

## Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

9 April 2023

This week we served 175 people, fewer than normal as we had to close on Friday. The title of this week is, *'The Best Laid Plans'*. And so went the week.

### THE BEST LAID PLANS

As many of you know, we've been working to get as many people trained in various roles as possible. The more of us who are cross trained, the more flexibility we have to respond to needs and changes, and the more ability you all have to volunteer in roles you enjoy. We've made great progress on that front.

Yet, we are only as strong as our weakest link. And right now, that weak link is my position. I don't yet have people who can step in when I am gone. So, I initiated a plan to build a bench for my position. Chris Gustafson graciously agreed to train for the role. We are in the process of training her. In fact, next week, she is scheduled to work the shifts with me. But then, I got sick?! So, Chris agreed to perform the role this weekend, with minimal training!

Then, Easter week arrived! This is an important, and very busy, week for the congregation, with many services and activities happening throughout the week. We couldn't figure out how to serve groceries on Friday, given the weather and the space needs. Regretfully we canceled Friday Distribution.

So, we spent the week scrambling to organize for this weekend. Everyone stepped up! Every shift was overfull volunteers ready to dig in. Team Leads stepped in to ensure volunteers were supported on their shifts. Volunteers went the extra mile to complete new tasks in addition to their usual tasks. And the entire Friday Distribution team agreed to help out with Saturday Distribution!

This, my friends, is what I have been hoping for...that the Woodstock Pantry Volunteer Network would be so strong and vital that it could handle whatever challenges and surprises came its way. And you did!!!!

So I write this, confident and thrilled that we are indeed a community, and that in standing together, we are creating a space in our corner of the world wherein all our neighbors are welcome and can get relief from the oppression of food insecurity.

*Thank you so very much, everyone!*

### PLANNING FOR SUMMER

I'm planning now for summer at the pantry. We have learned how many people we need to be able to serve our neighbors without burning out our volunteers. We need 5 for Receiving; 10 for Packing; and 8 for Distribution (Friday and Saturday).

I would like to find out what you believe your availability will be this summer. With this information, I can make plans to ensure we are not short-handed and we all have a great time while we do this vital work. Please respond to me personally with answers to questions on the email. Thank you!

### APRIL SIGN UP

Please sign up for April's shifts on the new sign up form.

[Woodstock Pantry April Sign Up](#)

### Celebrate...

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