

## Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

14 May 2023

### !!SHOUT OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS!!

On Friday, the OFB truck back wheels created/fell into a sink hole in our parking lot. Importantly, no one was hurt. And, with the help of highly professional men and a semi-sized tow truck, the truck was pulled out of the hole. See the last page for a couple pictures.

As the incident occurred at 7:30am, it messed up the entire day's shifts. But you all are so amazing, you never skipped a beat! Volunteers in each shift took stock of what needed to happen and then set to work with smiles, laughter, dedication and teamwork.

We even came up with a theme song for the Outreach Programs... *Que Sera, Sera* (Whatever Will Be, Will Be). We recognize that we can't control the events that happen, but we are committed to feeding our neighbors and supporting each other in our work. And we recognize that when times are stressful, it's even more important to be in community with each other. There can be no better demonstration of community than what I witnessed this weekend.

### THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH!!!

This week we served 197 people.

### NEIGHBOR SURVEY

We have been collecting customer service evaluation data from our neighbors. I'm going to share a few comments here.

- I'm just plain worn out over keeping alive without good income. This helps my sanity.
- This and SSI is all I have.
- This is my first visit. I have hungry children and grandchildren.
- Responsible neighborhood! They care!!!
- Overall attitude of respect (of the pantry team).
- Good food, but it's the atmosphere (the pantry team creates).

These comments reflect the overall picture being painted by our neighbors, one of desperation and gratitude for the work you all are doing. And, importantly, that we don't just serve food. We also serve love, compassion, respect and honor for our neighbors! Yes!!!

### HOUSING & HUNGER

In this email, I attached a section of the report, [\*Out-of-Reach: The High Cost of Living\*](#), released by the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

**Housing is, literally, out of reach for much of the PDX population.**

### [Stable, Affordable Housing is Key to Ending Hunger](#)

Everyone needs a safe place to call home. Our communities are healthier and more stable when families have affordable, long-term housing. But right now, **more than 50 percent of renters in Oregon do not have enough money after rent to afford food and other basic necessities.**

This underscores an essential fact: **housing insecurity isn't just a housing issue — it's a key driver of hunger.**

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Our state legislators have the opportunity to move Oregon closer to our vision of a place where no one goes hungry and everyone has a place to call home. Rent stabilization is a key part of Stable Homes for Oregon Families Homelessness Prevention Package. If passed, it would set reasonable rent limits to protect Oregonians from the extreme rent increases that drive housing insecurity.

When housing is unaffordable, it forces many families to make hard decisions about whether to pay the bills or put food on the table. This affects all people impacted by oppressive systems, especially Black, Indigenous, and all People of Color, immigrants, trans and gender nonconforming communities, and single parent households.

We must address housing insecurity in order to end hunger at the root. By passing the Stable Homes for Oregon Families Homelessness Prevention Package we are investing in a healthier, more resilient Oregon.

**[Email your lawmakers to tell Oregon lawmakers that our housing solutions are our hunger solutions.](#)**

Between the sunset of pandemic emergency support and the rising cost of food and housing, we expect a sharp increase in demand for food assistance throughout the region. Legislative action is more important than ever as we work to meet evolving needs and address hunger at its roots.

**[Oregon Food Bank Policy Agenda](#)**

### **DRIVERS NEEDED!**

Our regular driver is indisposed for May. So, we need someone to pick up our Dave's Killer Bread at 8:30 each Friday through May. And we need someone to pick up Pongo pet food on May 27 at 11:00.

It's a one person job, we have bins in which to carry the food and we'll help unload when you arrive at the church. Please let me know if you can help out!

### **TIME TO IMPLEMENT OUR SUMMER PLAN!**

It's time to implement our summer plan. Our college students have gone home for the summer, leaving us short on shifts. Please help us fill in the summer gap!

**We are still really short on volunteers for Saturday Distribution.**

Please sign up for your shifts.

**[May Sign Up Sheet](#)**

### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Cultivate Initiatives Party** – Cultivate Initiatives partners with us on Saturdays to provide showers, laundry, hygiene, clothing and medical service. They have invited us to a party!

Cultivate Initiatives would like to formally invite your team at All Saints to our 2023 Eat & Greet. This will be on Friday, May 26th from 5:30pm-8:30pm at the TriMet Menlo Park Park & Ride, immediately bordering the Menlo Park Safe Rest Village. There will be live music, free food, and activities to help build relationships amongst neighbors.

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This is an event to bring housed and unhoused neighbors together for a party, and it is a platform for further engagement and action. We're excited to host this in such close proximity to the Menlo Park Safe Rest Village, as it will be an opportunity for the villagers to be part of the event and feel welcome in their community. You can [visit our website](#) for more information.

We hope to see you there! RSVPs are not required, but we would love to know if you are able to make it. Feel free to reach out with any questions.

### TRAINING

Training is an annual requirement for all volunteers.

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. So, check the Shift Instructions (in the volunteer binder) each week until you consistently incorporate the new practices into your work!

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). I encourage everyone to view it, even if you don't work the Distribution shift, as it introduces our philosophy and values regarding our neighbors.
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!

