

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

2 December 2023

This week, we served 338 people, another record. We served most of the hundreds of pounds of food that was donated to us over the holiday, and which filled every nook and cranny in the church. **Big news!!!!** We finally got the permit from Portland, so we hope to break ground by the new year!!! This special edition is dedicated to our youth.

CELEBRATING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

The youth of our community are amazing...and super cool! My apologies to those whose pictures I don't have! Send me one. I'd love to add your picture to our gallery!

We have young ones.



Jr and High School students.



High School Grads and College Students.



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Though young-at-heart, Bob, Janet, Kate & Joanne aren't really youth!

FORGET THE 'LEADERS OF TOMORROW' THING

Our youth are leading today!!! They work in Woodstock Hot Meals and Woodstock Pantry. They cook, wait on guests, set up and clean up for Hot Meals. They carry thousands of pounds of food in and out, up and down, and throughout the church. They pack grocery bags, cut hundreds of cardboard boxes, take out the trash (parents take note!), run up and down the stairs, carry grocery bags to cars and serve our neighbors...with the most generous and welcoming spirit you can imagine!

Young adults from Reed and Lewis & Clark, Isabella, Zoe, Myrtle and Katherine, are serving as interns and doing work-study. They are writing, and winning, grants to support our efforts. Zoe was awarded a grant to bring critically needed Narcan training to us. Alec and Khalil were awarded a grant to build raised beds throughout the Woodstock neighborhood, raise outrageous produce and donate them all to us.

And college students are doing research to help us learn about who we are supporting, our impact and our neighbors' additional needs. Zoe did a comparative study to learn if we need to do special outreach to particular folk. Sedona is doing research to learn why people come from far and wide to access our services. And Alysha is doing research to learn more about our Hot Meals guests and how the services All Saints provides are meeting the needs of our unhoused neighbors.

**OUR YOUTH REALIZE THE IMPORT OF THE WORK WE ARE DOING.
THEY DEDICATE THEIR TIME & ENERGY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

GRATITUDE BEYOND MEASURE TO YOU ALL!!!

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[DEMAND FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE UP 11% FROM LAST YEAR](#)

We have not been alone experiencing the mounting pressure from relentlessly increasing demand. This OPB article sheds light on the food security crisis we are witnessing.

High housing and fuel costs, inflation and the end of pandemic-related food benefits have contributed to hunger of tens of thousands of Oregonians. The Oregon Food Bank, which serves Oregon and southwest Washington, distributed more than 104 million pounds of food this fiscal year, an 11% increase from the prior year.

In response, Rep. Andrea Salinas, who represents Oregon's 6th Congressional District, introduced a bill earlier this month to double the amount of federal funding for the program that keeps Oregon pantries stocked by allowing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to purchase more food directly from producers, including Oregon farmers. (**Ben Botkin**) OPB.org

[WP SIGN UP SHEET DECEMBER](#)

THE WOODSTOCK PANTRY FUNDRAISER & FRIENDRAISER

We have had wonderful donations thus far! Each day, others make contributions to GoFundMe. And others are mailing checks to the church. We still have a distance to go to raise our pantry.

So, I'm back to grant writing. Tim, Andria, Emily and I are initiating a campaign to approach businesses. People have put up lawn signs and flyers around the community. The Bee ran an article on the pantry with an insert requesting donations. And Woodstock Neighborhood Association included an article in their [newsletter](#).

One of our volunteers, Justin, had a fantastic idea to invite his employer into our community. He applied for a grant from the business to benefit the pantry. We have no idea if he will get it but that is fine. We don't know which strategies will get us to our goal. We have time and again been surprised. So, we just keep trying and see what happens!

I figure – there are as many creative strategies to finish this fundraising drive as there are people in our community. Keep your thinking hat on and look for opportunities! If you have an idea, let me know. I'm happy to help in whatever way I can!

You can ask people to join us by:

1. contributing on our gofundme.com page, or with this QR code
2. and sharing this request with their colleagues, friends and family as well as community organizations and businesses (add to your social media, send emails, make calls).



THANK YOU!!!!

Celebrate...

It Takes a Community, And We Are It!