

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

5 August 2023

We served 258 people this week with 32 volunteers. Thank you everyone! We are struggling to fill our shifts this month. I presume lots of vacations? If you can spare a bit of time, please come join us, even if it's for just part of a shift. It's most difficult filling the Saturday Distribution Shift. Thank you so very much!

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

What does it take to ensure a community resource is sustainable?

We need physical space from which to operate. All Saints graciously offered their parking lot for the storage container and the new pantry structure. The parish also gave up the ability to use the parking lot for parish purposes on Friday and Saturday so that we could serve food to our neighbors. And we've all seen how the pantry fills the sanctuary each week, which means that the parish doesn't have access to it for parish purposes. All Saints contributes a lot to the sustainability of the Woodstock Pantry.

Many thanks to All Saints parishioners!

We need food to fill the grocery bags. We go through a lot of food, EVERY week! We fill 250 bags with dry goods and produce. We fill 30 bags with food that doesn't require cooking. We fill 125 bags with meat, eggs and sundry other food. And we don't pay a dime for any of it!

For this bounty, we are thankful to many groups. Oregon Food Bank (OFB) contributes an average of 5,000 lbs. of dry goods and produce, every week. Dave's Killer Bread contributes 125 loaves of bread, every week. Clackamas Service Center offers an average of 50 lbs. of food, every week. Neighborhood Pantry contributes an average of 50 lbs., every week. Various neighbors donate food, every week. Sharon brings food for people who can't cook, every week! And then, there's the community gardens. Sellwood and Brentwood-Darlington Community Gardens, the Multnomah County Master Gardeners, a family farm, the Reed student garden project, Woodstock Elementary School and various neighbors contribute fresh produce, every week! And then, there's Pongos, a nonprofit dedicated to feeding the pets of our unhoused neighbors. They donate 125 lbs. of pet food, every week! **A shout-out to our many community neighbors who bring food to the table!**

We need people to get food to our neighbors. It takes an average of 35 people, in addition to me, to operate the pantry, every week!

80+% of our volunteers are from our wider community, i.e., Reed college, high schools, neighbors... They donate their precious weekend time to: drive to get food; make 250 double grocery bags; move 5,000 lbs. of food from the parking lot to its new home in various places throughout the church and the pantry; set up and fill the 250 grocery bags; make the ready-to-eat bags; prepare for distribution; and distribute food to our neighbors. And through it all, volunteers on every shift work to recycle hundreds of boxes and clean the sanctuary. **A 'thank you' to our volunteers, from the bottom of my heart!**

Operating Expenses. There will always be operating expenses for social endeavors. Many thanks to All Saints for integrating the stipend for the Outreach Coordinator into their budget! Having just reached my first-year anniversary, I can say with confidence

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that this position is vital to sustaining the pantry into the future. Though the position is responsible for Hot Meals and other sundry duties, a large majority of the time is required to run the pantry. And then, there are expenses for equipment, supplies and appliances. These expenses are primarily covered by generous donations and grants. And of course, the bags. We go through 500 bags every week and we have never run out in my entire first year?! These thousands of bags are donated from parishioners, community members, people who receive food, volunteers... **Thank you to all who have and continue to make these vital financial donations!**

The Woodstock Pantry Build. As many of you know, we have been awarded four grants to build the new pantry. SE Uplift is funding the awning to help keep our volunteers and neighbors protected from the elements. The Episcopal Diocese, Oregon Food Bank and Lowes are funding the build. Lowes has selected us as one of 100 [signature projects](#) across the nation for a Hometown grant! All Saints continues fund raising and people continue making donations. And the Community Engagement Committee is hard at working, planning volunteer workdays, celebrations and building community. **Thanks to all for helping us build the pantry!**

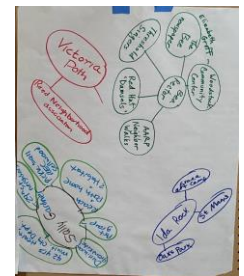
Neighbors Helping Neighbors. The truth of the matter is simple, yet profound. Alone, none of us could transform the Woodstock Pantry into a sustainable food source for our area. None of us, as individuals or groups, has everything necessary to realize this dream. But all of us together are doing it! So, as you are making your contribution, remember all the others who are making contributions and revel in the fact that we are together, Neighbors Helping Neighbors!

THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CEC)



To ensure the sustainability of Woodstock Pantry into the future, we must continue making connections in the community. So this week, our **Social Network Team** started gathering information from the Woodstock Pantry community. Their goal is to map our many connections into the wider community. Victoria, Janet and Kathy will collect data for a few weeks to make sure everyone has a chance to contribute.

Think about your connections in the community, i.e., individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, work, recreation, etc. Do you know someone at a store, a school, a church, the county offices, the city...? Are you part of an arts group, a book club, a choir, a neighborhood group? Jot down your connections and bring them to your next shift.



Our **Gratitude (G) Team** wants to find ways to show our gratitude to the many people who contribute to the pantry. And they want to show our gratitude in ways that are valued by people. So, they are asking folks, *'What would make you feel celebrated and appreciated for the work you are doing here?'* Watch for Chris in your upcoming shifts and don't be shy about sharing how you would like to be recognized! It's hard and important work and your contributions matter!

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LABOR DAY – CAN YOU WORK?

I need to tell our neighbors this coming weekend if we will be open Sept 1-2. Right now, the only shift that has enough volunteers is Friday Distribution.

If you haven't already, please email me **this week** and let me know if you will be available and what shift you can work. Thanks to those of you who have contacted me!

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!

Remember to use the new sign-up sheet for July/August. The old one is closed.

[WP Sign Up July/August](#)

HOT MEALS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hey everyone, as you know, we serve hot meals to our neighbors every Saturday. **We are looking for volunteers to fill our teams.** Each team works one Saturday each month. Currently, we are looking for volunteers for our 3rd, 4th and 5th Saturdays. The shift runs on Saturday from 9:30-12:30 and it's a load of fun! Please let me know if you have questions or are interested!

TRAINING

The Oregon Food Bank site review is on August 9th. We are required to ensure all volunteers have completed their training. They will check to see. So...

1. Seasoned Volunteers - it's time to renew your training!
2. New Volunteers - Please complete your training prior to your shift.
3. New Volunteers who have already completed training - Please complete the FIFO training.

I updated all the Shift Instructions. **We all need to read them and sign off** (see *First-In, First-Out* training below). Please work to integrate the new/improved practices into your routine. Building a practice requires conscious effort. Click on the links to get to the training. After you complete the training, click on the [Volunteer Training Log](#) link to document that you have completed the training.

1. People working **all shifts** need to view the [Oregon Food Bank Food Safety Video](#) (16 minutes).
2. People who work the **Distribution shift** need to view the [Client Civil Rights & Confidentiality Video](#) (20 minutes).
3. Everyone needs to complete **First-In-First-Out** training for the shifts you work. They are included in the Shift Instructions. You will find links to your Shift Instructions on the [Volunteer Training Log](#). (10 minutes).

Celebrate...

It Takes a Community, And We Are It!