

FISH Food Bank

April 2018

Coordinators Newsletter

It is hard to believe it is already April. 2018 is just flying by and there never seems to never to be a dull moment at the food bank. This week it has been crazy at the food bank because we have had an unusual amount of large donations.

On Monday, the FFA Advisor drove in with about 2000 pound of produce from their State FFA Convention. So we now have a bin a parsnips, two extra bins of potatoes and an extra bin of onions. Does anyone have a good recipe for parsnips?

On top of this, Safeway must to have over ordered because on just the Tuesday and Wednesday Bread Pick-up we received over 645 pounds of bread and baked goods. Unfortunately it was not a lot of sliced bread, but lots cupcakes, egg cakes and cookies.

Also on Wednesdays we received 30 plus boxes of red D Anjou's. This a delicious pear and is very versatile. So it is nice to have a different fruit in the spring. We are very thankful for all the wonderful donations. They only problem is to figure out where to put all the food and encourage the clients to take it. (Will parsnips be very popular?)

We are able to manage all this large amount of food because of the great volunteers we have. Wayne and Lori were the two lucky volunteers who got to pick up the Safeway bread. Wayne had to make two trips because he just could not get all 459 pounds of bread/sweet products in his car. Then Allen picked up the Anjou's from the Fruit Company. Bruce who keeps the warehouse organized had to help find places for all the extra produce we received from the FFA.

It is always interesting talking with clients because as crazy as it seems at the food bank, their lives seem to always be on a roller coaster. One Saturday morning I walked away thinking how different their lives are than mine. One client was sharing news about him and his girlfriend. I asked if he was dating her on the internet and he said, "Yes you know it is hard to date when you are homeless." I had never really thought about how you have a social life if you have no home. Then we talked about how his shoulder was healing, but the doctor really wanted to operate. However he said, "he could not have his shoulder in a cast, because how would carry his food?" He has no car and rides a bike.

I am not sure if there is something in the air or it is because the sun is finally thinking about coming out again but there is always something happening at the FISH Food Bank. If you want a little excitement in your life, stop on by and we will find something fun for you to do.

Billie Stevens
FISH Food Bank

Please Help with Civil Rights Training-Required for Volunteers

While it may seem like you just signed the Civil Rights Training form, it has actually been a year and we are required to review the Civil Rights rules each year. This can be done in two ways; review and sign the Civil Rights Training form or you can watch a short video on the web, then sign a form that you looked at the video. The video can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/site/complianceofb/home>. Then click on "Civil Rights-E Learning." Follow the directions on the video. If you do look at the short video you will need to sign a form that you looked at it.

Another important part of the Civil Rights Training is each year volunteers are required to sign the Confidentiality Form. Signing this form is new this year. It states:

Confidentiality Agreement

As a volunteer at **FISH Food Bank** you may encounter people from the community that you know or have access to records of the people receiving food assistance. It is the policy of this organization that all information about clients is strictly confidential and stays within the walls of the pantry. Also, any information or knowledge you may have about a client's life or situation is not to be brought to the attention of other volunteers at the pantry.

To protect the privacy and dignity of the people we serve, we ask that you acknowledge and affirm your intent to keep all information regarding clients confidential and that you will not share any information about clients outside the pantry.

What you hear and observe about clients, staff or other volunteers while volunteering here will remain confidential. You agree to protect the privacy of client information you are given access to. It is expected that you keep this information in the strictest confidence and the failure to do so may result in my being denied the opportunity to volunteer.

Cascade Locks Saturday Distribution for One Year:

One year ago the Cascade Locks FISH decided that offering a Saturday food distribution would be a benefit to the clients. It started a little slow the first couple of months but it did not take long for the Saturday Distribution to be an important part of the Cascade Locks FISH program. Last month in March the Saturday Distribution had 15 families, which was more than the Wednesday distribution.

This extra distribution day is definitely a benefit to Cascade Locks. A special thanks to the Site Coordinator, Martha and all the volunteers who made sure this is successful. Also thanks to Silvia Maciel who is the FISH staff person for this distribution.

New Spirt of Grace Garden Coordinator:

The new Spirt of Grace Garden Coordinator was announced. Please welcome Ann Lameka, from Mt. Hood. Ann has an impressive resume and will bring a much experience to this position. I have known Ann for many years and will be pleased to work with her.

If you see her, please be sure to welcome her to this new position and partnership with FISH.

Hood River Tucker Road Weekly Rotation Roaster-- May - August 2018

Each week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday a different church is responsible for finding volunteers to work the food distribution at the Tucker Road site. There are 9 churches in the rotation. Church coordinators should have received the list for the next 4 months rotation. But if you did not receive it here is a copy of the list:

FOR THE WEEK OF

CONGREGATION SERVING

April 30 – May 2 – 4	Unitarian Fellowship
May 7 – 9 – 11	Riverside Community
May 14 – 16 - 18	St. Mark's Episcopal
May 21 – 23 – 25	St. Mary's Catholic
May (Closed 28) 30 – June 1	Faith Bible Church
June 4 – 6 – 8	Spirit of Grace Church
June 11 – 13 – 15	Shepherd of the Valley
June 18 – 20 – 22	Valley Christian Church
June 25 – 27 – 29	Immanuel Lutheran Church
July 2 – (Closed 4) – 6	Unitarian Fellowship
July 9 – 11 – 13	Riverside Community
July 16 – 18 – 20	St. Mark's Episcopal
July 23 – 25 – 27	St. Mary's Catholic
July 30 – August 1 – 3	Faith Bible Church
August 6 – 8 – 10	Spirit of Grace Church
August 13 – 15 – 17	Shepherd of the Valley
August 20 – 22 – 24	Valley Christian Church
August 27 – 29 – 31	Immanuel Lutheran Church
September (Closed 3) 5 – 7	Unitarian Fellowship
September 10 – 12 - 14	Riverside Community

Coming Events for Your Calendar:

May 12: Letter Carriers Stamp out Hunger Food Drive

Saturday, May 12 is the 26th Annual Letter Carrier “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive. Please encourage the volunteers you work with, to put food out so they know it is important to our community.

What this means is we will **need help sorting** the food on **Monday, May 14**. Sorting will start between 8:00 and 8:30 AM and continue until we are done. Feel free to come if you have a little extra time you do not have to stay the whole time.

July 28: FISH Farm to Table Brunch

Save this date because you will not want to miss this event! Mt. View Orchards in Parkdale is hosting the FISH Farm to Table Bruch on Saturday July 28. Not only will you have wonderful food but a killer view of the Mt. Hood. More information to come.

FISH Board Meeting—April 11

The April FISH Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11 at 12:00 Noon at the Hood River Tucker Road FISH Site. The meeting is open and anyone who would like to attend is welcome.

Important Dates

- April 11 FISH Board Meeting, 12:00 Noon at Hood River FISH
- April 12 OFB Food Truck deliveries, 8:00 AM at Tucker Road, Hood River FISH Site
- April 26 OFB Food Truck deliveries, 8:00 AM at Tucker Road, Hood River FISH Site
- May 12 Postal Carrier Food Drive
- May 14 Sorting of food from Postal Carrier Food Drive

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”