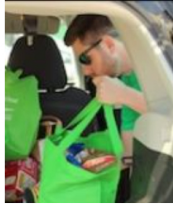


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Green Bag News • October 2023

Did You Know?



We've been hearing that first time food pantry use is rising. According to data published in 2023 by the Oregon Hunger Task Force, 32% of the people in Multnomah County reporting food insecurity do not qualify for federal nutrition assistance. Your donations allow us to help make sure area food pantries are able to continue ensuring our communities get the help they need. Thank you.

Here's what we've accomplished together!

August 2023

Food Donated: 17,414 lbs.
which makes: 14,512 meals¹

2023 Total

Food Donated: 71,078 lbs.
which makes: 59,232 meals¹

¹ The Oregon Food Bank calculates that 1.2 lbs. of food = 1 meal.

Meet Our Pantry Partners: Hereford House

Hereford House

Portland Food Project interviews Rita Rice, Food Pantry Manager

Where is Hereford House and who do you serve?

Hereford House is located in North Portland at the St Andrew's Episcopal Church. Hereford House was founded in 2002, and I've been volunteering here for about 4 years. Everyone in need who comes to Hereford House is provided food. We're currently serving about 430 households, 1,500 individuals each month. Our pantry serves a large Latino population and we typically have two Spanish speaking volunteers, though some clients speak their own indigenous languages. We work hard to help make everyone feel welcome.



How frequently do you distribute food?

We distribute prepared boxes with dry foods starting at 12:00 pm on Fridays, though people are typically lining up by 10:30 am. We try to make sure everyone also gets meat, veggies, fruit, and milk, donated by other organizations. During the pandemic we began drive through service and have continued providing food this way. This allows us

to accommodate more people than we could if we went back to indoor shopping.

We also serve walk ups. We have a number of houseless people who walk up for food, many of them we know by name now. Others picking up choose to walk up and avoid running their cars in line while waiting. Initially we had 4-5 walkups, but that's increased to about 25 recently.

What's it like working with the Portland Food Project?

Portland Food Project is a fantastic community project. Our volunteers are excited to go and pick up donations from PFP. It's a great addition to the foods we can offer. We currently get food from Oregon Food Bank, Portland Food Project, University Park New Seasons, and Jantzen Beach Target.

What are your greatest needs/challenges?

We're currently serving about 1,500 individuals each month, but we expect that number to continue growing. With the winter season coming there will likely be seasonal workers out of work. We expect even more people to need assistance when they have to start repaying student loans. Every week we work to be more efficient so we can continue to serve more people.

What makes Hereford House unique?

I want to make sure everyone has fun while supporting the community. We've grown our volunteer crew to 24 people and we even have clients who want to volunteer. One older volunteer is new to the area and comes in every other week for 1.5 hours just to bag produce for clients. It's been a great way for her to meet people and give back to the community.



I feel like we're doing things right when we hear that our clients like coming to us because they feel good. We have one client who works in a laundry and races to pick up food from us every Friday after work. We even get newly arrived immigrants who were directed to us by family and friends.

Some of the houseless people come to us regularly so we work to make sure they have flip top cans and drinks, and we have foods for them that they don't need to cook, unless they have a way to cook. We've been donated large ziplock bags with personal care items for houseless men and women, including tarps and blankets. We do offer some clothing, including coats, socks, and underwear.

What would you like our food donors to know?

Remind your donors there are a lot of people who are having challenges and they're so grateful to be able to feed themselves and their families. We're feeding a lot of people and PFP donations are a very important part of the food our clients receive. In August, we received 1,166 lbs of food from PFP and ordered 4,000 lbs from the Oregon Food Bank. With the help of donors, we're able to feed so many more people. We love donations like peanut butter, tuna, shelf-stable milk, cereal, masa flour, and canned vegetables.

Please remind your donors to think about how many people the Portland Food Project is helping.

Donor Profile: Leslie Mills

Volunteers join Portland Food Project (PFP) through a number of paths. For Leslie Mills,

volunteers join Portland Food Project (PFP) through a number of paths. For Leslie Mills, she met a PFP volunteer through her son about 5 years ago and immediately saw how important the work is. She signed up to be a food donor and even began volunteering at a local food pantry. But for Leslie it wasn't enough.

That's when Leslie saw the opportunity to bring PFP to her office. She handed out green bags to everyone in the office and people would load them in her car on pickup days. This approach continued until she retired three years later. Not wanting to stop supporting PFP, Leslie signed up to be a new neighborhood coordinator in N. Portland, picking up from 13 homes.

Leslie still sees a lot of food insecurity in Oregon and many people still out of work since the pandemic, but she's also noticed that donations did not stop during this time. So she hasn't stopped giving back either. Along with her work at PFP she also works with Grace Art Camp, Together Women Rise, volunteers at the VA Hospital, and even worked at the Montavilla Street Fair for PFP this year.

As Leslie says, PFP makes donating easy. Many people are generous and want to help, but their time is limited. This is what she loves about PFP – someone comes to you. PFP makes it easy for people to give. Her advice for donors? Get to know your neighborhood coordinator well and offer to cover their route when they're away.

SHARE YOUR SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Portland Food Project is a 100% volunteer-run organization. Contact us to volunteer today: 503.775.2110 - info@portlandfoodproject.org

We are currently recruiting neighborhood coordinators, steering committee members, and additional help with communications, social media, writing or photography/video. ***We would love to put your talents and enthusiasm to use!***

Mark your calendar now!
The upcoming 2023 collection dates are:
October 14th
December 9th



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