; children may not be able to do homework and adults may have to miss work. In some apartment complexes, tenants lose their home if they cannot pay their utility bill. Helping those in need by paying an energy bill helps keep families comfortable and stable.

Thank you
again for our
makes a huge

*"Energy is one of
the essentials of shelter."*

Brandy Caporaso
GNS Energy Director

I want to thank you for coming to my aid over my application for fuel allocation and an overdue bill for 55.00 to Cross Petroleum. Thank you for the empathy you had for my situation. I was in a quandry. Being on social security alone, every unexpected bill can cause you worry, and you understood immediately.



guy's so much once
weatherization it really
difference.

Weatherization

163

Households served,
\$770,125 expended
in 2015

Home owners and tenants in need of attic insulation, weather stripping, minor housing repairs, and other, related energy conservation measures are served by our **Weatherization** program. Funded by LIHEAP, the Department of Energy and Pacific Power, this service is available to income qualified residents to reduce energy costs and make homes comfortable to live in year round. Our team also checks carbon monoxide levels, which helps reduce the potential for CO-related medical problems.

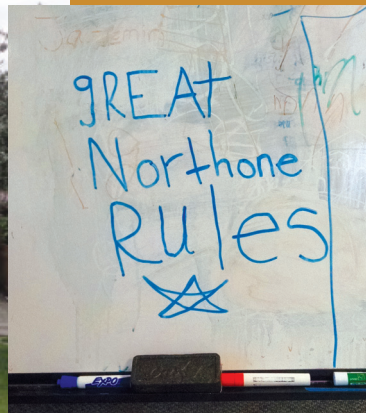
Security Deposit Assistance

6

Families helped
in 2015

Great Northern offers **Security Deposit Assistance** to Mount Shasta City income qualified residents who need it. Funded through the city's CDBG program, this service helps community members make a fresh start in a place they can call their own.

Improve



Helping businesses helps vitalize the entire community

“Our Business Development Programs stimulate community economies. New businesses mean new tax revenue to help cities ‘keep the lights on.’ They also bring new jobs, which helps keep dollars for food, housing, and other life expenses inside the local economy, further invigorating the community.”

E. Seata Madison

GNS Business Development Manager



Business Loans

5 businesses served, more than
\$100,000
expended in 2015

Bistro 107

In November, Serge Margot opened Bistro 107 in downtown Mt. Shasta with the help of a **Business Loan** through Mt. Shasta City's Community Development Block Grant program. Great Northern Services, through its contract with the city, served as underwriter for the loan, preparing the loan documents and setting up a payment program. CDBG funding for businesses is provided by the federal government but administered by the state. Each of its programs has strict guidelines and requirements, and we make sure all are met.



The Gifted Horse

Diane Postma utilized Great Northern's **Rural Microenterprise Assistance Program** (RMAP) when she opened her retail and restaurant business "The Gifted Horse" in Fort Jones. The RMAP revolving fund loan program, funded through the US Department of Agriculture, allows us to get working capital into the hands of qualifying micro-entrepreneurs in Siskiyou County.

“Providing economic incentives to businesses like the Bistro fits the City Councils strategic goals of both assisting businesses and enhancing the economic vitality of our downtown.”

Paul Eckert

Mount Shasta City Manager

Invigorate

4 homes rehabilitated,
\$300,000

expended and another **\$300,000**
committed for future projects in 2015

Infrastructure,
\$735,000

in grant funding and program
income expended in 2015

Raising housing standards helps make whole neighborhoods better

Our **Housing Rehabilitation** and **Housing Preservation** programs help raise living standards for both the individuals who receive assistance and the communities in which they live.

Great Northern administers CDBG loans to help qualifying homeowners and tenants make their homes safer, more comfortable and more affordable through our **Housing Rehabilitation** program. Making otherwise unaffordable repairs to homes has a positive impact on the entire community, as other residents become motivated to repaint, repair, and clean up.

“One rehabilitated house can turn around the outlook of the whole neighborhood.”

Larry Luce

GNS Community Development
Manager

Our **Housing Preservation** program provides grant funding made possible by USDA Rural Development to qualified homeowners for health and safety improvements in their houses, such as fixing unsafe wiring and replacing rotting or missing porches, steps or, siding.

“Helping the disadvantaged in this way helps the community overall. Fewer health hazards in the home means fewer emergencies, not only making life safer for residents but also easing potential burdens on the community’s emergency services and medical facilities.”

Rod Merys

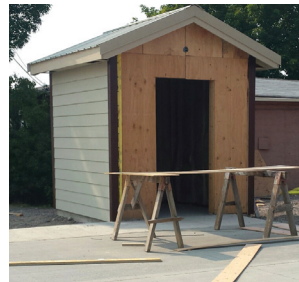
GNS Director of
Real Estate Development



Well-functioning infrastructure strengthens communities

Infrastructure needs can hold communities back from progress and prosperity. Well-functioning water and sewer systems are part of the unseen but critical underpinning of a successful community.

GNS updated the Montague airport bathroom to ADA standards last year. Community members and visitors who require handicap access to bathroom facilities now can participate fully in events such as the annual Montague Balloon Fair at the airport.



