

September 2017

FISH Coordinators Update Letter

This is the third time I have started this newsletter. Each time I started there was a major event happening which changed my focus. First there was the eclipse which was amazing to watch, then there was Hurricane Harvey which was devastating to watch but heartwarming to see the volunteers step up. Now we are in the middle of the Eagle Creek fire.

This fire is affecting not only friends and family but our clients and volunteers that live in the Cascade Locks area. I know many of our FISH volunteers are worrying about our Cascade Locks neighbors. We have been in communication with the authorities and at this time the authorities seem to be taking care of their needs. I know the community it's self has pulled together. In addition to the local restaurants and grocery store stepping up to feed the firemen and women, local individuals are baking cooking for them.

The Oregon Food Bank has offered extra water and food if they need it. Also we are considering once the families are back into Cascade Locks we will offer an additional food distribution to the clients. This is just a wait and see project.

I find this very hard because I have gotten to know many of our clients in Cascade Locks and I am worried about if they are safe and hopefully their homes will remain safe too. If you have any other great ideas on how to help the families in Cascade Locks please let me know.

I wanted to share two very positive things that happened last week. A man who just graduated from college walked into the Hood River site last Friday and said, "I want to give a donation." This is the second time he has done this and we are talking several hundred dollars. Because he is taking a break before he goes back for his masters, he wants to volunteer his time. So if you would like a young strong college student to help with your distribution, please let me know.

The second cool thing was a Dad came in and said his children set a goal this summer to collect \$100 in pop bottles. Then another individual said they would match the \$100. So they met their goal and plan to bring give over \$200 to FISH. With all the sad, it is nice to hear some positive. Thanks for all you do for FISH.

Billie Stevens

FISH Food Bank

New—Green Dot on Punch Card—Share with Volunteers

We know that there is an increase in the number of homeless clients. Many do not have a permanent address and are living with friends or families. But there are about a dozen of our clients who are actually living in a tent or in the forest. These individuals have no car, no refrigeration and can only take a limited amount of food.

Because this group can only take a limited amount of food, we have devised a system to assist this group of clients. The FISH Board decided we should allow this group to come twice a month to the food bank. Because this group can take only a limited amount of food, they can come back.

If the client falls into this category, we will place a green dot on their card. This means they can come back even if they have a punch on their card.

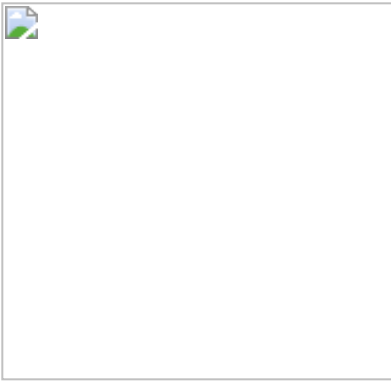
Steps to follow:

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 do a full shop.

Please share this new process with all your volunteers, and especially the volunteers who work the desk.

Thanks to all the Produce Donations

Fall is such a great time for donations, because everyone is so willing to share their extra fresh vegetables and fruit. We try very hard to get this wonderful donation out to all the sites. So please say thanks to everyone who shares everything from tomatoes to peaches and don't forget all the squash. Also we are getting some lovely items from the Garden behind the FISH Building.



Columbia Gorge Crop Walk—October 7

The individuals who plan the Columbia Gorge Crop Walk, decided to change the weekend that it will be happening. So this year the walk is on Saturday, October 7.

The Columbia Gorge CROP Hunger Walk will raise funds to fight hunger—locally (FISH Food Bank) & globally. Create a team walk with family, friends, or other congregations and enjoy a beautiful fall day and help fight hunger.

The organizers have a planning meeting set for Thursday, September 7, at 4:00pm at Hood River Valley Christian Church to hand out CROP Walk materials for walkers and promotional information for you to share with your congregations and to go over plans for 2017 Columbia Gorge CROP Walk.

On October 7, the walk starts at 10:00 am. It begins and ends at the Hood River Valley Christian Church.

If you want additional information contact Kathy Holmson at the Hood River Valley Christian Church, email: hrvchurch@gmail.com.

Computers

All the computers should be up and running again. Thanks for your patience as we waited to get problems worked out.

FISH Board Meeting-September 13

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The September FISH Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13 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

September 13	FISH Board of Directors meeting, 12:00 Noon
September 14	Oregon Food Bank Truck Delivery, 7:00 AM
September 28	Oregon Food Bank Truck Delivery, 7:00 AM

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider”