

Oregon Food Share seeks food donations

By Cynthia Whitfield
Of the Emerald

For most people, Thanksgiving means turkey, stuffing, cranberries and other delectables too numerous to mention. But for many of Oregon's people living below the poverty line, Thanksgiving could mean just another hungry day.

Oregon Food Share, a non-profit agency coordinating statewide food relief, wants to make sure this doesn't happen. Sponsored by Pacific Northwest Bell, the agency will help coordinate the third annual "Supermarket Saturday."

Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., every one of Oregon's 89 Safeway stores will collect food and cash from community members to be distributed to emergency food shelters across the state.

"We're asking people to buy a couple of extra items and donate them at the store. Cash is also welcome and will be used to purchase additional food for area food banks," says Kathleen Cornett, executive director of Oregon Food Share.

Every week, 25,000 Oregonians seek help from emergency food relief centers. During the last three years these centers have been overwhelmed with requests for food, says Corky Stewart, PNB's staff consultant for community relations.

"We hear all kinds of things about the recovery, but it hasn't filtered down here. In Oregon we still have very high unemployment," she says.

The annual Supermarket Saturday was initiated by the PNB community relations team

two years ago. Collections last year yielded a total of more than \$53,000 in food and cash, up from \$50,000 in 1982. This year, PNB volunteers have invited other corporations to join the drive to increase contributions and awareness of hunger in Oregon.

U.S. National Bank is a new participator and is collecting food items at most of its 185 branches through Friday. There will also be a collection at the University-Oregon State University football game in Corvallis Saturday. High-protein canned goods including meats and fish are priority items, as well as infant formula, baby food, beans and rice. Basic household necessities such as toilet paper and soap are also needed, Stewart says.

"Last year we gave \$24,000 to Oregon Food Share as a matching gift to community contributions. This year we'll just give \$30,000 outright. We've had tremendous response with this project. Last year some people even sent checks in with their phone bills," she said.

The program is particularly important this year because some emergency food centers have been forced to turn away hungry clients, or, more often, give them less food than usual, Cornett adds.

"We like to give people three to five days of food until they can receive some financial assistance or food stamps. During winter, food supplies are low; the harvest is over, the economy is slower and people need more calories in colder weather," she says.

Oregon Food Share is an umbrella organization coor-

dinating food distribution to the 477 independent agencies serving the hungry. In Eugene, FISH, The Salvation Army, St.

Vincent DePaul and other organizations will receive the collected food.

Some 2,000 volunteers are involved in the project, but more are needed, Stewart says. People interested in helping should contact Jackie Williams, Eugene volunteer coordinator, at 484-8258.

"The fun thing about this is how much is volunteered — food, transportation money and time. We'd like everybody to participate," Cornett says.

Oregon has the first statewide emergency food-relief program of its kind in the country. The network received the 1983 Presidential Volunteer Action Award.

Group plans civil disobedience

By Paul Ertelt
Of the Emerald

Increased tension in Central America has sparked plans for organized resistance, and a nationwide coalition of peace groups is gathering pledges from people willing to engage in peaceful civil disobedience.

Local efforts to gather "pledges of resistance" in protest of rising U.S. military involvement in the region were announced at a press conference Monday at the Eugene headquarters of Clergy and Laity Concerned.

Pledge signers are asked if they would be willing to occupy or blockade federal facilities in either Lane County or in Washington, D.C., in the event of a U.S. or U.S.-sponsored invasion or bombing of either Nicaragua or El Salvador.

Signers also have the option of committing themselves to peaceful vigils and demonstrations if they do not wish to break the law.

The pledge drive is a preventive step, aimed at convincing U.S. officials that escalation would lead to widespread resistance, said CALC member Marion Malcolm.

"What we're doing is making a statement that we believe the situation is very, very serious, and we are willing to put ourselves at risk to make that statement," Malcolm said.

Although the announcement came in the wake of increasing tensions between the United States and the Sandinista government of Nicaragua, Malcolm said the pledge plan has been a year in the making.

Last week the United States accused the Sandinistas of importing Soviet MiG jets, but U.S. officials later admitted they lacked any evidence of the jets' existence. Meanwhile, the Nicaraguan armed forces have been put on alert, and the Sandinistas have said they believe a U.S. invasion is imminent.

Malcolm rejected the claim

that Nicaragua is a security threat to the United States and its allies, pointing to the poverty and weakness of Nicaragua.

"It is comical to think that (Nicaragua) would ever be considered to be an aggressor in a war with the United States," she said.

Malcolm accused the government of attempting to condition the American public to the idea of an invasion of Nicaragua.

She also said the United States hopes to exploit the tension to undermine the Nicaraguan economy. Nicaraguan coffee-pickers have been taken out of the fields during the harvest in order to join the country's military forces. Since coffee is a mainstay of the Nicaraguan economy, disruption of the harvest could have catastrophic effects on the nation's economy, she said.

Non-violence training sessions will be held to prepare signers for civil disobedience, Malcolm said.

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isn't like that. Oxfam doesn't show pictures of starving, dying children. They show happy, healthy people to show the possibility of what the people can be."

But solutions to world hunger problems are blocked by apathy, Bader says.

"People think they don't have an influence, but they do... every individual makes the difference, and at every moment we have an opportunity to contribute to ending world hunger."


The break-fast meal, which consists of vegetarian soup and

bread, will cost \$2.50-\$5 on a sliding scale.

For more information contact Becky Smith at 343-2824 or Jack Kapuscinski at 484-5867. Information about Oxfam can be obtained by writing to Oxfam America, 115 Broadway, Boston, Mass., 02116.

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