

## Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

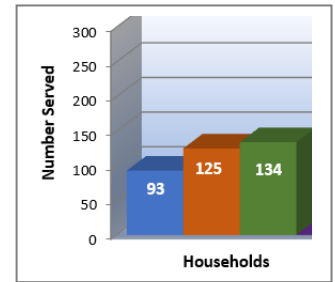
18 March 2023

### SNAP REDUCTIONS HAVE LANDED

We report two figures to OFB, i.e., the number of households and the number of individuals we serve. This week, we served 263+ people. And we served 134 households.

The number of households we served has increased by 40 in just two weeks. The number of individuals we served increased by 71 in that same period.

And I believe the growth in demand is not over.



### WP VOLUNTEERS STEP UP

We didn't run out of food this week!

We prepared 135 dry goods and 125 produce bags. For perspective, we have been making 96 bags/week each this last year. And we prepared 30 ready-to-eat bags. Everyone worked harder and longer. Our receiving team moved 4,758 lbs. of food, about 1,700 lbs. more than our recent average/week. Our packing team packed 78 more bags. Our distribution teams moved all the bags to people's cars, carts, bikes and back-packs.

You all amaze me!!! You do realize that the Woodstock Pantry would only be an idea without all of you!

### WHO WE SERVE

Here are statistics I generated prior to the SNAP reduction. Note that these numbers are changing as we witness the impact of SNAP. In a few weeks, I'll show you that change.

Our neighbors include elders, people of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, homeowners and renters as well as people who live on low-incomes and are unhoused. 52% of individuals are 45 years of age or older (27% 45-64; 25% ≥65). 41% of households include individuals with disabilities. 2% of individuals identify as non-binary, gender nonconforming or transgender. 11% of households include single parents or caregivers for a child under age 18.

More than a third (34%) of individuals are Asian, Hispanic, Slavic/Eastern European, Black, American Indian, Middle Eastern, African or multi-ethnic. They speak a wide variety of languages including Russian, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Romanian, French, Burmese, German, Croatian, Ukrainian, Moldavian, Spanish and English. Only 60% of individuals use English as their primary language.

### NEW OUTREACH CENTER

Our new Outreach Center is complete! This room is dedicated to community outreach. We have hygiene products, clothes, blankets and food. Anyone can share these items with our neighbors. Here's how it works.

If you see someone with a need, get their order, fill a bag with products and get a pre-made bag of groceries. Then, share the bags with the person. These resources are available throughout the week, so people don't have to wait for the pantry to be open to get support. At your next shift, ask for a tour! And, if you want to take some bags in your car to share with people, please do!!

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### **WP VOLUNTEER SURVEY**

We're getting great responses to the survey! Please take five minutes to complete it. In the next few weeks, I'll do a content analysis of the responses and we'll put together an improvement plan. You can access the survey at [WP Volunteer Survey](#).

Thank you so very much, for all the time you contribute to feeding our neighbors and for the ideas you share today and in the future!

### **NEWS FROM THE SHIFTS**

Our Packing Team, which is usually full, is short volunteers. The Packing Team is great for those who have physical challenges and/or prefer a less physically strenuous shift. Please consider joining this team!

Welcome Michael and Zach, new volunteers who joined our distribution teams. We so appreciated your help and look forward to working with you again!

### **GOOD NEWS**

Last week, I shared that we do not have a food budget for the pantry and that the food we serve comes from sources that give it to us for free. So, I am constantly searching for new food sources. We learned this week that we have been accepted by AmpleHarvest.org as a recipient of produce grown by Portlanders! So, hopefully we will get donations from folks this summer!

Also, a Reed student and pantry volunteer recently was awarded a grant. His plan...build raised planting beds in Woodstock neighbors' yards and grow produce that will be donated to the pantry! If you are interested in participating in his project, let me know ASAP. He just got the grant and already has almost as many neighbors as he needs!

### **PANTRY BUILD PROJECT**

For those of you new to this, the container that serves as our pantry is temporary and (obviously) insufficient to meet our needs. We need more storage space, electricity for lighting and temperature control, space for refrigeration and space to make produce bags. And we need to reduce the impact on the sanctuary from pallets, pallet jacks and produce.

These last ten months, Rev. Andria and I have been submitting grant proposals and raising funds to get a permanent structure. We are about halfway there. This week, we submitted two grant proposals. We're working on another which is due by month's end. And we are planning fundraising events. In the best of all possible worlds, we would break ground in spring and have our new pantry by summer's end.

If you'd like more details or know of a possible funding source, please let me know!

### **MARCH SIGN UP**

The remaining weeks in March are Spring Break for our youth. Please sign up for shifts to help us get through the month.

[Woodstock Pantry March Sign Up](#)

### **Remember...**

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