

## Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

19 August 2023

37 volunteers served 267 people this week. Those of us scheduled for this weekend were really worried that we were short on volunteers, and thinking about how we could be creative in getting the food out. And then, volunteers stepped up, so we had full shifts all weekend! Thank you everyone! You all – truly – are the best!

### PRODUCE FOR PEOPLE

by Zoe Drajem

Early Saturday, I went to visit Patchwork Farms, a decentralized farming project created by Alec DeContreras and Khalil Laltoo. This summer, the two Reed Students were awarded a grant from Middlebury College's *Projects for Peace* Program to do this work in the Woodstock community.

Their seven sites occupy the donated yard space of neighbors within a two-block radius of their center of operations. Khalil told me

that yards are often-overlooked and underutilized spaces when it comes to urban farming. The two of them transformed these grassy lawns into flourishing food-production sites. Each bed was hand built with reclaimed wood, each trench hand dug, and every plant grown from seed. The fruits of their labor range from countless golden tomatoes to plentiful zucchini, and even includes a single watermelon named Raymond. All summer, they have donated their hyper-local produce to the Woodstock Pantry and Woodstock Hot Meals.

When I asked them what their work is all about it always came back to one thing – community. Their project puts sharing resources among community members at the forefront. Neighbors donate their yards, and Alec and Khalil offer their time and knowledge in return. The food, in turn, actively feeds our neighbors. “We have to take care of one another,” Khalil says. It is only with this collaboration-oriented mindset that we will be able to build more resilient communities.

### FALL KICK-OFF PARTY

**Please join members of the Community Engagement Committee at All Saints on September 10, 11:15am for a community celebration!**

We will celebrate [Woodstock Gives Back](#) by recognizing the many people who contribute to Woodstock Pantry and Woodstock Hot Meals. We will share about the Woodstock Pantry Build Project. And we will offer people the opportunity to ‘Buy a Plant’ to help landscape our new Woodstock Pantry.

**If you can come, please RSVP Kristen so we get enough hot dogs and refreshments!**



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### THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Our **Social Network Team** will share the Woodstock Pantry Social Network at the Fall Kick-Off Party. For the pantry to succeed as an ongoing food source for our area, we must continue to develop and expand the network of people and organizations that adopt the Woodstock Pantry as their own. So, the team is working with the other teams to develop and expand our social network.

Our **Volunteer Projects Team** is creating plans to recruit volunteers for projects related to the pantry build. They will share the information at the Fall Kick-Off Party and sign-up people who want to join us to 'raise the barn'!

Our **Gratitude (G) Team** is implementing strategies to express our gratitude to the many people who contribute to the pantry. This weekend, we all proudly wore our new name tags – thanks G Team! The team will be at the Fall Kick-Off Party to recognize all those who contribute to the pantry. And they would like to get a picture of all the volunteers! Please come join us!

### 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](#)

### OREGON FOOD FACTS

**Hunger Fact #1** Prior to the pandemic, 1 in 11 Oregonians were food insecure. Today, **1 in 5 people face hunger** in rural, urban and suburban communities throughout the state - a dramatic increase driven by the ongoing economic fallout of COVID-19 & the rising cost of food and housing.

**Hunger Fact #2** The Oregon Food Bank Network is made up of 21 regional food banks partnering with more than 1,400 free food markets, pantries, meal sites and delivery programs. The Network sources and distributes over 78 million meals worth of food (93 million pounds) each year - with an emphasis on fresh produce, dairy, protein and pantry staples.

To learn more, go to [Oregon Hunger Facts | Oregon Food Bank](#)

### TRAIN TO BE A WOODSTOCK HOT MEALS VOLUNTEER

Several people have crossed trained as pantry and hot meals volunteers. It gives them options about how they want to contribute, and it gives us more flexibility to keep our programs running. Please let me know if you have questions or are interested in Woodstock Hot Meals!

**Celebrate...**

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