

[View this email in your browser](#)



January 2022

- [Pantry profile: Bethel Food Pantry](#)
- [Donor profile: Mary Gaido](#)
- [Thank you donors!](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

According to new data from the [Oregon Hunger Task Force](#), "1 in 4 Oregonians are facing hunger—a doubling from the pandemic." That's more than 1 million people!

Here's what we accomplished together this year!

December 2021

Food Donated: 24,903 lbs.
Meals It Makes: 20,614 meals

Full Year 2021

Food Donated: 159,900 lbs.
Meals It Makes: 133,250 meals

Meet Our Pantry Partners

[Bethel Food Pantry: Meeting their community's need](#)

At our October food drop off, we met with Tanya March, from Bethel Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, to learn more about how their food pantry serves the Northeast Portland

established to develop two parcels of land in Northeast Portland into affordable housing, community housing and services for local residents. Their food pantry is one of the nineteen local food pantries that Portland Food Project supports.



Bethel food pantry has a rich history. It is the successor to the Community Care Association started by Clara Peoples, a Portland resident and local legend. In 1969 Clara contacted local farmers to see about collecting their “second harvest” from the regrowth or second growth of crops which might have otherwise gone unused. Initially she planned to use it to feed her family, but when she saw how much food there was Clara founded the Community Care Association to distribute food to the community. Clara was a force to be reckoned with. She was a dedicated community leader with lifetime commitment to addressing hunger in Portland. In 2013 the Oregon legislature officially recognized her for her cultural and humanitarian efforts in Portland. Some of Clara’s descendants and her sister are still active in the church and the food pantry today.



Bethel was hit hard by Covid and they have had to make adjustments to how their pantry operates. They no longer allow people “shop” in their pantry. Instead, they have elected to deliver food boxes directly to the families, but that has proven a challenge since many of their volunteers are in their seniors.

Their volunteers see food as part of a bigger social need. Volunteers call members not only to deliver food, but also to see what else they need or just to talk. They are navigating an internet divide, as many of their members do not have computers or email.

Photo Credits: Google Maps, [Portland Development Commission Archives](#), [Bethel EDC website](#), [OregonLive](#).

Donor Profile: Mary Gaido



Mary Gaido is a member of the Portland Food Project Steering Committee and the current board president. Her smiling enthusiasm is contagious at our bi-monthly food collections. Mary's background in healthcare has fueled her belief that food is medicine and the key to health, and that everyone deserves access to healthy food. Being able to work with like-minded individuals to help alleviate food insecurity in our community is an opportunity Mary is grateful to have.

Mary got involved with the Portland Food Project in the fall of 2012 when a friend introduced her to Richard Nudelman, the PFP's founder. She signed up to become a neighborhood coordinator with her teenage children and, after Richard invited her to join the steering committee, she was hooked on the 100% volunteer run, grassroots organization.

The bi-monthly food collections are her favorite part of working with PFP because of the positive energy and overwhelming generosity of donors and volunteers. She loves to meet and work alongside fellow volunteers. "There are so many great folks at these green bag collections, neighbors helping neighbors, it's inspiring and a lot of fun!"

THANK YOU DONORS

We can't do our work without your support. We would like to take the time to acknowledge organization who have make grants or financial contributions this year.

- Amazon Smile
 - Berlinberg Properties
 - Bob's Redmill
 - Cascadia Golf Club
 - Fred Meyer/Kroger
 - LRS Architects
-

- Portland Clinic Foundation
- Whole Foods Market

There have also been numerous individuals and anonymous donors who have made cash donations this year, some in addition to their food donations. THANK YOU ALL!

Mark your calendar now!

The upcoming 2022 collection dates are:

February 12th

April 9th

June 11th

August 13th

October 8th

December 10th



Copyright © 2022 Portland Food Project, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

