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## Green Bag News • July 2022



### Did You Know?

**Hunger is an equity issue.** Among those experiencing poverty some people are at far greater risk of hunger. Food insecurity disproportionately impacts communities of color, recent immigrants, families with children and particularly households led by single mothers, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community and people in rural areas of Oregon. –

[Partners for a Hunger Free Oregon](#)

## Here's what we've accomplished together this year!

### April 2022<sup>1</sup>

Food Donated: 22,448 lbs.

Meals It Makes: 18,707 meals<sup>2</sup>

### 2022 January-April<sup>1</sup>

Food Donated: 46,338 lbs.

Meals It Makes: 36,615 meals<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Results of June collection not yet available.

<sup>2</sup> The Oregon Food Bank calculates that 1.2 lbs. of food = 1 meal.

**Meet Our Pantry Partners**



## NE Emergency Food Program: Since Covid began NEFP has been serving 10 times the number of people.

*We recently interviewed Ms A'Jay Scipio, director of the Northeast Food Pantry. A'Jay became director of NEFP in 2018 after being a command ombudsman for the Navy. She traded taking care of Navy families for taking care of community families.*

*Here's what she told us:*

### Who Does NEFP Serve?

The NE Emergency Food Program is housed in the Luther Memorial Lutheran Church on NE 72nd Avenue. We primarily serve people living in east Portland, however, we do not limit our services to a geographic boundary—meaning, people come to us from across the tri-county region of northwest Oregon. We help those who are having trouble putting food on the table including:

- Families with children (over 40 percent of our recipients are children)
- The unemployed and the underemployed
- People with special needs, including the disabled and the elderly
- A high percentage of immigrants and refugees
- People experiencing crisis

Many of the families and individuals we serve only need to come once or twice, in urgent and often devastating emergencies. Others have been coming for years, like clockwork, struggling with a social emergency of disparity, inequality and a perpetual lack of resources. This is where NEFP comes in, helping people from falling through the cracks.

### How has Covid impacted NEFP?

cut and schools and childcare facilities closed during the beginning stages of the pandemic, we went from serving an average of 3,000 individuals per month to serving 35,000 per month in March 2020. By June 2020, our numbers had gone to 50,000 per month and they continued to climb. By the end of 2021, we had served over a million people during pandemic. Before Covid people could come into our food pantry to select foods, but we had to switch to a drive through method of distributing food.



Photo Credits: [NE Emergency Food Project](#)

### How does Portland Food Project help you?

Portland Food Project helps us meet our challenges. Every single can and box means another family is able to be fed – all because someone put out a green bag. Since beginning of Covid, Portland Food Project has supplemented the green bags with Winco gift cards. We used the most recent gift cards to buy produce and milk to put in food boxes for 50 Afghan families.

### How else do you get food for your pantry?

We're a partner agency of the Oregon Food Bank. We also have amazing congregation support in the community and the support of businesses. People drive by and see the lines of cars on the street. They ask why people are lining up and they want to help. Some write checks on the spot. We've had people turn their cars around in the street and bring back a trunk full of food to donated. Oregon Food Bank has different rules due to Covid and often can't take certain food items – we will take it all.

### What would you like our food donors to know about NEPF?

Learn more about their story: <https://emoregon.org/nefp/>

### Donor Profile: Jim Valluzi



In addition to being a food donor and Neighborhood Coordinator, Jim Valluzi is an integral part of the PFP leadership team. Jim initially got involved with Portland Food Project in 2012, when his partner, Kathy, signed them up to be Neighborhood Coordinators. PFP was just getting started. There were only ten families signed up as donors then. Jim knew Richard Nudelman, our founder, and liked his vision. With a technical background from working at PCC, Jim saw a need he could fill as a technical consultant so agreed to get involved.

And boy was he right! Jim's skills have been invaluable to Portland Food Project. As the organization grew, Jim took on additional responsibilities, including managing the donor database and mailing list, acting as the bookkeeper, and joining the Steering Committee. Now he serves as Board treasurer too.

Jim likes being involved in projects that help others, like Portland Food Project. It's a relatively simple idea – one that is easy for people to support and easy for people to get involved.

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**THANK YOU SUPPORTERS:**

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We can't do our work without your support. We would like to take the time to acknowledge organizations who have made recent financial contributions.

- Christina McAlvey turned her event into a fundraiser for Portland Food Project, collected 5 bags of food and \$220 in donations. Scanned doonations
- The Cascadia Golf Club donated \$934 from their annual memorial tournament and fundraiser.
- Bob's Redmill is donating 80 bags of 13 Bean Soup Mix in time for our August pick-up.

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:

August 13th

October 8th

December 10th



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