

Hunger Awareness



On behalf of our advertisers in this section 1,821 pounds of food donated to Community Sharing.

It's important to remember our neighbors struggling to provide their families with enough food to eat. In Cottage Grove, and the surrounding areas, lower income families can find help at Community Sharing Program. Community Sharing is a local non-profit that provides community members basic needs, life-skill tools, and resources towards self-sufficiency. Each month an average of 750 emergency food boxes are distributed by Community Sharing's pantry. Emergency food boxes are meant to supplement SNAP assistance (previously called food stamps) with a 3-5 day supply of food. As a partner agency, Community Sharing gets over half of its food from the county's food bank, Food for Lane County. The rest is donated by local individuals, organizations, and businesses.

Historically the need for emergency food in the fall and winter is significantly higher than in the spring and summer. This summer the pantry set a new record of 896 food boxes distributed in one month. Following this pattern, the fall and winter months might see even more record-breaking numbers of families in need. In addition to the increased number of our neighbors facing food insecurity, the latest forecast from Food for Lane County for the fiscal year 14-15 shows food distribution to pantries will be lower for the better part of the fiscal year. That means local food donations are critical, now more than ever, to meet the basic needs of an ever increasing number of eligible families.

In addition to food, Community Sharing accepts donations of essential non-food items, such as hygiene items, clothes, and cleaning supplies, to provide to its client families. These items aren't covered by SNAP assistance, but clothes, toilet paper, diapers, and soaps are almost as vital for day-to-day living as food. Community Sharing also relies on local volunteers to operate effectively. Our board of directors is composed of dedicated community leaders who volunteer many hours supporting this organization. In the pantry, volunteers help sort the donations, stock the shelves, and assist clients through the pantry process. Office volunteers are needed to give out critical information, help clients fill out necessary forms, and provide a kind ear to clients on the edge of crisis. In addition to our current support from local volunteers, we are always looking for volunteers who would be

willing to help stop local hunger by organizing a food drive, or fundraising event in Community Sharing's honor.

During the coming holiday season, Community Sharing will be offering food box clients a special food box for December holiday celebrations. Clients will begin signing up for the special food box in November. The box contains seasonal foods and a frozen turkey for each family. Community sharing will be selling buttons to support our holiday food boxes over the next two months to help put on this special event. We will be selling these buttons for \$10 each, please call one of our board members or come by our office to purchase a turkey button and provide a holiday meal to one of your neighbors. In December volunteers from all over the community will help distribute the holiday food boxes at OLPH Catholic Church. The event is an amazing, nondenominational display with concerned community members coming together to give back.

There are also a number of annual donations drives this time of year, such as the local U.S. Postal Service's food drive, Boy Scouts' door-to-door donation collection and the South Lane School district's food drive. Please consider supporting these organizations in their efforts.

The directors, staff and volunteers at Community Sharing would like to thank the Cottage Grove community for their continued support. Together we are able to provide desperately needed basic needs services to our community as a result of your generosity.

To find out how you can help, call Community Sharing at 541-942-2176 Monday through Friday from 11am- 3:30pm.



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