

## **Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief**

18 February 2023

This week, we served 202 people. In this news brief, I want to take a moment to feature...all of you!

### **THE WP VOLUNTEER NETWORK**

I've had the privilege to serve in this position for almost nine months now. During that time, we have negotiated many changes, dealt with weather extremes, gathered around a neighbor who was experiencing a medical emergency and worked for three weeks without access to the pantry. That's just what I can remember.

And yet, you all never missed a beat. You served our neighbors through, and despite, every obstacle thrown in our path. And you served special holiday groceries and shared food with our unhoused neighbors over Thanksgiving!

You see this motto all the time.

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

But it's not just a slogan. It's a reality. This pantry was born from neighbors recognizing an unmet need in our area and collaborating to fill the need. Since the beginning, the Woodstock Pantry has been a community effort, driven by a vision of food for all.

Our community continues to grow and develop. And the services you all provide demonstrate that when we join together, we really can create a place and space where neighbors care for neighbors and we all can experience more food security. So, thank you all for everything you do!

### **SAD NEWS**

We have a friend, Ghena, a man from Moldova. He is unhoused. This winter I found him outside the church in critical condition – hypothermia and frost bite from the freeze. We all helped him get to the hospital. Thankfully, he survived. We saw him a bit after that. But then, he disappeared...and at least two freezes came and went.

This weekend, we saw him again. Another neighbor who lives in her truck brought him to the pantry. He was caught in the freezing weather again, without shelter. His last trip to the hospital ended with him losing both legs, from the knee down.

I have no words...just profound grief.

### **WHO GETS TO THRIVE IN OREGON?**

Last week, I shared this information. A bunch of us are gathering to advocate for a vision of everyone getting to thrive in this great state. If you are interested in participating, click on the RSVP and let R. Julia Nielsen know. If you'd like to car pool, let me know.

### **[Tri-county Mass Assembly](#)**

### **Who Gets to Thrive in Oregon? Organizing toward a Horizon of Housing & Wholeness**

**Sunday, February 26, 2023 4-6pm**

**First Unitarian Church**

**1211 SW Main St**

**Portland, Or 97205**

**RSVP:** Email Rev. Julia Nielsen at the link with the # of people you're coming with and subject line 'Mass Assembly'.

The following letter was written by Rev. Nielsen.

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A couple of years ago, two political consultants launched “People for Portland,” an effort to essentially try and make Portland ‘great again’ by further criminalizing houselessness and **shifting money from real supportive health and human services toward hiring more law enforcement**. We've experienced the devastating results of similar moves across Washington, Clackamas, and Multnomah counties over the last few years to make Oregon a home that's safe only for some of us.

**But we refuse to accept this future.**

So we organize with real people power... People of faith and courage like you collectively saying

**YES to housing!**

**YES to supportive services including mental health!**

**YES to neighbors caring for neighbors!**

And saying a strong **NO** to this grim vision for our cities, region, and state, in which only some of us get to survive and thrive.

On Sunday, February 26th, we will come together for a tri-county Mass Assembly of over 400 people — to show our people power and **invite our elected officials to join us in more creative, community-centered policy and action** so that all Oregonians can find wholeness and belonging in our communities. Less alone, we're more courageous to take action. Together, we are powerful.

**Join us and bring your families and neighbors, so that we can change the answer to ‘Who gets to thrive in Oregon?’ from ‘Just a few’ to ‘Everyone, without exception!’**

In solidarity,

Jules, Jake, Alyssa, Sarah, and Anna

### UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The more we learn about wicked problems, the more capacity we have to address them. Here are more learning opportunities to expand our collective consciousness and ability to effect positive change.

[Oregon Food Bank](#)

### MARCH SIGN UP

I created the March sign up sheet. It includes the last weekend in February. Note: the February sign up sheet is closed.

[Woodstock Pantry March Sign Up](#)

### NEWS FROM THE SHIFTS

**Receiving** – This weekend, we moved 2,588 lbs. of food. OFB is experiencing a shortage of food. So, the pantry feels a bit bare. But we are serving everything we've got to keep food on people's tables. Receiving is great for those who like to lift and carry food and get a workout!

**Packing** – We had a full team this weekend. This team is perfect for folks who don't do heavy lifting and who like a bit slower pace. The shift usually is full.

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**Distribution** – We welcomed new volunteers – April, Robert, Tessa and Evan. Thank you all! We look forward to working with you again! Our distribution teams synced up and served everyone with a smile! Distribution is fast-paced and requires that team members work tightly in sync with each other. It is also the shift wherein we have the closest contact with our neighbors, so customer service is the name of the game! We always need volunteers for these shifts.

### **Social Justice Action Opportunities**

#### **Environmental Action – Third Act**

I am sending a link in the hope that some of the members of the All Saints Social Justice and Advocacy Committee may want to sign this pledge. Third Act is a relatively new organization, working for climate justice and focusing on the immense potential power of the growing demographic of people over 60. They are planning an action at Chase Bank downtown on Tuesday, March 3rd. In the meantime, here is something that people can do easily from the comfort of their home. Thanks. Craig

<https://secure.everyaction.com/aACF2wEp0EaKggwXOYwLLQ2?emci=1fc9c82a-6ea9-ed11-994d-00224832eb73&emdi=7ed80dab-25ae-ed11-994d-00224832eb73&ceid=19759>

**Third Act website:** <https://thirdact.org/our-work/>

**Remember...**

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