

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

21 May 2023

FOOD INSECURITY IN OREGON

This week we served 293 people. This is almost 100 more than last week. I don't have the data to claim there is a trend. My attempts to discern trends and predict numbers have pretty much been futile. There are simply too many factors at play in society, some of which I know and many of which are beyond my knowledge. My data brain, however, keeps searching! So, I'll share with you the best I can. One factor that may affect our numbers is the Oregon Pandemic EBT Cards, which are now starting.

Oregon Pandemic EBT Cards - Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) is money for children whose access to adequate and quality food may have been impacted by COVID-19. P-EBT is a program in partnership with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Here's a link to a [newscast](#) on the subject. Here's the link to [Oregon Gov](#) for more details.

SUMMER AT THE PANTRY

We are starting to settle into our summer teams. Thanks so much to everyone for letting me know your summer plans. It has helped immensely with planning!

The Saturday Distribution team experienced the most change as volunteers from Reed and local high schools are on summer vacation. It also tends to be the team with the most fluctuation in volunteers. So, if you ever see it is short, please sign up to join us!

We've been fortunate to have new people sign up to help us throughout the summer. Welcome to John, Elana, Pratik, Lyn, Tim, Lisa and Michael! Thank you so much for joining our teams!

This week, we had 35 volunteers. It felt great to have full teams! Thanks everyone! I have come to the conclusion that we need 35 volunteers every weekend in order to provide our service without putting undue stress on our teams.

A SHOUT OUT TO OUR DISTRIBUTION TEAMS

We have been collecting customer service evaluation data from our neighbors. Today, I share data concerning our distribution teams.

Our distribution teams have direct contact with our neighbors. Volunteers know that their job is to serve food AND to build community. So, a primary objective is to get to know people and nurture relationships. Their efforts are paying off!

Here are a few comments from our neighbors:

- Very positive; People are nice (7 comments)
- Customer service is very good (4 comments)
- Friendly; Ready to help (3 comments)
- It's good food, but it's the atmosphere
- Overall attitude of respect
- Polite and concerned
- I like everyone who serves

We know that at any time any one of us may be standing on either side of the table. Many people live one step away from slipping into the nightmare of food insecurity, i.e., one missed paycheck or one medical bill or one rent hike. So we stand in solidarity as community, neighbor helping neighbor. We provide whatever support

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we can to take the edge off the daily oppression our neighbors experience as they struggle to simply live. And we do it with profound respect and honor.

Our neighbors' comments affirm the efforts of our Distribution Teams.

YEAH & THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!!!

MAY SHIFTS

Please sign up for your shifts **prior to Thursdays** so that I can plan the weekend.

NOTE: I disabled the May sheet. The last weekend in May is included in the new sign up sheet. Thanks!

[May/June 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.

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

This week, I'll be checking our progress on updating our training. OFB site review is coming soon and I want us to shine! So, if you aren't up-to-date, please catch up!

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!

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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!