



MADRAS COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Food for Thought

Our Mission: To alleviate hunger and food insecurity for those persons living in Jefferson County and the surrounding areas who are at risk.

49 NE 12th Street, Madras OR. 97741

541-953-4259

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Madras Community Food Pantry "Our Story"



MCFP is a 501c3 shopping style food pantry, which means we distribute food much like a grocery store. We are an Oregon Food Bank/USDA food distribution site. Our food comes to us from the OFB through Neighbor Impact in Redmond. Each week we pick up 6-8,000 lbs of food. We also pick up food donated from local grocery stores and local industry: Safeway, Grocery Outlet, Martins Produce. In 2022 we distributed 258,501 lbs of food.

Our mission is: "To help families out of poverty by alleviating hunger and food insecurity for those who are at risk in Jefferson County and the surrounding areas."

Our goal: to provide high protein, nutrient dense food choices for our clients.

Our location: currently we are leasing space from the United Methodist Church located at 49 NE 12th St., Madras, Ore.

Our programs and hours of operation: Our pantry is open Wed & Thurs from 10-1pm, and every third Wednesday from 5-7pm. We are also in the process of developing a home delivery program for those people who are disabled.

We currently have three school pantries (Buff Elementary & Metolius Elementary, Madras Elementary) and will soon add two more. The school pantries provide "weekend survival kits" for kids who are at risk.

On the second and fourth Wednesday of the month we operate the Free Food Market from 4-5:30pm. This program distributes food salvaged from grocery stores in Bend and Redmond.

Every Tuesday and Friday we pick up bread/pastry at Bimbo Intl in Redmond. We distribute this through our pantry and deliver to five other organizations in Madras, Metolius, and Crooked River who make these items available to the community.

We partner with Jefferson County Health Dept to provide food and blankets to the homeless camps whenever we can.

We also partner with St. Charles to provide food boxes to their patients who have been identified as food insecure.

At Thanksgiving each year we distribute dinner boxes that include everything needed to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner. This year we are distributing 150 boxes on the 17th of November. (continued) →

MCFP “Our Story” (continued)



Statistical Information:

In the 1st six months of this year we provided food for 3,100 families. Totaling 9,044 adults and children. This is a 42% increase from 2022. Our demographic include 25% Hispanic, 25% Native American, 42% Caucasian, and 8% other.

Our Need:

We have outgrown the space we are leasing at the United Methodist Church.

Our challenges include:

- Inadequate space to store shelf stable food.
- Lack of a dedicated area to wash and repack food.
- Insufficient space for the number of freezers and refrigerators needed to sustain our cold food storage.
- Insufficient space for office staff.
- Space/scheduling limitations at UMC that prevent us from expanding our programs or developing new ones.
- Lack of an inviting space for our friends and neighbors to sit while waiting to shop.
- No space for volunteers/staff to keep personal items or just rest.

Our Vision:

To have a facility that will allow us to expand our hours of operation and to develop new programs. For example:

- Expand our hours to three days/wk and one Saturday/mo.
- A clothing distribution area.
- A community garden where we grow produce to distribute.
- A kitchen with a community dining area where we can serve meals and conduct cooking and nutrition classes.
- New Fresh Alliance partners in the community to expand our produces offerings.

This is the statistical story. THE HUMAN STORY IS QUITE DIFFERENT.

As of the 2021 census 12% of the population in Jefferson Co was at or below the poverty level. I can't help but think that this number no longer reflects the scope of food insecurity in our county as each week we set a new record for the number of families accessing our food pantry. Each morning when I walk into our waiting area and I see people waiting patiently for their turn to shop I reflect on what we might do better. Is it enough that we strive to provide a welcoming space by having coffee and cookies available and that our volunteers have smiling faces and cheerful voices? Or that our greeter is bilingual? Probably not. Are we solving the root problems of poverty and food insecurity. No. But we are doing an important part by allowing people to focus their energy on something other than where their next meal comes from. Food insecurity overshadows nearly every other aspect of daily life for the underserved (elderly, handicapped, mentally ill), the working poor, and the homeless. It impedes their ability to overcome fundamental challenges related to improving their lives.

I am often humbled by the outpouring of appreciation when I ask our clients how we are doing.

