

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

5 May 2023

This week we served 233 people. Thank you everyone, for your help!

DRIVERS NEEDED!

Our regular driver is indisposed for the next month. 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!

THERE IS A POET AMONG US!

Thank you for sharing, Chris Gustafson!

Food Pantry Distribution Team

On a Friday afternoon there are no parents of young children
Or anyone who works nine to five.
Who has time to haul grocery sacks to cars?
We are the newly old. Volunteering just a bit
Or retired and figuring out what that means.
We are taking care of our own parents
Or grieving their recent loss.
We are students from the college down the hill
Racking up community service hours.
Or we wonder if that church is attracting
All the houseless to the neighborhood
And come to see.
Or we live in the cars parked around the church
And are welcomed.
We learn about each other in quick exchanges
As we dodge cars lined up in the parking lot,
Who speaks Mandarin or Ukrainian,
Who has a recipe to hand out with the beets
In the produce bag.
Who knows that cooking drugs melted the urinal
In the Port-a-Potty near the pantry.

Carrying heavy sacks
We make each other's burdens light.

Needs and Gifts

Heidi walked up while we were giving out food
She wasn't hungry
But she really needed shoes.
We found three pairs for her to try on
In size seven,
And clean socks.
She chose
And we assured her that there was no limit
On our return policy.

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Later Daniel come by to pick up food
And left one chocolate coin
And two Dum Dum suckers
For us to give away.

EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS

There are a couple events coming up at All Saints that may be of interest to you. The first is about poverty and homelessness. I think of the conversations we have during those rare quiet moments on our shifts. We are all trying to make sense of something that feels so utterly inexplicable. This conversation offers us an opportunity to explore the questions in more depth and from different perspectives.

Wednesday, May 10 at 6:00pm - Poverty, Homelessness and the Compassion of Christ: Making a connection between poverty, homelessness and the compassion of Christ is central to making change in today's society. Join All Saints for an evening of ideas and discussion about the challenges faced, concerted efforts and cooperative congressional results on unhoused solutions. A delicious vegan meal will be served We'll hear from speakers from Central City Concern, Community Alliance of Tenants and Poetic Phonetics. A vegan dinner will be served (let us know if you need GF). Please RSVP to office@allsaintspd.org (4033 SE Woodstock Blvd).

The second is a chance to enjoy great music with our community!

Saturday, May 13, 6:30pm – Portland Chamber Music: Returning to All Saints for a concert evening. This all-volunteer ensemble is a professional non-profit organization who along with the Woodstock Neighborhood Association helped us raise about \$5,000 for Ukrainian relief. Now, we solicit your attendance and support of the Woodstock Pantry; the only entrance request is a donation to the pantry of a couple of cans of food (vegetables and/or tuna). The doors will open at 6:30pm and the Chamber music will begin to flow at 7:00pm (4033 SE Woodstock Blvd). All are welcome.

SIGN UP FOR SHIFTS

Please sign up for your shifts. Our college students are headed home for the summer, leaving us short on shifts. Please help us fill in the summer gap!

[May Sign Up Sheet](#)

TIME TO IMPLEMENT OUR SUMMER PLAN!

It's time to implement our summer plan. We need 5 people for Receiving; 10 for Packing; and 8 for Distribution (Friday and Saturday).

We are still really short on volunteers for Saturday Distribution.

If you haven't already, please let me know your availability over the summer so that I can ensure we are not short-handed. Respond to me personally with answers to these questions. Thanks!

1. Do you plan to volunteer at WP this summer (June - September)?
 - a. If yes, please continue...

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2. What shifts do you plan to work (Receiving, Packing, Friday or Saturday Distribution)?
3. What dates will you NOT be available?
4. How often do you plan to volunteer?

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).

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Thanks to Laura for collecting evaluation data from our neighbors to learn how we are doing and ways in which we can improve. We will gather data for another week or so, then analyze it to discern how we can improve our services. We'll keep you up-to-date!

Celebrate...

It Takes a Community, And We Are It!