

## Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

13 August 2023

36 volunteers served 262 people this week. [Record high demand](#) persists. Thank you!

### FAREWELL TO ZOE

Last week, I shared all the different people who contribute to the Woodstock Pantry. One group has exploded onto the scene this last year, college students! When I arrived, we had one college student, Alysha, who volunteered regularly at the pantry (more about Alysha later!). Since then, we have established a great relationship with Reed College. We have hosted volunteer groups, welcomed individual volunteers in both our Hot Meals and Pantry programs, and provided internships for two students. Which brings me to Zoe, our summer Reed intern!

Zoe worked with us full-time this summer. Her learning interest was social service program management. So, I immersed her in everything related to that role. She learned the behind-the-scenes work required to run outreach programs, e.g., food management, communications with various community members, volunteer management, writing, research, planning, organizing, program evaluation and planning, etc. She learned pantry/hot meals operations and has planned pantry weekend operations for the last month. She learned about research by assisting with the customer satisfaction and volunteer surveys. Then, she conducted her own research project, which generated the [WP Neighbor Demographics Report!](#) This report presents very interesting information on the demographics of our neighbors compared to our service area and Portland.

Zoe has been a valued and wonderful member of our community and I am already mourning her departure after August 19! But she needs to finish her senior year! On August 18, Rev Andria is going to bring refreshments to each shift to celebrate and thank Zoe. Thanks so much, Zoe!

### OFB SITE REVIEW

This week, OFB completed their Site Review for the pantry and hot meals programs. I'm delighted to share that we advanced from being an 'at risk agency' to being an 'agency in good standing'! This was a direct result of all the hard work we all have been doing this last year to develop the program and improve our services.

**Congratulations & thanks to all for helping us achieve this important milestone!**

The OFB Report identifies improvements we need to make by early September. So, we'll start working on those right away. More details coming soon.

**Most important for now** – please note that I've posted updated storage requirements for our fridges and freezers. Please make a practice of following these requirements.

### THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CEC)

Our **Social Network Team** gathered information from the Woodstock Pantry community and mapped our many connections (140 at last count) into the wider community. They will collect more data this weekend.

Our **Volunteer Projects Team** is waiting for building details on several of our projects and creating plans to recruit volunteers for those projects.

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Our **Gratitude (G) Team** interviewed volunteers to find ways to show our gratitude for all their contributions. They heard some great ideas and are now planning and implementing!!! This weekend, Chris brought lanyards for volunteers in every shift! Get yours when you work next!

### THE HUNGER CLIFF

Oregon Food Bank reports...

As of June 2023, 60% of SNAP participants, an all-time high, **reported not being able to afford household essentials**. The 'hunger cliff' faced by many community members with the end of COVID-era temporary emergency SNAP allotments this May, means that current benefits are down to as little as **\$6 per person per day**, insufficient to feed an individual. This decreased spending power has also affected grocers, who are estimated to eventually lose \$20 billion in profit due to decreased spending at retail locations.

This significantly reduced purchasing power has resulted in increased household food insecurity and the **higher client counts we are hearing from many of our pantries across the state**.

We have seen several spikes in demand this year, starting last March when temporary federal SNAP benefits were terminated. We are four weeks into another spike with an unceasing stream of people who are new to the pantry.

### LABOR DAY

We have just enough volunteers to serve over Labor Day, but it's going to be a rough hall. So, if you can give a couple hours that weekend, please let me know! Thanks to everyone who is making it happen!

### WP ANNUAL REVIEW & PLAN

We now have all our data, e.g., [Customer Satisfaction Report](#), [Volunteer Report](#), [WP Neighbor Demographics Report](#) and OFB Site Review. The Outreach Coordinator Team will analyze the data and draft recommendations for the 23-24 Annual Plan. Please send me any and all ideas and I'll share them with the team.

### SIGN UP FOR JULY/AUGUST SHIFTS

Please sign up for your shifts. Remember to sign up for the weekend by the prior Thursday so we can plan. And if you can't come, please contact me right away so that I can get others to fill your position. Many thanks!

[WP Sign Up July/August](#)

### HOT MEALS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers for our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, 9:30-12:30. Please let me know if you have questions or are interested!

**Celebrate...**

**It Takes a Community, And We Are It!**