

# In-school Grocery Feeds Families

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

said. "It's part of our social impact plan, to end hunger in the neighborhoods we call home by 2025. Hunger is a real issue in schools and we were looking for a school partner eager to develop a solution like this one."

Temple said Ockley Green teacher Kelly Cahill suggested the partnership to Fred Meyer stores, and the idea took off.

"We were able to work with the school and Sunshine Division to develop a solution to keep kids and families fed not just for one weekend, but year-round," Temple said.

Temple said credit for funding the program goes to the cashiers at Fred Meyer who started the Hunger Roundup Program where they ask customers if they want to contribute along with their purchase.

"This is because of the cashiers who launched the Hunger Roundup Program, and because of that we are able to fund these kinds of projects," he said. "It connects the dots between community and solution."

While Fred Meyer provided funding and the Sunshine Division provided logistics, the actual



PHOTO BY BEVERLY CORBELL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ockley Green Middle School student Shamaya Daniels (left) checks out the avocados while volunteering at the north Portland school's new Dragon Mart, and resident Kay Cry picks up some items for Thanksgiving. The new free food bank serves students and the public.

store is run by Joyce Olivo of Self Enhancement, Inc., the nonprofit deeply rooted in Portland's African American community and dedicated to helping youth reach their potential.

As the store opened, Olivo worked nonstop getting people registered, arranging products, answering questions and directing student volunteers.

In the past, the school has had

backpack programs where kids can take home a backpack full of food at the end of the week, but even that had a certain stigma, which having a store helps remove, Olivo said.

"We don't want to call it a pantry, to take that stigma away, and we use Fred Meyer shopping bags," she said.

Dragon Mart opened during the first week of the school year, Olivo said, and is currently feeding about 20 families per week.

"That's not including the kids who come in during the week to get additional meals or food," she said. "The first day we had 15 students and families but the numbers are definitely growing, once word gets out."

Four Ockley Green students, Shamaya Daniels, Addyson Razo, Beatrice Pierson, Ilyarah Moteley, work as volunteers helping Dragon Mart customers like Kay Cry, an elderly neighborhood resident shopping for Thanksgiving, find what they need, bag the groceries and carry them out.

Although Fred Meyer has worked with other schools to provide food for homeless students, Temple said the program at Okly Green is essentially a pilot program that could be start at other schools.

"We're looking to get proof concept and hopefully find other companies who want to get on board and keep these programs sustainable," he said.

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