

FISH Food Bank
November 2018
Coordinators Newsletter

November is the month of Thanksgiving. At the FISH Food Bank if you have ever had the opportunity to help with the distribution of food you will realize that the clients are very thankful for our service. At all most at every distribution someone will share how important receiving food is to them.

Last night, which was Halloween, there were only 10 clients. But I had two different clients share how important FISH is to them. One client is an older gentlemen who is basically living on Social Security. He expressed how grateful he was to us because he can only make his money stretch three weeks of the month and he is able to get food for the fourth week at FISH.

The second individual was a single lady. This was her first time to FISH and she was a little nervous about coming but her friends had encouraged her to come. Her story is while she is working and making what she described as a good salary, she just learned that her rent is now going up. While she was getting by before this rent increase sent her budget over the line.

One of our clients who lives in a tent, shared he was going to be OK for the winter because he was able to get several more blankets. He is a client with a green dot, so he is able to come back when he needs food.

Sometimes, I am sure we do more than just provide food for individuals. For example, another client without a permanent address and has a green dot on his card has been coming to the Food Bank on a regular bases. He walks to the Food Bank from downtown and I was curious about the amount of food he was getting. So I casually peaked into his grocery bag and discovered he had about 5 items. Now I realize he is walking and has to carry the food but I am thinking he is coming more for the contact with people than for the food.

Time and time again clients tell me, "You do not know how much I appreciate your food assistance and how important it is." I hear this from young clients, old clients, singles and families. So far in 2018 FISH Food Bank has provided food assistance to 1083 different families, feeding a total of 3246 different individuals, about 35% of these individuals are children.

On behalf of the FISH Food Bank Board of Directors we would like to wish all FISH Volunteers a very Happy Thanksgiving. Thank you for making a difference.

Billie Stevens
FISH Food Bank

Thanksgiving Turkeys for Client

FISH will once again be giving turkeys to our clients during the month of November (and/or until we run out of turkeys). Everyone who wants a turkey is allowed to have one. We will want to start this on November 2. While we have some turkeys now, we will not be getting many of the turkeys until a little later in the month.

So we will be using the **Turkey Rain Checks** in Hood River and Parkdale when turkeys are not available. Cascade Locks gives coupon that is redeemed at the store in Cascade Locks.

For Hood River and Parkdale, if there are turkey's available they have the option of getting a turkey. If no turkeys are available at the beginning of the month, then we will give them a Turkey Rain Check. We will have turkeys through the month of November.

For the Turkey Rain Checks, when the client signs-in, ask if they would like a rain check for the turkey. Explain that the turkeys should be here by the middle of November. If they say yes, put their name on the rain check and give it to them. Explain they can pick up the turkey at Hood River or Parkdale sites. They can just come in and show the rain check, they do not have to wait in line. Please take the rain check from the client when they pick up their turkey.

Be sure the individuals working the desk know the procedure. This is the process until we get the turkeys in at FISH. Once the turkeys are here we will give the turkey out and individuals with Turkey Rain Checks can pick up the turkeys.

Please keep track of how many rain check you have given out, to help us be sure we have enough turkeys

Holiday Closures and Changes

During the holiday season the FISH Food Bank will be closed at the following locations and dates.

November:

Hood River Food Bank will be closed: Friday, November 23

December:

Hood River Food Bank will be closed: Monday, December 24
Tuesday, December 25

Parkdale Food Bank will be closed: Monday, December 24
Tuesday, December 25

January:

Hood River Food Bank will be closed: Monday, December 31
Parkdale Food Bank will be closed: Monday, December 31

Cascade Locks will be distributing the following date:

November 28 and December 1
December 19 and 22

Welcome Beta Sigma Phi to Saturday Distribution

I am excited to announce we have a new organization helping with the 4th Saturday Food Distribution in Hood River. The Preceptor Theta Chapter and the Alpha Gama Chapter of the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority have teamed together to help with the food distribution on the 4th Saturday. They have agreed to fill a slot left by a group of individuals whose work schedules changed so they were not able to continue their help.

We are excited to have this new group of individuals as part of the FISH Team. October was their first time helping and it was a very busy day. It was a good example of how important their assistance is to FISH.

Hood River Christmas Project Registration

The registration for the Hood River Christmas project will be taking place in November and December at the Parkdale FISH, Cascade Locks FISH and new this year at the Hood River FISH site. Please make sure there is a place for them to work, and be prepared as there may be a bigger number of clients on those dates.

The dates they will be registering at the FISH sites are:

Parkdale: Monday, November 12
Monday, November 19
Cascade Locks: Wednesday, November 28
Hood River: Saturday, November 10
Saturday, November 17
Saturday, December 1
Saturday, December 8

Holiday Changes for Oregon Food Bank Truck

Because of the holiday season the Oregon Food Bank Truck deliveries will be on:
November 8 and 29
December 6 and 20

FISH Board Meeting—November 14

The monthly board meeting for the FISH Food Bank is scheduled for November 14 at the Hood River FISH site meeting room. The Board meetings will start at 12:00 Noon.

Board meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend.

Important Dates to Put on Your Calendar

November 8 Oregon Food Bank Truck delivery 8:00 AM, Hood River FISH, Tucker Road Site.

November 14 FISH Board Meeting, 12:00 Noon, Hood River FISH Site

November 29 Oregon Food Bank Truck delivery 8:00 AM, Hood River FISH, Tucker Road Site.

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”