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Portland Food Project Newsletter, July 2021

NEIGHBORHOOD COORDINATOR PROFILE

Kristin Doherty has been a food donor and a Neighborhood Coordinator in SE Portland for eight years. Like many of us, she read about the PFP in her neighborhood's newsletter. Kristin liked the concept and decided to do something to help others in her community. She fondly remembers our founder, Richard Nudelman, showing up on her porch to deliver her green bags and supplies – as well as his famous chocolate covered raspberries – to get her started as a food donor and Neighborhood Coordinator.



Kristin now has about 30 regular donors on her route and gets help from her daughter, Ava, filling out the Thank You/Reminder cards and picking up green bags. Additionally, Kristin is one of our District Coordinators who supports a group of NCs in their area and delivers green bags and welcome packets to new donors. She feels the time commitment is very manageable – about 2 hours to do her route, 6 times a year. Other tasks like emails and communicating with her donors and NCs take less than an hour.

Kristin says she loves being part of such a grassroots effort and seeing firsthand how much food is generated for our local food pantries. We couldn't do what we do without all the committed volunteers out there, like Kristin. Many thanks to her and to all of you in the role you play

PORTLAND FOOD PROJECT NEEDS YOUR HELP!

If you have the time and energy to be even more involved with the PFP, we could really use your help. While we can't promise chocolate covered raspberries, we can promise a rewarding experience! Everyone involved with the PFP is a volunteer who operates out of their home. Please consider volunteering to share your time and expertise to help the Steering Committee operate more effectively and productively.

Please contact us at: info@portlandfoodproject.org for more information or to volunteer.

- Someone with the skills to occasionally update and post to our website, and post on our Facebook and Instagram pages.
- Someone to write newsletters (like this) 6 times a year.
- People who can make a commitment to help at the drop-off location and be trained for specific tasks there. Occasional helpers are ALWAYS needed and welcome too!
- Someone with the skills to secure business sponsorships – the companies who are featured on our Thank You/Reminder cards.
- Someone with the skills to write occasional grants.
- Someone with a secure covered porch that could be used for NCs needing to deliver green bags early (prior to the collection date), and then bring those bags to the drop-off location on the morning of each collection.
- People who would like to start their own routes and become NCs.
- People who are able to be substitute drivers for NCs on pick up days.

TURNING CASH INTO FOOD DURING THE PANDEMIC

Some of our donors have continued to make cash donations, in place of or in addition to their food bags, during the pandemic. Additionally, PFP has been the recipient of significant donations in 2021 from the Fidelity Charitable and the Crooke Family Charitable Fund, the Portland Clinic, and the Benevity Fund. As you know, our focus is on maximizing these funds to bring food to our community, as we did during the past year with additional checks totaling \$12,000 and another \$6,000 worth of bulk food purchases for our partner pantries.

In June, the PFP used current extra funds to purchase \$15,600 worth of food gift cards from WinCo and distributed them to our partners based on the number of people they serve. This allowed individual pantries to purchase perishable and specific foods they needed to fill gaps in their supplies. These responses from some of our partners illustrate the impact of our support and

“Being able to keep a pantry stocked with food and basic hygiene supplies for our shelter families who are leaving homelessness is a paramount concern of ours and your generous gift was a great help towards this goal. There is often a gap in time between when a family enters our shelter and when they can begin to establish their own food security action plan. Our pantry (stocked through your support) helps these families during this interim time.”

– Annie Ross House

“Went to WinCo and we got what they had of what we figured we needed most....What a blessing to be able to pick and choose what our pantry family is in need of presently and knowing that we can continue to do the same because we still have gift card funds available!”

– St. John's Food Share

“The supportive gift card donation we received through our partnership with Portland Food Project provided snacks for SMYRC youth during our weekly Drop In groups, food care packages during Pride Month in June, and added to a beautiful spread for SMYRC’s 6th annual Pride BBQ. Like many communities, food is the way we connect and share space.”

– SMYRC

“...during the 2020 pandemic it was a shock when we found out that PFP encouraged their donors to donate financially to the neighborhood pantries. We were so desperate for funds because the need was so great. This act of selfless kindness is another clear demonstration of their commitment to ensuring those who need food would get it. We are forever grateful for their partnership and support.”

– Open Bible Food Pantry

“The Portland Food Project's donation has been a tremendous blessing to BirchCommunity Services. BCS reaches approximately 600 families each week through the Sustainable Families Program... Birch also provides food to 70 other smaller nonprofits including church food pantries, women's shelters, drive-through emergency food box programs, and more. An additional 15,000

– Birch Community Services

“Each month, our delivered food box program ensures over 300 residents of Downtown Portland receive 40-50lbs of fresh produce and non-perishable items delivered directly to their door. Many of our clients have dietary restrictions and need specialized food boxes such as Diabetic/Low Sodium/Gluten Free/Kosher, etc. Your donation helps ensure the food we distribute in our community meets the needs and health of each of our clients. Thanks again!”

– Urban Lift Portland

With deep gratitude to everyone reading this newsletter!

Portland Food Project Steering Committee

info@portlandfoodproject.org

The next Portland Food Project collection is Saturday, August 14th. Westside and some NCs may have different dates, so watch for their notices.

See you then!

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