

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

30 July 2023

We served 246 people this week with 34 volunteers. Thank you everyone!

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY, AND WE ARE IT!

There are two phrases that describe the Woodstock Pantry. Today, I'd like to share about the phrase that you see at the end of every ENews Brief.

It takes a community, and we are it!

But first I'd like to clarify what the Woodstock Pantry is NOT. It is not the container in the back parking lot. Nor is it the new structure. In fact, the Woodstock Pantry existed before that container and must continue beyond the new structure. The Woodstock Pantry IS all of us, sharing a common vision and a commitment to transform that vision into reality, in our small corner of the world. Our vision?

Our community identifies as a place and people who care for each other, and who demonstrate that care through collaboration and collective action to fight food insecurity.

VISION COMMUNITY

People who come together around a shared vision are called a *Visioning Community*. Let me share about Vision Communities.

Food insecurity is persistent and increasing. This year, the number of people in our area experiencing food insecurity steadily increased. We know elders, children, parents, people without families, people without a place to lie their head, people with disabilities, all hungry...

It is impossible for any one person or group to take on this challenge, even in a small local area such as ours. And, if by chance, that one person or group could step up to the challenge, the sheer weight of it would eventually crush the effort.

The knowledge, skills, expertise and resources needed to address the challenge are beyond what any one group can provide in a sustainable way. And this is where collaboration and collective action come in.

We all have unique abilities, knowledge, resources, interests and community connections. That variety is the treasure that promises a way forward for us to create our vision in real life.

We serve food to 125 families, every single week! Think about the work you do on your shift, i.e., the effort it requires, the skills each team member brings, how your team collaborates to accomplish your work... Now, multiply this by 35, which is the minimum number of people we need to serve food on any given weekend. Then, add to that all the work that gets done in the background. Add to that the many donors who grow, share and deliver food. Add to that those who keep us stocked with grocery bags. (btw, we use 500 grocery bags every week, and in the entire year I've been here – we have NEVER run out?!)

You see, alone, we can have a vision about people not going hungry but we are constrained by our limitations. However, together we are doing it!

Fighting food insecurity requires a community...and we are it.

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THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CEC)

The CEC started its work! They will be reaching out to you over the next months. The first team you will hear from is the Social Network Team. Their first task is to identify the connections we each have in the community.

The Woodstock Pantry is a community effort. We've seen the power of collaboration in *It Takes a Community, and We Are It*. And we know that to sustain the Woodstock Pantry, our partnership and collaboration across the wider community is essential.

Victoria, Kathy, Laura, Janet and Bill will invite you to grab a marker and draw a picture of your community connections. We did it and were amazed to see what emerged.

During your next shift, they will ask you to take a few minutes away from your work to add to the picture.

So, think about your connections in the community...individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, work, recreation, etc. Who is your employer? Where do you volunteer? Do you know someone at a store, a school, a church, the county offices, the city...? Are you part of an arts group, a book club, a choir, a neighborhood group? Jot down your connections and bring them to your next shift. We are excited to see the picture of our collective community connections. It will be amazing!

Remember, if the CEC sounds interesting to you, if you have questions or if you'd like to help on the teams, let me know. There's always room for you!

[Community Engagement Planning Committee Charter.docx](#)

LABOR DAY – CAN YOU WORK?

Our next holiday is Labor Day. I need to know if we will have enough volunteers to serve food. **Can you please let me know ASAP what shift you will be available for that weekend?** Thanks so much!

SIGN UP FOR JULY/AUGUST SHIFTS

There's a new sign-up sheet for July/August. The old one is closed.

Please sign up for your shifts. Remember to sign up for the weekend by the prior Thursday so we can plan. And if you can't come, please contact me right away so that I can get others to fill your position. Many thanks!

[WP Sign Up July/August](#)

HOT MEALS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hey everyone, as you know, we serve hot meals to our neighbors every Saturday. **We are looking for volunteers to fill our teams.** Each team works one Saturday each month. Currently, we are looking for volunteers for our 3rd, 4th and 5th Saturdays. The shift runs on Saturday from 9:30-12:30 and it's a load of fun! Please let me know if you have questions or are interested!

TRAINING

The Oregon Food Bank site review is on August 9th. We are required to ensure all volunteers have completed their training. They will check to see. So...

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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. 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).
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!