

*Ray and Carol Goodenough*

Enter Ray and Carol Goodenough, two caring volunteers for Ordinary People Meeting Extraordinary Needs (O.P.E.N.). And it's these good Samaritans, both from the East Coast, who go the extra miles to help people of all ages on the South Shore.

Since the Seventies, this couple have lived in South Lake Tahoe. Carol, 67, Ray 76, have four children between them and 14 grandchildren. Years ago, Ray and Carol paid their dues. "We went through some pretty lean years," she recalls. She was a maid and he was a janitor at the Travelodge. After John Harris, was the director for service centers for the Sierra Council on Alcoholism which was the first program for helping alcoholics to recover in this community. In fact, the husband and wife team admit they are recovering alcoholics and that is what brought them together. Nowadays, both people are happily clean and sober and active (Carol for 32 years, Ray for 36 years). But that's not all. . .

These two partners are working hard for the people who have extraordinary needs. "We are transporting some kidney dialysis people - and that's hard. It takes a lot of time," says Carol. But she adds, "I'm not going to die until I see a dialysis clinic in this town." Sadly, South Shore doesn't have a clinic. So, dialysis patients who require four hour treatments, three days per week must go to Carson City for treatment. And that is a huge hardship for folks who battle failing kidneys and need dialysis to stay alive. But, "there are not enough numbers up here to justify a clinic," points out Ray.

"I put 500 miles on my car this week," says Ray who took three different people to dental appointments and to U.C. Davis and back. He adds, "I simply believe in that philosophy which is ordinary people needing extraordinary needs. And ordinary people can and do make a difference. We were given each other, the need is there and it needs to be done. It makes me feel alive." Ray took over after Marie Cluff, founder of the Ordinary People Fund, retired to the Bay Area.

In 1994, Carol, a natural born nurturer became the president of O.P.E.N. "This gives my life meaning," she says. Ironically, she has had her own crosses to bear. In 1998, she endured heart surgery. Two pacemakers later, and two strokes in 2002 - she doesn't stop her volunteerism. Ray has only been in the hospital twice, two hip replacements. But still, both partners give, and give, and give to others in need.



photo by Jim Grant/Tahoe Daily Tribune

***"Ordinary people can make a difference.  
We help those with the courage to ask."***

The purpose of O.P.E.N., a non-profit corporation, is to help raise money to aid people with extraordinary medical needs, which targets people who fall through the cracks of insurance, or who don't have insurance at all.

Explains Ray, "Medical will pay for a kidney transplant at Stanford University but they won't get the people down there. Doctors will prescribe people medication that Medical does not cover. We help them with their co-payments or we get their medications for them." Unfortunately, a lot of medical practitioners and dentists on the South Shore do not accept Medical because they are slow in paying. This, in turn, means that these people in need must seek help off the hill. For volunteers and donations, please call 530-573-0242.



***Tahoe Care Coalition ~ Community Care Providers***

TAHOE CARE COALITION is an association at the South Shore of Lake Tahoe whose mission is to assist in accessing resources and the services for shelter, nutrition, transportation, education referrals and community development for individuals and families in the South Shore community. The Tahoe Care Coalition meets at noon the last Tuesday of each month in the Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church downstairs meeting room. If your group wishes to be included call the church at (530) 544-3757.

***South Lake Tahoe Women's Center***  
Contact: Leanne Wagoner  
(530) 544-2118

***Sierra Recovery Center***  
Contact: Rhea Dira  
(530) 541-5190

***National Alliance on Mental Illness***  
Contact: Diana Hankins  
(530) 577-4740

***Tahoe Area Coordinating Council for the Disabled***  
Contact: David Kelly  
(530) 577-8012

***Ordinary People meeting Extraordinary Needs***  
Contact: Carol Goodenough  
(530) 541-1722

***Tahoe Youth & Family Services***  
Contact: Ray Clough  
(530) 541-2445

***Christmas Cheer All Year***  
Contact: Joanne Shope or Wilma Thomas  
(530) 542-4934

***Family Resource Center***  
Contact: Delicia Spees  
(530) 542-0740

***Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe***  
Contact: Karen Houser  
(530) 542-0838

***El Dorado County Hepatitis C Task Force***  
Contact: Ken Morgan  
(530) 577-3111

***Choices Transitional Services***  
Contact: Rob Albin  
(530) 541-0167

***South Lake Tahoe Senior Center***  
Contact: Arline Gordon  
(775) 588-6997