

## Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

4 March 2023

This week, we served 192 people. We had a rather typical weekend (whew!) with spots of rain and otherwise very nice weather. We heard from a few of our neighbors that they came for food on Saturday and found the campus closed. So, we are happy we can provide food this weekend!

### OUR NEIGHBORS

It's been awhile since I shared data about our neighbors who rely on us for food. Here's an update, including a bit of Woodstock Pantry history.

Prior to the pandemic, All Saints (ASEC), neighbors and local businesses shared concerns about increasing food insecurity in our community. With the onset of the pandemic, our community took collective action to create the Woodstock Pantry (WP). ASEC offered its space, organizational skills and volunteer base to host the new pantry. In just 2½ years, the Woodstock Pantry has become essential to our community well-being, meeting a significant and growing need in our community.

Between October 22 and March 23, WP served 1,297 households and 3,107 individuals. In 2022, monthly demand increased from 396 to 519 households. The average food/month served increased from 8,000 to 14,000 lbs. To meet the need we expanded our volunteer network from 38 people in August 2022 to 85 now, 82% of whom are community members. And we doubled our community partnerships.

Our neighbors include elders, people of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, homeowners and renters as well as people who live on low-incomes and are unhoused. 52% of individuals are 45 years of age or older. 41% of households include individuals with disabilities. 2% of individuals identify as non-binary, gender nonconforming or transgender. 11% of households include single parents or caregivers for a child under age 18.

More than a third (34%) of individuals are Asian, Hispanic, Slavic/Eastern European, Black, American Indian, Middle Eastern, African or multi-ethnic. They speak a wide variety of languages including Russian, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Romanian, French, Burmese, German, Croatian, Ukrainian, Moldavian, Spanish and English. Only 60% use English as their primary language.

The majority (80%) of households are housed while 7% are unhoused. Though most of our neighbors come from Multnomah and Clackamas counties and Milwaukee, people come from as far as Forest Grove, North Portland, Troutdale and Molalla.

### OREGON HEALTH NEWS BLOG

I receive emails from these folks with helpful information on health concerns in our area. This week, they shared [Mental Health Resources](#). Our mental health is as important as our physical health, yet often is treated with disdain rather than compassion. The pandemic affected us all and deepened a growing mental health crisis in our country. So, please share these resources to anyone and everyone.

### NEWS FROM THE SHIFTS

All shifts were topnotch this weekend! It is so amazing to witness how we have grown and developed this year. I had other job obligations to attend to this weekend, so wasn't on the floor as much as I have been in the past. And every time I checked in, the teams were busy doing great work! Thank you so much for your commitment, your professionalism, your willingness to do whatever it takes to get the food to our neighbors,

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for watching over and caring for each other and for creating a fun and welcoming environment and experience for our neighbors and each other!!!

I'd like to welcome Erica and Kade, new volunteers, who helped out for our Saturday distribution. We so appreciated your help and look forward to working with you again!

### **NEW OUTREACH ROOM**

We are almost finished remodeling the new Outreach Room, i.e., the room with a freezer next to the bathroom. This room is being dedicated to community outreach. In addition to the work we all do, we will make inventory and food available for anyone at the church who wants to make a bag of goods to share with someone. Soon we will have shelving and the room will be organized for all to access!

### **SPRING BREAKS**

Our volunteers who have youth in K-12 and who are in college are gearing up for spring break. I'm anticipating that they may not be available to volunteer over the remaining weeks in March. So, I'm hopeful that those of you who are available can jump in to help us out. Please sign up!

### **MARCH SIGN UP**

The March signup sheet is open. Please sign up for your shifts. We need help next week!  
**Note:** the February signup sheet is closed.

[Woodstock Pantry March Sign Up](#)

**Remember...**

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