In 2015 we were able to help the City of Dorris replace several blocks of water lines, which improved the water system and helped ensure that firefighters will have the water they need in a fire emergency. Our sewer line project in the city of Montague saved revenue for the whole community by stopping infiltration of ground water into the sewer system.



Resiliency planning fits ‘every element’ of our mission statement, helping to invigorate our community and improve its social capacity. It was an honor that Great Northern was found to have the capacity, commitment, and the trust of the community necessary to be the non-profit ‘face’ of resiliency planning efforts.”

Bonnie Kubowitz, GNS Executive Director

Innovate



“JEDI’s partnership with Great Northern works very well to further our mission, as we see in the end result: someone gets the business capital they need, on good terms, with a solid business plan for the future. Opportunity and wealth is created in the community.”

Nancy Swift

JEDI Executive Director

In the wake of the September 2014 Boles Fire, our work with the community and City of Weed in 2015 was at first necessarily focused on helping citizens and the city meet basic needs. But Great Northern’s focus shifted later in the year when we were asked to participate in long range **Resilience Planning** for the Weed community.

Working with state, regional, and local agencies, and utilizing the ideas and perceptions of community members and local leaders, the Resiliency Team is developing a model that will provide a path for Weed to become more resilient in the face of ongoing stressful conditions and sudden shocks to the community.

This planning process was initiated by retired CDBG section chief Thomas Brandeberry and is the first of its kind in the United States to focus on community resilience in a rural area. The work is intended not only to benefit Weed going forward, but to serve as a blueprint for other rural communities seeking to enhance their own resilience.

Following several years of work gathering community input, assessing community needs, and building partnerships, Great Northern looks forward to continuing its role in helping make a marketplace center in Mount Shasta—the **“Old Mill at The Landing”**—a reality.

We envision permanent kitchen facilities for rent by small and start-up food businesses; expert business development training and support for local food entrepreneurs; locally sourced and crafted products available for sale year-round on site; and an expanded, year-round Farmers Market at the marketplace center. And more ideas are being explored, all aimed to create a place where community members can participate in the county’s food security and economic vitality.

Great Northern is proud to be one of the partners helping create the conceptual plan for this center, working with the partnership and support of the Jefferson Economic Development Institute, the City of Mount Shasta, USDA Rural Development, the McConnell Foundation, the Shasta Regional Community Foundation, College of the Siskiyous, and the County of Siskiyou.





“The Boles Fire didn’t define the Weed community, it revealed the strength of the community. Weed is a jewel just now being polished—the future looks extremely bright for the community.”

Ken Palfini, Mayor, City of Weed

We are breaking new ground on behalf of the community

Great Northern Services continues to grow. We see the needs around us and are stepping into new areas—welcoming new partnerships and building capacity so we can fulfil our obligation to the entire county. We have the opportunity to move some large, innovative projects forward in 2016.

Other projects...

We are working on ‘going mobile’ with our **child nutrition programs**, designing ways to take food to where kids are already gathered rather than asking them to make the trek to a central location.

Plans are also in place to construct a **state-of-the-art multi-media conference room** in the Great Northern building on Boles Street in Weed. This facility will be available for use by community groups, and is made possible by the generosity of the McConnell Foundation.

Other projects in the early planning stages include construction of affordable **housing and a senior living center**.

Great Northern is always on the lookout for ways to improve the quality and effectiveness of our staff’s efforts and work life. To that end, we hold expert-led **staff trainings and conferences** several times a year to enhance our abilities to communicate and work well as a team. We view our organization as being one that is continually learning. Staff development allows us to be of better help to our clients and to become better leaders—in our jobs as well as our communities.



Assets:

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,054,202	528,155

Statement of Activities:

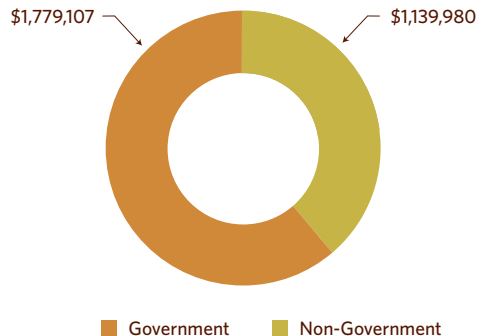
Total Revenue	2,919,087	2,249,812
Total Expenditures	2,389,542	2,286,752
Net Income	529,545	(36,940)

2014 GNS was destroyed by fire—contingencies based on insurance settlement.

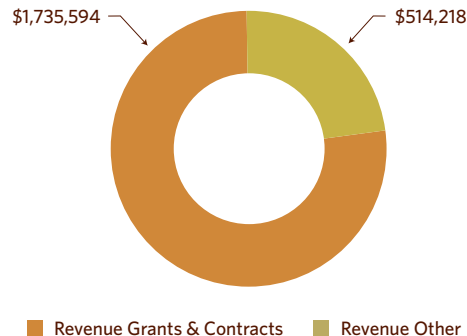
Financial Statement

For more than 35 years Great Northern has been dedicated to fiscal responsibility. GNS fund disbursements align with our mission as we balance short and long term needs. The expertise of our accounting advisor, the governance of a strong board of directors and the high caliber of our staff ensure the highest standards of financial accountability. We've earned the trust of our funders and do what is necessary to preserve that trust, undergoing annual Single Audits by an independent certified public accounting firm that examines both financial and compliance components.

