

Woodstock Pantry ENews Brief

4 Nov 2022

Sharing About Our Work

Reverend Andria asked that we share our work in the pantry with the parishioners at All Saints. I will do a brief presentation at the two services on November 12. After the second service, from 11:15-12:30, we will share pictures of our work with folks. I would love it if you could join me to talk with folks about what we are doing. It's informal and there will be refreshments!

If you can join me, come to the church at 11:15 and go to the parish hall (dining room).

Our Holiday Plans

We will do the weekends of November 18-19 and 25-26 differently to accommodate for Thanksgiving.

On November 18-19, we will serve our drive-through neighbors one regular, one holiday and one produce bag. And we will serve our unhoused neighbors as per usual. So, work on every shift that weekend will be doubled.

We need extra help for all the shifts.

The following weekend, November 25-26, we will NOT serve groceries to our drive-through neighbors. So, many of the regular shifts will be cancelled.

However, on November 26, **we will serve our unhoused neighbors**. Our plan is to provide one-stop-services to our unhoused neighbors. We will work together to serve groceries, hygiene and clothing. It will be a chance to learn about our other programs and to meet other volunteers. And it will be fun!

We need a few more volunteers for that shift.

Finally, we are seeking donations of food that we can't get from OFB, i.e., small boxes of sugar, 29 oz pumpkin cans (for pumpkin pies), boxes of stuffing and pumpkin pie spice. Donations can be put in the blue tub in the main entrance to the church.

News from the Shifts

Receiving – This Friday, we moved 4,509 lbs. of food! Molly joined us – thank you Molly! We hope to see you again! Receiving is good for those who like to lift and carry food and get a workout!

Packing – We got a good order of produce this week, so had great produce bags! We don't get the variety or amount of produce in winter like we do in the summer, so when we get a good load of produce, it is wonderful! The Packing Team is perfect for folks who don't do heavy lifting and who like a bit slower pace.

Distribution – I want to do a shout-out to our Friday distribution team. We were just learning how to do intake with Link2Feed. The weather was miserable, so we couldn't set up the canopies. We had to serve everything from inside the sanctuary. Needless to say, it got confusing and frustrating for all of us. Despite the challenges, the team got food out to our neighbors.

Thank you all for persevering despite the difficulties. You are a great team!

Saturday, the weather was much better, which makes our work so much easier! Two more of us learned how to do intake with Link2Feed. Distribution is fast-paced and requires that team members work tightly in sync with each other. It is also the shift wherein we have the closest contact with our neighbors, so customer service is the name of the game!

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Woodstock Pantry – a Sustainable Food Source for our Community

As you know, we are working to get a second container, join the two and add electricity. We will locate our fridge and freezer in the container and handle all our produce therein. We will also build a permanent pergola. Those of us doing distribution can attest to the import of a pergola to protect the food and the people from the weather.

We secured a grant that covers 1/3 of the costs. We submitted two grant proposals last week. And we are working on a third that is due shortly. After the new year, we will submit yet another proposal. And we continue looking for more opportunities. If you are interested in details or if you know of other grant opportunities, let me know.

Shifts

Please sign up for the week's shifts by Wednesday so I can plan. Remember, we need extra help on November 18-19. Thank you!

[Sign Up Sheet November](#)

Learning Opportunities

Building Trauma-Informed Food Sites

[Register HERE](#) November 9, 2022 | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Zoom

Busy pantries can have a frantic energy with lots of noise and chaos. Chaotic spaces are counter to what's good for our nervous systems. If we move from chaos to more healing-centered spaces, we can better meet the needs of clients. Begin shifting your physical space from one of chaos to calm.

Ramping Down & De-Escalation Practice

[Register HERE](#) December 7, 2022 | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Zoom

Navigating challenging clients, negotiating conflicts, and communicating with compassion are core skills that can be helpful at food assistance. In this workshop, we will use a trauma-informed lens to navigate difficult situations. We will also share additional resources to ensure successful resolution of conflicts.



It Takes a Community, And We Are It!