

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

17 June 2023

We served 219 people this week. That's 10% more than last week, but it does not represent an overall increase. Rather, I believe it's part of the monthly SNAP cycle. People receive their SNAP benefits between the 1-10. The cycle we tend to see at WP is more visits in the last and first weeks of the month and fewer in the second two weeks. This is a very rough trend as there are many other factors that play into when our neighbors visit.

Living Into Our Vision Challenge

I issued a challenge to this week's volunteers. Here it is...

We have developed our processes to the point where every shift is highly efficient at their work.

Congratulations!

Now, I would like to challenge us all to slow it down a bit! The purpose of slowing down? To give us time to focus on the second part of the Woodstock Pantry Vision. There are two parts to our vision, i.e., serve food and **build community**.

Slowing down will be a challenge as we are all so good at moving fast and efficiently. However, we need to slow down to give us time to build community. Here's two things I'd like each of you to do during your next shift:

1. Check in with each other, e.g., make sure you know every volunteer on your shift by name (wear the nametags), ask if you can help or support them, ask how their shift is going, etc.
2. Build relationships with our neighbors, e.g., introduce yourself and ask their name, ask how their day is going, welcome them and ask them to come back, etc.

And here is what I witnessed. Volunteers in EVERY shift reached out to each other. They checked in on each other to see if they needed help. They took time to be together. There was laughter, serious conversation, support and joy! And, volunteers interacting with our neighbors reached out to them, welcomed them, made a point to get to know them, engaged in conversation and encouraged them to return.

It was amazing! Yes, we are a community...Neighbors Helping Neighbors. We are challenged every time we get together to live into our vision of serving food and building community....and to have fun while doing it! Thank you all!

JUNE SHIFTS

This Friday, our Distribution team is understaffed. If you have time to join us, please do!!! We also need a few people to fill out the last weekend in June.

Please sign up for your shifts **prior to Thursdays** so that I can plan the weekend.

[June Sign Up Sheet](#)

TRAINING

Training is an annual requirement for all volunteers.

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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. 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).

Celebrate...

It Takes a Community, And We Are It!