

The FISH of Roseburg

Faith Lutheran
First Presbyterian
First United Methodist



St. George Episcopal
St. Joseph Catholic
Umpqua Unitarian Universalists

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Dear Friends of The FISH,

Despite a noticeable lowering of the unemployment rate in Douglas County since the “Great Recession”, many of our neighbors continue to face a difficult situation of food insecurity and hunger. These families find it hard to put food on the table on a consistent basis, often not knowing where their next meal is going to come from. These families sometimes have to skip meals or end up eating too little to maintain a healthy diet, because they are not able to afford ample food. Food insecurity is a lack of dependable access to enough food for an active, healthy life.

Douglas County has one of the highest food insecurity rates in the state of Oregon. At 20.5 percent, it is 4.4 percent higher than the state level. The county also continues to have one of the highest rates of unemployment of all western Oregon counties. Income levels of many households are very low, with the average income level of families in Douglas County \$10,000 below the state average. When food insecurity persists it often results in kids and adults suffering from the consequences of hunger. Hunger negatively impacts learning, health, productivity and potential for both children and adults. Children who are hungry have more difficulty learning in school. Hunger hurts families, children, seniors, and those who are disabled.

Food insecure families often rely on food stamps, which sometimes run out before the end of the month. When that happens, people turn to food pantries for emergency support. It is a joy that The FISH is able to provide emergency food assistance to low-income households and persons including underemployed households, the disabled, single parent families, homeless persons, and the elderly.

The demand for food boxes from The FISH Food Pantry remains high. During the past year the FISH Food Pantry provided free emergency food boxes to an average of 1,027 low-income families per month, which included almost 4,000 individuals. Over 30% of those served were children. The Pantry provided a total of 12,326 emergency food parcels during 2015. Most of our clients visit the Pantry only when they are in an extreme financial crisis and need emergency food. During 2015, 41% of our client households came to the Pantry only once. The typical FISH Food Pantry client visited three times during 2015.

Our mission remains to assist in reducing hunger within Douglas County, and responding with compassion to emergency basic needs of low-income families and individuals. The community of The FISH seeks to show concern and love for our neighbors by assisting as a crisis safety net for unmet needs of food, short-term emergency shelter, transportation, and children’s medicine.

The FISH of Roseburg Service Summary

FOOD SERVICE: During March 2016 the FISH Pantry was open 18 times for 36 hours.

<u>Totals for February:</u>	2014	2015	2016
Families:	1087	1030	992
Persons:	4251	3940	3718

<u>Family size:</u>				<u>Age groups:</u>			
1	229	5	164	0 – 5	297	24-44	1046
2	156	6	94	6 – 11	406	45-54	430
3	123	7	86	12-17	364	55-69	565
4	84	8+	56	18-23	371	70+	239

Areas of service: Roseburg Area: 615 households (62%) Outside Roseburg: 377 households (38%)

North: 178 West: 86 South: 93 East: 20

Miscellaneous information: Homeless persons: 121 New Pantry applications: 90 (9%)

Pantry Volunteers: 59 Volunteer hours: 559

Retail Purchases: Total \$1,683.96; includes Milk: 426 gal \$923.64, Meat: 768 lbs. \$760.32,

Wholesale Purchases: \$2,709.40, 3,345 lbs. (eggs 1,632 #, peanut butter 520 #, canned fruit 438 #, cereal/ grains 180 #, bean soup mix 315 #, tuna 160 #)

UCAN/ OFB donation: 28,396 lbs. \$1,865.87 USDA (Federal Food Program): 10,187 lbs.

Total Pantry Food Expenditures: **\$6,259.23**

Food Donations Direct to FISH: 2,000 lbs. Includes Roseburg Food Project: 45 lbs., Churches: 1,237 lbs., and Other: 698 lbs.

Total Food Purchases and Donated: **48,360 lbs.**

PEDIATRIC MEDICATION SERVICE: March 2016 Prescriptions - data not available at this time.

SHELTER SERVICE: During March 2016 the FISH provided 24 person nights of emergency shelter.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICE: During March 2016 the FISH provided the following assistance with transportation needs: Gas vouchers: 20 for \$185

The FISH of Roseburg is an agency of the Greater Douglas United Way

In accordance with Federal Law, the policies of the US Dept. of Agriculture, the policies of the Oregon Food Bank, the FISH of Roseburg does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or disabilities.