

## Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

30 September 2023

We served 242 people this week. **We are almost out of bags!** We use 500 bags a week. **Please** – bring us your paper grocery bags and tell your friends to save them! We are in great need!

### HOLIDAY PLANNING

We are planning for the holidays. Please contact me ASAP about your availability to serve on the following days. Include the shifts you plan to work. Thanks so much!

Nov 24, Nov 25, Dec 22, Dec 23, Dec 29, Dec 30

### WELCOME OUR NEW INTERNS!

We have a full slate of interns this fall! I introduced Alysha already. Now, I'm introducing Sabrina, Katherine and Myrtle! All three hail from Reed and will be helping us out in the pantry! Here are Sabrina's and Myrtle's photos. Katherine's is still to come. Please give them the Woodstock Pantry welcome (now famous) and show them how we do our work! Welcome Reedies! We are thrilled to have you join us!

Sabrina Tamayo Pena (she/her)



Myrtle Wood-Pavicich (she/her)



### ACCOLADES & THANKS TO YOU ALL!!!

A grandma picking up her grandchild from preschool shared how much she appreciated all that All Saints does for the community. She said that she guessed we did not hear many compliments from the neighborhood but that she hears from others that our work is noticed, and our church has an excellent reputation because of our outreach to our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity.

A neighbor standing in line for food shared that she has gone to other food pantries but now she only comes to the Woodstock Food Pantry. At other places she has felt hurried, unsafe around the others who were getting food, and not warmly welcomed. She loves the quality of our produce and the availability of Covid tests.

### DUJEA, INC. T-SHIRTS DONATED

One for every pantry volunteer! Be sure to get yours from the Outreach Room!

### PANTRY BUILD

**Landscaping Project** - As part of our [Lowes Hometown Grant](#), Lowes is sending volunteers to the pantry for the Lowes' Red Vest Day! On October 3, they will landscape the hill on Knight Street (opposite the pantry). This is our first volunteer project related to the pantry build. More are coming as we move forward with the pantry build! Many thanks to Lowes!

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**Container Sale** – We sold the container which has served as our pantry for these last years. The new owner will pick it up on October 8. So, we are setting up temporarily in the church.

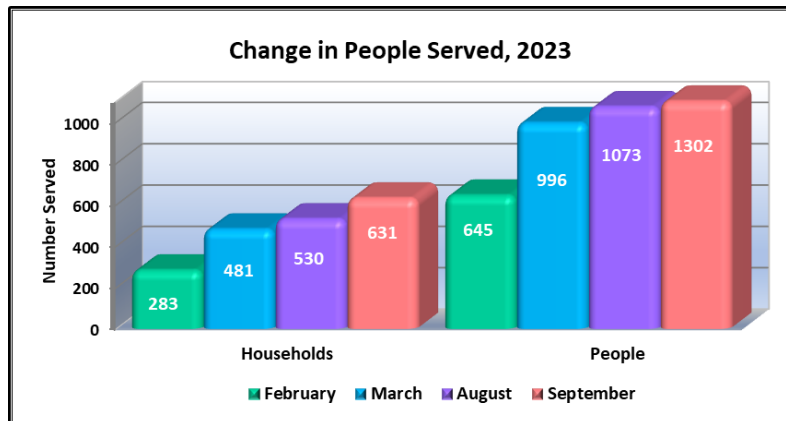


This weekend, we completed the first part of our moving project. Thanks to the volunteers who helped organize the Outreach Center!

Next weekend, we will clear out the entire container. We will store our food against the back wall of the sanctuary until that wonderful day when we can move into our new pantry! Let's all take special care to keep our food storage areas super clean to thank All Saints parishioners for their continued support of this vital program!!

### **THE HIDDEN COST OF A SHUTDOWN: AMERICA'S BATTLE WITH FOOD INSECURITY**

Demand for food at the pantry continues to rise. Our experience mirrors national trends. People, i.e., our neighbors, families, friends, strangers...are struggling. If the government shuts down, many people will be hurt. I've included excerpts from an article written on the subject. Through it all, we will stand by our neighbors, share what we have and celebrate the honor of every person, no matter their life situation.



The farm bill, which finances Snap benefits, must be renewed by Congress this year. A government shutdown threatens the process, as a rising number of Americans are going hungry.

In a recent household survey conducted by the US Census Bureau, more than 26 million Americans said they did not have enough to eat during the 12-day period of the study that concluded this month. That sample represents nearly a 50 percentage increase during a similar window from 2021.

Many reports and similar organizations echo this stark and steady increase, correlating it to the nearly 60% historic increase in poverty.

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### **SIGN UP FOR OCTOBER SHIFTS**

Please **NOTE** that we have a new **signup sheet for October!** The old signup sheet is closed. Remember to sign up for the weekend by Thursday so we can plan. And if you can't come, please contact me right away so I can get others to fill your position.

### **[WP SIGN UP SHEET OCTOBER](#)**

### **CROSSTRAIN TO BE A WOODSTOCK HOT MEALS VOLUNTEER**

Crosstrain as pantry and hot meals volunteer. It gives you options about how you want to contribute, and it gives us more flexibility to keep our programs running!

**Celebrate...**

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