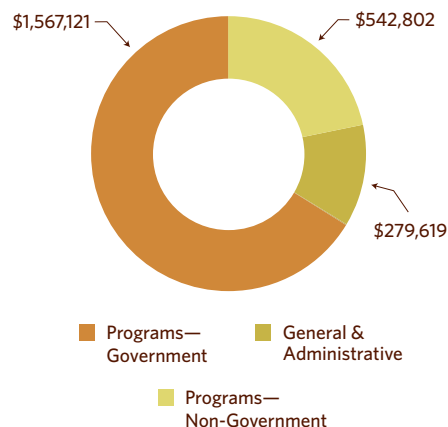
Total Revenue 2015
\$2,919,087



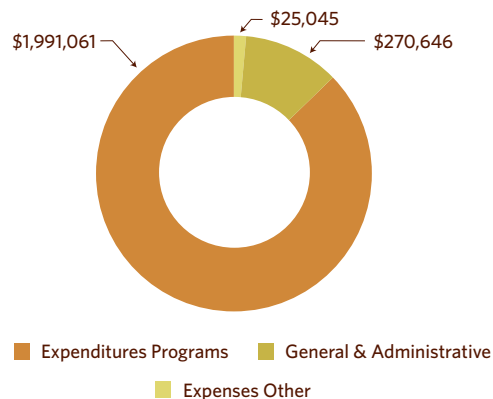
Total Revenue 2014
\$2,249,812



Total Expenditures 2015
\$2,389,542



Total Expenditures 2014
\$2,286,752



There is a place for you at the table

Everybody wants to do good work and wants to know how they can help. Great Northern makes a difference where people are most in need and communities are striving to move forward, but it's not about us—it's about your community and you can help.

It's about our volunteers...

Virginia McMaster of Hornbrook has volunteered as emergency food assistance site coordinator in her community for more than three decades. And she does even more! Virginia works at the Hornbrook Thrift Store so she has the money to purchase additional food for each emergency food supply bag needed by her neighbors.

...our donors...

In 2015 an **anonymous private donor** stepped up and donated \$10,000 toward our Weatherization and Energy Assistance programs for 2016. We are honored that the donor not only knows what we do, but knows we do it well.

...and you!

Excitement is building at Great Northern as we launch a **five year Giving Plan** to encourage more individuals, businesses, and foundations to contribute to their neighbors and communities by directly supporting our services for seniors and children. More people will have the opportunity to help, which means more help will be available to the people around us who are the most vulnerable and most in need. More people will be able to invest in the communities in which they live.

Help us make the future bright for everyone in Siskiyou County. Join your resources with those already striving to make a difference.

We'll be in touch!

THANK YOU FOR THE BOUNTY OF
FRESH FRUITS & VEGETABLES FROM
THE "MT. SHASTA FRESH PROGRAM"!
I AM FILLED WITH GRATITUDE FOR
FOR THE GIFTS OF THESE FOODS.
WHAT A DIFFERENCE IT MADE.
BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR
HARD WORK & KINDNESS!



Invite

Executive Director:

Bonnie Kubowitz

Board Member

Staff:

Adam Kleier

Angela Nathan

Becky Kubowitz

Betty Leas

Brandy Caporaso

Christine Meadows

Claudia Trevisan

Crystal Aston

David Wilm

Deborra Brannon

E. Seata Madison

Heather Solus

Jeff Holmquist

Kaysha Madison

Larry Luce

Marie-Josée Wells

Rod Merys

Ron Morris

Stan Drucker

Sue Tofflemire

Vickie Daniels

Zach McCrillis



Board of Directors

Heather Weldon

President

Yreka Branch Manager for
Banner Bank



"As president of the GNS board, I am proud to be part of a great organization with great leadership.

Great Northern is not only dedicated to serving the needs of Siskiyou County, they also give back to individuals, families, small businesses, and our rural communities."

Robert Menzies

Vice President

Botanist, Owner of Menzies
Native Nursery



"Community, volunteerism, and a commitment to those who develop programs that enhance and help the lives within this county—these are my reasons for serving on the Great Northern Services board and helping to affect its policies."

Terri Mazingo

Secretary & Treasurer

Real Estate and Investment Broker



"The good that GNS does for the community is awesome, and it's a privilege to be part of it. I appreciate the positive direction the organization is moving in under the current leadership of Bonnie Kubowitz and through the excellent efforts of the entire Great Northern staff."

Officer Frank Goulart

Director

Mount Shasta Police Department



"I have an opportunity to help others every day, and it's a great feeling. I believe in and support Great Northern Services because of the outstanding work they do in the community."

Inspire
Improve
Invigorate
Innovate
Invite



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