

October 2017 Coordinators Update Letter

"Thank You to Everyone Who Makes Us Look Good"...I heard this tag line the other day and thought how true it is for the FISH Food Bank. This last month, because of the Eagle Creek Fire, was an unusual time and hard on everyone working with FISH. I was so impressed with how everyone just stepped up and went the extra mile to make sure help was provided to Cascade Locks.

Martha, the FISH Site Manager in Cascade Locks was out of town at the start of the fire but jumped in with both feet to help once she got back to Cascade Locks. Martha was the Cascade Locks Point Person for the food and supplies that FISH sent to that area. She connected with the community and helped figure out how to get the food to those in need. She also is a key person in helping her community in addition to the FISH responsibilities.

A special thanks to the volunteers in Cascade Locks who helped distribute the food to Cascade Locks. I know Don and Sundee helped a lot but have not heard who else helped. I know many people stepped up to help their neighbors.

Katie Haynie accepted the role of being the Point Person in Hood River for organizing the food to get to Cascade Locks. She connected with the different agencies, the school and with the help of her husband Eric, she organized the Rotary to deliver the food and supplies to Cascade Locks. She did an amazing job of getting it organized from the Hood River end.

Marianne Brevard connected with the schools and got snacks to the Cascade Locks student who were transported to Hood River for school. While other students had snacks after recess, the Cascade Locks students didn't have any to bring. So Marianne stepped up and rounded up the snacks for them.

Yvonne Ellsworth, helped a lot on the front end of the fire by talking with agencies and finding out where FISH could help. Becky and Chuck Bugge stayed at the FISH site after hours to collect food that was being donated.

The warehouse crew, which should be known as the ABCD Team (Allen, Bruce, Craig and Dave), all need to be given a big thanks because they are the ones who didn't even blink when I told them we were getting 150 emergency boxes from the Oregon Food Bank. That was on top of a pallet of water and a pallet of crackers. Then we continued to receive other food and items from the community. Just finding a place for all this to go and doing all the other work that needs to be done was amazing.

The volunteers who help every day to get the Hood River site ready to go, had many extra duties with the additional food and items that have been donated. Their hard

work made the distribution in Hood River go smooth. The Truck team that unloads the Oregon Food Bank truck every two weeks also had to be flexible since the freeway was closed from Portend.

The one person who is the glue to keeping all the parts together is Lorinda, the Hood River FISH Site Manager and Operations Coordinator. She is the one that makes sure all the correct food is ordered, all the donations are distributed and the sites runs smooth. She is the one that really makes us all look good.

I know there are many other individuals who stepped up to Make FISH Look Good! I apologize if I missed your name. Please know that on behalf of the FISH Board we want to say thank you to everyone.

Thanks to everyone who **Makes FISH Look Good**, we could not do it without you. Let's hope next month is a little less hectic.

Billie Stevens
FISH Food Bank

Reminder what the Green Dot on Punch Card Means

Please share with the volunteers working the registration desk that the Green Dot on the Client Punch Card means this client is camping or living in their car. Because of this they can only take a limited amount of food and are allowed to return for a second visit to FISH.

If the client falls into this category:

1. The first time in the month they come, punch their card like normal.
2. Then go into their file on the computer and make a note in the Comments Section, that they received food that day.
3. If they come in and the month is punched, go to their file on the computer and check the number of times they have been in that month.
4. They sign the USDA form like all clients. Then in their file on the computer mark in the comment section, they received food that day.
5. This is only for the ones who can take limited amounts of food, so we would need to know if they happen to take a full shop.

Thank you for sharing this new process with all your volunteers, and especially the volunteers who work the desk.

