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the portland food project

Green Bag News • April 2024

Our Awesome Volunteers



We were able to host a screening of the movie *Ratatouille* at the Hollywood Theater in March, raising \$1,877.85 to help support our work. Thank you to all of you for helping to get the word out and joining us for the screening.

It takes a lot of work to have the impact Portland Food Project is privileged to have. We wouldn't be able to help so many without the commitment of our volunteers. Looking back at the hours for 2023, together we volunteered:

- Neighborhood Coordinators: 2,755 hours
- Steering Committee: 1,721 hours
- Drop off day event volunteers: 832 hours
- **5,308 Total Hours Volunteered**

All our 2023 volunteer efforts are worth \$162,488*. Incredible work! And we're not the only people working to improve lives. The Oregon legislature's 2024 short session brought victories for children's access to meals during school and the summer, and work done to address some root causes of food insecurity.

Thank you!

*Independent Sector estimate of \$31.80/hour

Reminder: Our next pickup is Saturday, June 8.

What we've accomplished together!

February 2024

Food Donated: 18,664 lbs.

which makes: 15,553 meals¹

2024 Total

Food Donated: 112,346 lbs.

which makes: 93,622 meals¹

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

Meet Our Pantry Partner: Portland Open Bible

Portland Open Bible Community Pantry

Portland Food Project interviews Betty Brown, Executive Director, Food Pantry Program Manager, Portland Open Bible Community Pantry

What is the Portland Open Bible Community Pantry and how did it start?

Back in 2015, there were continuous break-ins at our SE Portland church, but only food was being taken. It was clear people in the community were hungry and it was a need we could help with. The church leadership created the Portland Open Bible Community Pantry and let the community know that anyone could come and receive food for themselves and their families, feeding 500 people that first year.

How much food do you distribute?

Our pantry has grown since then. In 2023 we distributed 2,343,806 lbs of food and we continue to serve over 4,000 people each month. The pantry is open every Tuesday and Thursday for walk-up and drive-up participation. For those with disabilities, we offer food delivery every Monday-Friday. I'm a nurse by training and I believe that people who are food insecure should get the foods they need to be healthy and to succeed in school, so we offer both fresh and non-perishable foods.



What communities do you serve?

Our community is very ethnically diverse and we found that creating generic food boxes wouldn't work. We created a system where people can request made-to-order food boxes in 6 different languages (Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, English, Spanish, and Arabic). For those not able to order on the web, they can still request their box as

a walk-up. We place no restrictions on who can request food and our more than 85 volunteers help with distribution and translation. In 2023, our volunteers put in almost 12,000 hours of work to feed the community.

How has Portland Food Project (PFP) impacted your food distribution?

We've partnered with PFP since we started the pantry. They were one of the first to believe in us and they supported the creation of our pantry. We love working with PFP, it's always a treat. It gives us a stable source of food throughout the year and donors contribute such diverse items. Things like name brand cereals are very popular and often come with the PFP food donations. In 2023, PFP provided us with over 6,300 lbs of food we were able to share with the community.

Our partnership with PFP continues to be close. Their food drop-off and distribution happens at our location. During the pandemic, when the donation pickups were on hold they even gave us money so we could continue providing food to the community. It's clear PFP wants us to succeed. My only wish is that PFP pickups could happen every month.



How else are you serving the community?

About a year and a half ago we started partnering with Providence Health Systems to put in a new pantry that serves two of their walk-in clinics. Providence recognized that so many of the people coming to the clinic were food insecure. We restock the new pantry three times per week and they're now able to make sure food insecure patients have food to take home.

Youth Donor Profile: Duke

In second grade, Duke decided he wanted his friends to bring food to donate, instead of gifts for his birthday. That started 5 years ago and the tradition continues. As a seventh grader now Duke's at a different point in his life, but he still feels strongly that it's the right thing to do.

Duke recognized that some friends couldn't afford gifts, so he decided to ask his friends to bring canned, sealed, non-perishable foods he could donate instead. He noticed he could make things easier for everyone by letting them focus on bringing food instead of deciding what he might want. Duke's approach is: it doesn't have to be a lot of food, "just bring something."



His family was already donating to the Portland Food Project, so they decided to work with their neighborhood coordinator to bring these birthday donations directly to the drop off. Duke remembers that first drop off 5 years ago. They packed up the Subaru Forester with all the donations and headed to the drop off where the volunteers were very excited. They even took Duke through the process of weighing in all the donations.

Over the years, the donations from his friends and their families have increased, with some bringing 1-2 bags or more of food. They have fun with it, trying to set a goal for how much food they can raise. To make it even more interesting, Duke has some ideas for creating future birthday donation challenges. He loves the impact he and his friends can make for people who don't have enough to eat – he's even thinking about asking his school if he can start a canned food drive.

If you're interested in hosting your own food drive, let us know. We're happy to get you more green bags.

Share Your Skills and Experience

Portland Food Project is a 100% volunteer-run organization. [Contact us to volunteer today!](#)

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!

Collection dates for 2024 are:

- June 8th
- August 10th
- October 12th
- December 14th



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