

FISH Food Bank

August 2018

Coordinators Newsletter

A chapter in the FISH Food Bank has come to an end, the Mid-Valley FISH Food Bank Site is officially closed. On July 31, the last of the furniture was moved out and the floors were swept. It was a lot of work moving but because we had such great help it all went very smooth. We were lucky that the Klickitat WGAP food bank systems is opening a new site and they were able to take some of our spare furniture and older refrigerators and freezers. The best part is, they actually came and picked it up. We were able to incorporate some of the items at the other sites, like Parkdale received another heater and Cascade Locks we traded out a refrigerator.

A very special thanks goes to everyone who helped with move. Everyone from the last Mid-Valley distribution from the WyEast Community Church to many of the Truck Crew helped pack, take things off the walls, move and vacuum the floors. After the last distribution on a very hot Thursday, Alan and Bette Lou Yenne, Jim and Peggy Kelter, Dave Radley, Craig Terry and Bruce Huckaba helped pack up the leftover food moved it all back to the Hood River Site. The next day Lester Moving and Storage packed up and moved the refrigerators and freezers, all free gratis. Then Alan and Dave took the trade out refrigerator to Cascade Locks and moved out the old Cascade Locks refrigerator for the replacement.

Monday morning was the final moving day, with Alan, Art and Diana Carroll, Toni Meierbachtol, Mike Hendricks, and Marianne Durkan all showing up for the last hurrah. Many other volunteers have helped put away items, move furniture and all in all it made the move go smooth.

It is not every day we close a food bank site and it was a sad day. The positive side is the CAT Bus system stepped up and put together a great letter explaining how the bus schedule works perfect to be able to ride it to the Hood River FISH Site to get food. Now we are ready for the next chapter in the story of the FISH Food Bank.

Billie Stevens

FISH Food Bank



What is Happening at FISH?

Farm to FISH Fundraiser

On July 28, FISH sponsored a fun and successful Farm to FISH Brunch at Mt. View Orchards. The day was beautiful, the mountain was stunning, and the food delicious. Almost 100 individuals were able to enjoy the wonderful food prepared by Chef Kathy Watson, music by Eric Haynie and John Durkan and great conversation.

Special thanks to Katie Haynie and Katrina McAlexander who chaired this event. Also to Mt. View Orchards for sharing their beautiful venue. Also Marianne Durkan and other FISH Board members put in a lot of time to make this a success. Many hours of time and work went into making this a very successful fundraiser. FISH would like to thank everyone for their hard work.

Summer Lunch Program

Because summer is a hard time for many families to have adequate and nutritional food for their children, FISH is sponsoring the Summer Lunch Program. Marianne Brevard and Katie Haynie are heading up this program which started on July 31.

Hood River has two sites, which provides lunches made by local restaurants. The lunch is served on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Plus they provide food to take home for the weekend.

A variation of this program is also being offered in Odell and Cascade Locks.

FISH is very proud to be able to fill a gap in the nutritional need for children in our county. It takes a lot of planning and coordination and volunteer help. Be sure to say thank you to Marianne and Katie when you see them.

Good Bye to Faith Bible Church

The Faith Bible Church, formally called First Baptist Church, has had to discontinue being a part of the monthly FISH distribution team. Julie Clark who has been the church coordinator since 2002, said because a shift in demographics in their church they have not been able to find sufficient volunteers to cover the distribution shifts.

The long time loyal volunteers were very sad to have to say good bye and assure me if they can find an adequate crew they will be back.

What this means is the rotation for the remaining churches will be every 8 weeks instead of 9 weeks. We would love to add a few more groups into the rotation, but have not been able to connect with anyone yet. If you have any idea of a group that might like to be interested, let me know.

Green Dot on Punch Card—Share with Volunteers

FISH continues to see the trend of increased number of homeless clients. Some nights almost 1/3 of our clients are homeless. There are different types of homeless living situations. Some clients are living in tents, some in their cars others in the forest. But some just do not have a permanent address, such as the individuals I the Women's Shelter or families fishing and living at the En Lieu Sites.

To assist the individuals who have little or no refrigeration, we have the "Green Dot" system. Most of these people are not able to take much food, many take just what they can get in a backpack.

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

Steps to follow:

1. The first time in the month, 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, check to see if they have a green dot. If so they are allowed to return.
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 and have no refrigeration/freezer.

Please share this process with all your volunteers, and especially the volunteers who work the desk. Even though we have been doing this since last September, I find many volunteers are not aware of this process.

Change in Crop Walk Date

The organizers of the annual Crop Walk had to change the date of this year's Crop Walk. The walk changed to **Saturday, September 22, 10:00am**. Be sure to change your calendar from the date I gave you last month.

Cherry Season Completed—Farm Workers Return Home

The cherries have been picked and the migrant workers who came to pick cherries have moved on to their next job or returned home. Things went smooth again this year at FISH and the paper sheet verses a punch card worked well.

Each year FISH helps about 40 families. Thanks to all the volunteers who were lucky enough to get to work the nights we had big groups from Mosier. Because of everyone making an extra effort everything went smooth.

Food Keeper

The USDA has an app for either your phone or through their website called Food Keeper that tells you how long you can store food before it's been opened and after it's been opened. You might find it interesting and helpful when working at the food bank and you wonder "how long is too long to keep a certain food." You can find it at: <https://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/foodkeeperapp/>

FISH Board Meeting-August 8

The August FISH Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 8 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

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| August 8 | FISH Board of Directors meeting, 12:00 Noon |
| August 16 | Oregon Food Bank Truck Delivery, 8:00 AM |
| August 30 | Oregon Food Bank Truck Delivery, 8:00 AM |

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