Hood River Site FISH Food Bank Duty Roster

This is the rotation list for the distribution on the Monday, Wednesday and Friday, during the week. **October 2017 – January 2018:**

For the week of	Church
October 2 – 4 – 6	Shepherd of the Valley Bible
October 9 – 11 – 13	Valley Christian Church
October 16 – 18 – 20	Immanuel Lutheran Church
October 23 – 25 – 27	Unitarian Fellowship

October 30 – Nov 1 – 3	Riverside Community
November 6 – 8 – 10	St Mark's Episcopal
November 13 – 15 – 17	St Mary's Catholic
November 20 – 22	Faith Bible Church

Closed November 24 day after Thanksgiving

November 27 – 29 – Dec 1	Spirit of Grace Church
December 4 – 6 – 8	Shepherd of the Valley Bible
December 11 – 13 – 15	Valley Christian Church
December 18 – 20 – 22	Immanuel Lutheran Church
December 27 – 29	Unitarian Fellowship

January 3 – 5	Riverside Community
January 8 – 10 – 12	St Mark's Episcopal
January 15 – 17 – 19	St Mary's Catholic
January 22 – 24 – 26	Faith Bible Church
January 29 – 31 – Feb 2	Spirit of Grace Church

Columbia Gorge CROP HUNGER WALK IS OCTOBER 7, 2017

Don't forget about the Crop Walk on October 7. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. on October 7 at Hood River Valley Christian Church, 975 Indian Creek Road. The walk begins at 10:00am. Most walkers return by 12:30pm.

In 2016, 95 CROP Walkers raised \$8,500 and their goal for 2017 is \$10,000.

Information packets, registration forms and pledge forms are available by contacting Hood River Valley Christian Church at [541-386-2608](tel:541-386-2608). Walkers are encouraged to set a fundraising goal of \$125, but any amount is welcome.

Also, walkers can bring in non-perishable food items in lieu of pledges. Food donations will go to Cascade Locks to assist people who have been affected by the Eagle Creek Fire.

The distribution of donations is as follows: 75 percent of funds are donated to hunger projects around the world; 25 percent is shared between FISH Food Bank in Hood River County and the Washington Gorge Action Program (WGAP) Food Bank in White Salmon. Reaching the \$10,000 goal would mean \$2,500 to split between the two organizations. This kind of support is gratefully accepted by FISH and WGAP.

CROP Walk is concerned with helping hungry people in our own communities and with also helping meet the serious hunger needs of our larger global community. All individuals, churches, youth groups and service organizations are invited to participate.

Good Bye to High School Seniors and Hello to new High School Volunteers

The last of our Senior high school volunteers are off to college. We will really miss these dedicated young individual like Pico, Alden and Julia. But there are other high school students interested in helping.

Julia Oseguera is interested in helping. She would like to come on Monday nights in Hood River, Thursday nights in Odell and on Saturday in Hood River. Please welcome her and put her to work.

Saving Bags for FISH

One place everyone can help FISH is by saving bags both paper and plastic. While it would be ideal if the clients would use reusable bags, however that is not something we have been able to train our clients to do. Some do bring their bags, but that is very limited.

Until we do train them to bring their own bags, we are in constant need for bags that we use for packing the client food. On an average night in Hood River we use about 100 to 120 paper bags.

So please encourage the volunteers you work with and anyone else you know, if they use the store bags to please recycle them with FISH. If you have friends and family out of the area, remind them that we also will recycle their plastic bags for them.

Plastic carrying Bags: remember the plastic bags need to be the bigger size; produce bags, newspaper sleeves and small bags, are not useable for the clients to put their groceries in. We use a lot of them in the fruit and veggie area.

Brown Paper Bags: The brown bags with handles are also great as they are strong and easy to take out of the shopping cart. But we also use the bags without handles as the second bag, since we double bag the grocery sacks. We only have a limited use for the smaller grocery bags, but they are nice to put some veggies in.

Eggs Cartons: Currently FISH has a good supply of egg cartons, but we do use them so we are accepting them. But we are not actively asking for egg cartons.

Thanks for sharing this information.

FISH Board Meeting-October 11

The October FISH Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 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 to Put on Your Calendar

October 11	FISH Board of Directors meeting, 12:00 Noon
October 12	Oregon Food Bank Truck Delivery, 7:00 AM
October 26	Oregon Food Bank Truck Delivery, 7:00 AM

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