

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,

With Thanksgiving quickly approaching and dinner plans in the works, it is tradition for us to reflect on all that we are thankful for. Since the end of October, I have found myself being thankful for things that I have taken for granted my entire life. Things that have always been a part of my life, so I have never had to know what it is like to do without. Things such as not having to be put in adult situations as a young child, things such as not having transportation or the money to pay for public transportation, or choosing which bill needs to be paid first, and which can wait. Of course the list goes on and on. I have been doing an awful lot of reflecting since the end of October, because that is when I had the privilege to participate in the Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS), hosted by Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries.

You see, the people at the Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries know that maybe it isn't enough to work with people who struggle, or volunteer to assist those who need it the most. Don't get me wrong, it is some of the most important work and volunteers are a vital part of the success needed for many non-profit agencies, including here at The FISH. But what if you could spend a few hours in their shoes? CAPS does just that! It allows us as community members and leaders to be in a simulation, experiencing what it is like for in the life of the people in our community who are struggling.

Many of us were placed into family groups, where we played the role of a member in that family, while others played the roles of community members, such as pawnshop workers, grocery store clerks, daycare providers, teachers, and more. Trust me, it was very realistic! When the whistle blew, we had to go to school, work, etc. We had to figure out how to get from point A to point B. We had to pay bills, pay utilities, buy groceries, and sell our stuff just to keep afloat. And in between it all, life would happen! We would be handed cards that would throw a wrench into the middle of things just when we thought we were getting it all down. Cards like getting thrown in jail, or getting sick. And the kicker to the whole day was finding out that not a single scenario that ANY of us was given had any of us living below the poverty line! To think that anyone could make it on these very real life scenarios, with the situations, and income (or lack thereof), is beyond me.

It took me a few days before it really all sank in. In fact, it wasn't until after someone saw me in a news interview talking about the struggles of transportation during the simulation. They confirmed to me that transportation really is the problem. They started talking about the struggles of not being able to get a job without having transportation, but not being able to get transportation without a job. I am certainly thankful for my blessings now, far more than I ever had been before. And I am thankful for each and every one of you too! Without you, the FISH of Roseburg would not be able to help our friends and neighbors in their time of need. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

Kim

The FISH of Roseburg Service Summary

FOOD SERVICE: During October 2016 the FISH Pantry was open 16 times for 32 hours

<u>Totals for October:</u>		2014	2015	2016
Families:		1253	1004	945
Persons:		4923	3815	3604

<u>Family size:</u>		<u>Age groups:</u>					
1	220	5	152	0 – 5	291	24-44	982
2	129	6	83	6 – 11	373	45-54	438
3	110	7	87	12-17	374	55-69	530
4	104	8+	60	18-23	391	70+	225

Areas of service: Roseburg Area: 614 households (65%), Outside Roseburg: 331 households (35%)

North: 161 West: 66 South: 89 East: 15

Miscellaneous information: Homeless persons: 126 New Pantry applications: 79 (8%)

Pantry Volunteers: 62 Volunteer hours: 660

Retail Purchases: Total \$1,634.74 includes Milk: 448 gal = \$1,126.64, 149 ½ gal milk = \$229.46;

Meat: 228 lbs = \$278.64

Wholesale Purchases: \$2,603.18, 4,606 lbs (eggs 1,440 lbs, tuna 128 lbs, chili 52 lbs, pasta 60 lbs, pasta sauce 168 lbs, peanut butter 104 lbs, canned fruit 1,416 lbs, canned vegetables 245 lbs, juice 486 lbs, rolled oats 357 lbs, and dried beans 150 lbs).

UCAN/ OFB donation: 31,926 lbs. \$1,110.17

USDA (Federal Food Program): 6,043 lbs

Total Pantry Food Expenditures: **\$5,348.09**

Food Donations Direct to FISH: 16,716 lbs Includes Roseburg Food Project: 10,067 lbs,

Churches: 1,453 lbs, Food Drive: 4,390 lbs, and Other/Community: 806 lbs

Total Food Purchases and Donated: **64,072 lbs.**

PEDIATRIC MEDICATION SERVICE: September 2016 Prescriptions - 6 paid for by The FISH.

SHELTER SERVICE: During October 2016 the FISH provided 25 person nights of emergency shelter.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICE: During October 2016 the FISH provided the following assist with transportation: Gas vouchers: 16 for \$145.00.

See our website for current news about the FISH – <http://fishofroseburg.org>

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.