

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief – Special Edition

8 July 2023

We served 241 people this week. Thank you, everyone, for a wonderful weekend! And thank you Zoe, for planning the weekend...two weeks in a row!

HOT MEALS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Hey everyone, as you know, we also serve hot meals to our neighbors every Saturday.

We are looking for volunteers to fill out 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!

WOODSTOCK PANTRY – A COMMUNITY STORY UNFOLDING

Last week, I shared that we are transforming Woodstock Pantry (WP) from a temporary pandemic response to a sustainable food source for our community. This is a watershed moment in our story. This summer, we will build a new pantry structure to replace the temporary container we've been using these last years. But this is not just a project to build a structure.

It's also a project to build community. The Woodstock Pantry was born from neighbors' concerns about rising food insecurity amongst our neighbors and the food desert in our area. In response, our community came together to meet the need. All Saints hosts the pantry on their property. Community businesses and gardens provide food. High schools and Reed College send their students to work in the pantry. And more than 80% of our volunteers are community members. A big part of this project will be to celebrate and support our community.

Pantry Closed Next Week

Over the summer, I'll share updates on the project, and we will continue serving food to our neighbors...except when the physical build forces us to close. That said, this next weekend, we are closed as All Saints is having the parking lot fixed.

I shared the story of the sink hole with you. What I didn't share is that we planned to locate the container in that exact spot while we built the new structure. I can only imagine what could have happened when we placed that container?! So, the good news is that the sink hole happened before we started the build project, and that we will have a brand-new parking lot on which to build our pantry!

Zoe and I will use this week to catch up on projects, clean/defrost the freezers and fridges and prepare for the OFB site review.

Gearing Up the Community Engagement Committee

The Outreach Coordinator team, i.e., Chris G., Robert D., Zoe and I, are ramping up the Community Engagement Committee (CEC). The purposes of the CEC are: 1) to establish the WP as a sustainable food source for our community; 2) develop community resilience through collective action to build the WP; and 3) deepen our community identity as a place and people who care for each other.

The committee will do its work through subcommittees. The **Volunteer Workday Subcommittee** will develop our community's resilience and deepen our community

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identity as a place and people who care for each other by organizing Volunteer Workdays.

The **Engaging All Saints Social Network Subcommittee** will develop our community's resilience and deepen our community identity as a place and people who care for each other by identifying and engaging All Saints parishioners' community connections.

And the **Nurturing Our Community Subcommittee** will develop our community's resilience and deepen our community identity as a place and people who care for each other by creating ways to celebrate the people and groups that have contributed to the Woodstock Pantry and sharing the import of community-wide adoption of the pantry.

If the CEC sounds interesting to you, let me know.

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

SIGN UP FOR JULY SHIFTS

Meanwhile, 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 June/July](#)

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. 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!