

FISH Food Bank
May 2018
Coordinators Newsletter

One of the most delightful parts of my job is getting to work with the young people who give of their time to the FISH Food Bank. These young adults could be hanging out with their friends or playing video games but instead they choose to help at FISH. If you look around you will see them doing all sort of jobs, which are important to helping FISH run smooth.

In Parkdale, 5 different high school students share the responsibility of coming each Monday to help pack the groceries into bags, take the grocery carts out to the cars (this is not an easy job because they have to take the carts up a flight of stairs) and they often help translate for our clients. They are a very important part of the Parkdale FISH Team.

In Mid-Valley there are two young men who come to help, their role is everything from helping register the clients as they come in the door, to helping clients shop or restocking the shelves.

At the Hood River FISH site we have two teams of youth who help on Saturdays. The Leo's have been a part of the Saturday team for many years. Just recently we added Juntos who help on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Often times during the week there is one student who lends a helping hand during distribution. You might find them putting the grocery bags together, keeping the carts ready for shopping, or working directly with the clients.

On Monday mornings, Special Education students from the High School help. Bruce in the warehouse directs them in stocking shelves or putting food on flats. This week we had a group of pre-kindergarteners tour the food bank and help by putting apple sauce on flats.

Often time's different young adults will assist at FISH to complete community service for a class or special project. The most recent example of this was Connor Truax, who put together a short video promoting FISH Food Bank for his Eagle Scout project. He did an excellent job and we were lucky to have him put this video together for FISH. If you would like to view the video, go to: <http://www.fish-food-bank.com/about.html>.

I think we should all be proud of the young people of Hood River County that give selfishly of their time and talents to assist all our neighbors who need a little extra help.

Billie Stevens
FISH Food Bank

Happy Birthday to Hood River FISH

Yes, the Tucker Road Hood River FISH Food Bank site is celebrating its 3rd Birthday on May 4. When we opened the doors for service on May 4, 2015 everyone was very excited and nervous. That first night we served 18 clients, with our very first client at the new site being Keith Austin, who now is a very loyal and hardworking volunteer.

We are all be proud of the Hood River FISH Food Bank Site and Distribution Center. After many hours of planning, fundraising and finally construction, we have a building which is not only beautiful but functional too. It is always a pleasure to give tours and show off the building.

Everyone loves our building, they are especially impressed with our waiting room mural and one comment I have received twice this month is how clean it is. Thanks to everyone who helped make this dream a reality and for helping keep the dream alive!

Reminder: Please Help with Civil Rights Training-Required for Volunteers

Please try to remember that we need all volunteers to sign the Civil Rights Training form. It is a requirement that each year volunteers review the Civil Rights rules and sign the form.

New this year we are asking that each volunteer review and sign the Confidentiality Agreement.

Both forms are available at the FISH Food Bank in Hood River at the first desk. Forms will be sent to Parkdale and Mid-Valley. Cascade Locks will sign the form at the training on the 23rd.

26th Annual Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive

Saturday, May 12 is the 26th Annual Letter Carrier "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive. Special thanks to Barb Williams for working with the postal carriers in planning and organizing this event and to Leslie Hidle for being the board liaison with Barb. Encourage everyone to support this food drive and put food out for the postal carriers.



Also this means 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.

Soroptimist Women of Distinction –2018

Congratulation to the 2018 Soroptimist Women of Distinction award winners. This year 3 of the women being recognized for their contribution to our community are FISH volunteers.

Leslie Hidle is on the FISH Food Bank Board of Directors and serves as the secretary. She is always very supportive of all FISH activities and has taken a special interest in the "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive by providing special gift for all the postal carriers.

Debbie Chenoweth was a part of the planning committee for the Tucker Road FISH Site and she is a regular volunteer for her church when they distribute food to clients.

Kristin Reese works with the Leo's when they distribute food on the 2nd Saturday of the month. She makes sure we have the correct number of volunteers and chaperones them at the food bank.

These women along with and Erma Hickman will be honored on May 17, at the Best Western Hood River Inn, Columbia Room. This year it will be a Happy Hour from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$15 and are available at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/soroptimist-women-of-distinction-2018-awards-celebration-happy-hour-tickets-45505978607?aff=es2>

Or by calling Jean Harmon 541.207.4226 or June Knudson 541.760.6050

If you are available it would be great to support these women for all they do for Hood River County.

New Sign at Hood River FISH

The road signs for the Hood River FISH site have hung on a folding white board since we opened this site. This system has served us well for three years but the signs are getting worn and I cannot count how many times the heavy white board was brought in with the signs. Craig Terry took the lead to put together a new system for the sign. He installed a pipe in the flower bed area and the new sign hangs from the pipe. It looks classy and very sturdy.

When your volunteer goes to put out the signs, look for the new sign board and just hang it on the pipe. Thanks Craig, the new sign board looks great!



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 the carriers 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—May 9

The May FISH Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9 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

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| May 9 | FISH Board Meeting, 12:00 Noon at Hood River FISH |
| May 10 | 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 |
| May 24 | OFB Food Truck deliveries, 8:00 AM at Tucker Road, Hood River FISH Site |

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”