

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

10 December 2023

We served 356 people this weekend. Thanks to Chris and Bob, who covered the Outreach Coordinator duties and to all of you who stepped into the rain to get food to our neighbors!

COMMUNITY...OURS

Our community continues to surprise me! I learned that the Friday Distribution Team started a book club! I haven't yet figured out how they read while serving groceries, but I'm going to join them! If you want to join this wild reading group, let [Chris](#) know!

Results from our research tell an incredible story of community...our community. You can access our story here. [Fighting Hunger & Loneliness Through Community: The Woodstock Pantry Story](#).

LINK2FEED

We register people who come for food in Link2Feed (L2F), which is hosted by OFB. Through L2F, we gather basic demographic information about our neighbors. That data is critically important. It tells the hard-to-hear, but oh-so-important story about the relentless increase in food insecurity in our community. We hear the story about Oregon and nationally ([Oregon Live article](#); [OFB article](#)). And it is occurring right here.

OFB uses the data to determine how much food we are allocated. So, as our numbers increase, we get the food necessary to feed people. And I use it for program planning, grant writing and communicating with our community. Hence, data integrity is of utmost importance. Our Intake Workers are working to update the data. This takes extra time and can add stress to their job.

Here's what their efforts have produced just this week. We track the number of households and the number of people in those households. Our data on people was incorrect. So, we've been updating it. And it's making a difference.

Last week, we served 156 households, this week 154. If you look at that data alone, you might presume we served fewer people. However, last week, we served 338 people, this week 356.

	Households	People
Week 1	156	338
Week 2	154	356

That's a difference of 18 people...18 people who can get food as OFB integrates the correction into their system, 18 people who tell the story of hunger in our community...

That difference most likely reflects our Intake Workers' efforts to clean the data. So, a shout out and thank you to our Intake Workers! The role you play is vitally important in getting food to our neighbors!

ADVOCACY

Even as we get food to our neighbors, we need to continue addressing the root causes of food insecurity. OFB is taking a lead in this for our state and invites you to join them. Please consider attending the [OFB Community Briefing Event Statewide Organizing](#). They will provide an overview of how food banks and other service organizations are uniquely positioned to connect people accessing services to the decisions made at the local, state and federal level that impact them and their communities.

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SEEKING VOLUNTEER

Each week, I inventory our stock, determine what we need, order from OFB and build the 'menu' of what we will serve. I am seeking help as I need to redirect my energy to grant writing and fundraising. Thanks to Janet, who is training to do inventory!

Now, I'm looking for someone who loves details, is willing to learn spreadsheets, has access to a computer, and has time midweek. The work is homebased and is flexible to fit in with your life. I will parse the work according to your needs and interests. And of course, I'll be by your side for training and support. If interested, please let me know!

SIGN UP FOR SHIFTS

We have two more weeks to go to get through the holidays. We are closed the week prior to Christmas. However, we are serving this week and the week after Christmas. As our youth and young adults are mostly gone, we are depending on the rest of us to get the food out! Please join us!

[WP SIGN UP SHEET DECEMBER](#)

THE WOODSTOCK PANTRY FUNDRAISER & FRIENDRAISER

Our efforts continue to raise the funds necessary to pay for our new pantry.

Anything you can do to help really matters, whether it's sharing the information with a friend or your employer, telling me about a grant opportunity, or distributing flyers.

It's the end of the year, and people and businesses are looking for tax deductible donation opportunities. We are a nonprofit, so they can get a deduction by supporting our pantry build.

Every action helps!

We are up to \$30,050 on GoFundMe! Yah! I've submitted a few grant proposals and am preparing more. One step at a time. We will make it...together!

You can ask people to join us by:

1. contributing on our [gofundme.com](https://www.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!