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HOW TO FIND FOOD

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon has put together this great resource: [How to Find Food in a Pandemic](#). Get the word out and share it on social media and in your neighborhood.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Our COVID-19 Response

Like you, we have been disappointed and discouraged by the need to cancel our April and June green bag pickups due to COVID-19. We thought you might appreciate insight into some of the challenges we are facing and how we are moving forward to continue to support our partner pantries in this time of especially great need.

Some challenges.

In addition to complying with recommended social distancing, these are some other factors we have had to consider:

donors who are 60 or older, which place them in a higher risk category for COVID complications.

- NCs, donors and volunteers have contacted us with safety concerns about the April and June pickups. We didn't want any of them to feel pressured to participate if they didn't feel it was safe.
- Widespread layoffs have meant that some of our donors would be struggling to get food for themselves, let alone fill a green bag.
- Finally, PFP does not have an office. We rely on one of our partner pantries to supply room for us to weigh, sort and distribute most of the food we collect. Their facility was closed for social distancing and the area we normally use on collection days is being used for their own additional food storage.

Monetary donations.

As a steering committee, we decided that the safest and quickest way to help our partner pantries was to encourage direct monetary donations and our donors have come through with flying colors! The pantries were grateful for your generous donations. Many indicated that the number of people they are serving has increased by more than 50%.

Portland Food Project received some very generous donations from individuals, corporate sponsors and from the New Seasons Bag it Forward program this past year. In April we used those donations and other money we had set aside for operating expenses to distribute a total of \$15,000 to our pantries. Each pantry received between \$300 - \$1500, based on the number of people they serve.

Here is a sampling of some of the responses we have received from our grateful pantries.

"We have loved the heartfelt connection and acknowledgement from those who still greatly wanted to contribute to the April collection and supported via monetary donations. "

what a beautiful gift! we are honored to have such a great relationship with the Portland Food Project, and so very thankful for your continued support and encouragement. We can do a LOT with \$1500!"

"Thanks soooo much. We have been really slammed over the past few months. We're averaging about 140 clients every Saturday plus whatever deliveries we do during the week. This will really help."

"Your donors were exceedingly generous in their donations last month and it really helped with the increase in numbers we are seeing at the pantry."

"We more than appreciate the relationship we have with Portland Food Project and especially the ways you guys are finding to support the work of ensuring people get what they need during these most difficult times."

GREAT IDEAS

Looking for Additional Ways to Help?

Here are two great ideas we heard from Portland Food Project donors about other creative ways they have found to keep the people of Portland fed. Inspire others and share your good ideas with us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/PortlandFoodProject/>

Help organizations serve meals and support local restaurants

"I volunteer with another friend almost weekly to provide a meal for the family shelter at Portland Homeless Family Solutions. We are collecting monetary donations from 10 of our friends and buying food from local restaurants for the

organizations that serve meals."

Turn your little free library or a coop into a donation station

"Hi Everyone! Hope you all are doing well during this time. Just wanted to share a little project I did with my family in transforming our daughter's bunny coop into a neighborhood food and goods pantry! It has received a lot of donations, swaps and uses:) I also provided info about the PFP so other neighbors can sign up too!"

Food and Goods Pantry: Parkrose

Hey neighbors- We've successfully transformed our daughter's old 🐰 coop into a neighborhood food pantry. In addition to food, our goal is to supply basic toiletries as well. Please help yourself or swap out one pantry item for another. We are a community and people need access to food and other basic needs even more so during this time. If you'd like to donate non-perishable items that are not yet expired, please do! I will do my best to keep it stocked and any access will go to the Portland Food Project! Thanks neighbors and I hope this helps:)



June

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Portland Food Project will not be collecting green bags in June. Instead, if you are able, we encourage you to make a monetary donation directly to one of our partner pantries. <https://portlandfoodproject.org/about-us/who-gets-the-food/> Click on the map markers for contact information for that pantry.

August

As the phased reopening is rolling out, we are planning on returning to our regular green bag collection on August 8th. We will keep you informed as the date gets closer.

If you have questions or concerns, you can contact Portland Food Project at info@portlandfoodproject.org.

The next Portland Food Project pickup
is Saturday, August 8th. See you then!



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