

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

26 November 2023

GIVING THANKS

I'd like to take a moment to recognize the incredible generosity of spirit in our community!

Our volunteers contribute thousands of hours of time and energy to support our neighbors! Our community has contributed thousands of dollars to make our programs possible. And now people are stepping up to help raise our new pantry building!

Without this outpouring of generosity, the food pantry, hot meals, clothing and hygiene would all be just a dream.

**YOU ALL ARE TRANSFORMING OUR SHARED DREAM INTO REALITY
EVERY DAY, WITH EVERY LOVING ACTION YOU TAKE!**

This community is living proof that together we can change the world...or at least our little corner of the world...for the better! I am humbled in the presence of such spirit and feel privileged to be a part of this community. Thank you!!!

Here's the story of our 2nd annual Community Share. I share details as it is such a wonderful exemplar of our community coming together to care for each other!

WOODSTOCK COMMUNITY SHARE

44 volunteers contributed 100+ hours over this holiday weekend to create a hot meal feast and festival for our unhoused neighbors.

FRIDAY PREPARATIONS



We packed 75 Ready-to-Eat bags with the leadership of our Ready-to-Eat team, Susan and Nancy! The bags were jam packed with everything from peanut butter to pop-top cans of tuna and spaghetti to Slim Jims and crackers, fruit, candy bars, drinks and more!

Denise selected hygiene and wound-care supplies for our neighbors! Save Lives Oregon donated hygiene, wound care and Narcan products!



Our Reed Interns, Myrtle and Katherine, packed 75 hygiene and wound-care packets!



And Lindsay procured another box full of packed hygiene bags through her contacts, friends and neighbors.

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

26 November 2023

On Saturday, our Hot Meals cooks arrived early to make a feast for our guests. Then, with the leadership of our new Team Lead, Roddy, our 4th Saturday Hot Meals team served a wonderful meal to 136 people!

Soon as they wrapped up, our next team came in to reset the dining room. We had stations for:

- σ Hats, scarves, shawls and mittens (thanks to All Saints Hats & Scarves Ministry and donations).
- σ Blankets and sleeping bags (thanks to Reed College, Oregon Food Bank and donors).
- σ Hygiene and wound care products (thanks to Save Lives Oregon and Lindsay's network of donors).
- σ Ready-to-Eat grocery bags – food that can be eaten without requiring stoves, cold storage or water (thanks to donations from OFB, community members, Whole Child Montessori School, Reed College and Pen State Alumni of Portland). People also got oranges and cheese (thanks to Sharon), bagels (thanks to Dave's Killer Bread), chips, nuts, granola and Conchas.
- σ Clothing and cold/wet weather gear (thanks to Clothing Closet, Cultivate Initiatives, Mustard Seed and donations).

Meanwhile, Cultivate Initiatives set up showers and laundry in the parking lot.



From 1:30-3:30 we opened our doors, and our neighbors were invited to visit the various tables to select goods and food they desired. We served 50+ people by 2:30! The dining room was jam packed with people! And our volunteers did an incredible job serving everyone!

After the festivities, our team cleaned up and reset the dining room for Sunday!

My only regret is that I never have enough time to get pictures of all our volunteers?! If you are not in a picture, please know that you indeed are a valuable member of our team...and that we need a photographer!

HOLIDAY GENEROSITY

And for the holidays, some special gifts for our neighbors...

PENN STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, PORTLAND

Dropped off 200lbs. of food from their annual food drive.



Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

26 November 2023

DAVE'S KILLER BREAD

Dave's selected us as their nonprofit beneficiary for their annual employee food drive! They also gave us 75 bags of bagels for our unhoused neighbors!



WHOLE CHILD MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Three groups of children carried grocery bags loaded with food from the Montessori School across the street. They were greeted with the now famous Woodstock Pantry cheer and gratitude, i.e., a standing ovation!

THE WOODSTOCK PANTRY FUNDRAISER & FRIENDRAISER

Thank you all for the wonderful donations! Each day, people make contributions to help us raise our new pantry building. As of today, our GoFundMe campaign has \$15,355, this in addition to thousands of dollars donated via checks.

We still have a distance to go to raise our pantry. So, Andria and I are back to grant writing. Tim, Andria, Emily and I are initiating a campaign to approach businesses. The CEC put up lawn signs and flyers around the community and contacted people to invite them to get the word out to people they know. And the Bee just ran an article on the pantry with an insert about the pantry.

Also, one of our volunteers, Justin, had a fantastic idea! He applied for a grant from his employer 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. But 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 raise the funds to build our new pantry as there are people in our community. So, keep brainstorming and watch for opportunities! If you have an idea, I'm happy to help in whatever way I can!

You can help by:

1. contributing on our [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) page, with this QR code or with a check to All Saints Episcopal Church with Woodstock Pantry Build in the notes/memo line.
2. sharing this request with your colleagues, friends and family as well as community organizations and businesses (add to your social media, send emails, make calls).



THANK YOU!!!!

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

26 November 2023

DECEMBER AT THE PANTRY

Please sign up for your December shifts. We still need people for Saturday Distribution, Dec. 2. **The new sign-up sheet is now up and the old one is disabled.** The sign-up sheet includes next weekend.

[WP SIGN UP SHEET DECEMBER](#)

Celebrate...

It Takes a Community, And We Are It!