Here are some quotes:

“Your pantry has meant the difference between despair and hope some days.”

“Thank heavens I found the pantry. It has become a God send to me. I love and appreciate the fruit and veggies, and the wide assortment of bread and canned goods. The volunteers are friendly and don't make me feel guilty or receiving food/help. Thank You.” (continued) →



MCFP “Our Story” (continued)

“The food pantry provides sustenance to my family during hard times. When I am waiting for the next paycheck, I know the food pantry can help us get by.”

The pantry is very important to me. I rely on it to help provide food. I have medical issues and do not work and have a very limited income. Without the pantry I do not think I’d have enough food to make it through the month. Thanks.”

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“The pantry means the difference between my family being fed and not. DHS says we make too much before taxes to get food stamps but we barely have enough in a month to pay bills let alone also buy food. I am thankful for this food pantry. Thanks.”

Join us as we work towards moving into a new facility so that we can continue this good work.



Kathleen May

Executive Director MCFP



Financial Update



Even though we are a non-profit program, it costs money for us to operate a Food Pantry. We are launching a fundraising campaign to assist with the operating expenses for our current programs and to provide monies for our re-location of the Food Pantry.

On November 2, 2023, we received word that the Food Pantry would receive a grant from the Central Oregon Health Council in the amount of \$116,233.00. These monies are targeted for our relocation of the Pantry, with the project’s main goal to “increase food access and choices” for those living in Jefferson County and the surrounding areas, who face food insecurity. We are excited with the jump start these monies will provide for the Pantry’s re-location effort.

Donations continue to arrive in support of the Thanksgiving Turkey Boxes. We are almost halfway to our goal of \$7,500.00 for this project.

Our School Pantry Program “Just for You!” currently operates in three local schools, with a fourth pantry being established. These school pantries provide children with weekend survival kits. Each school identifies those children in need and handouts the self-stable, children-friendly food that we provide. We need funding to keep this program going. Any monies you can donate would be appreciated.

We want to thank our Board members, Patty Lieuallen and Paul Brown who orchestrate this program.

Donna Hagedorn
Treasurer of MCFP

Volunteer Spotlight: Jan Hendriksen

When you visit the Madras Community Food Pantry, the first friendly, helpful face you will see is Jan Hendriksen.

Jan is a member of the United Methodist Church. She started volunteering at the Pantry in April of 2016 when it was only herself and a handful of other people. She also started helping with the FREE FOOD MARKET in Oct., 2012 where she handed out and still continues to handout the dairy products. During COVID she packed baked goods into boxes for customers as they drove up outside to pick-up food. In her spare time during COVID she made 500 masks for all the volunteers and church members plus anyone else that needed them. She is truly a valued volunteer and we appreciate her work and dedication to the Food Pantry.

Thank you Jan for all your hard work and volunteer hours. Everyone appreciates you.



Plant a Row Campaign



Thanks to the generous support of our Community, our "Plant a Row" campaign nettedpounds of fresh fruits and vegetables grown and harvested from backyard gardens in the Madras community. The campaign began with townfolk planting Rows in June, and has just ended after a bountiful fall harvest!

These healthy home-grown vegetables and fruits have provided a fresh and nutritious supplement to the many food boxes provided each week at the Food Pantry.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all those who gave of themselves and their produce to help our people eat. Hunger is a story we can end."



School Food Pantries Just For You!



The Madras Community Food Pantry is currently serving Madras, Metolius, and Buff Elementary schools. We are providing weekend food for 26 students. We refill the school pantries every 2 weeks. The schools select the students to be served and send food home with them every Friday.. All schools are appreciative of the help we are providing for those students who experience food insecurity. Paul Brown and Patty Lieuallen deliver the food to the schools and then the school counselors or a designated school employee fill the student's backpacks for the weekend.

This project is outside of the regular food pantry scope of distributing food through the food pantry. Therefore, the money for this food comes out of the operating budget. We also depend on food donations from the community. Items needed for this project are small cans that are easy to open, such as: Tuna, Chicken, Vienna sausages, spaghetti, ravioli, other pastas, chili, beef stew, fruits and fruit juices, snack crackers, peanut butter snacks, trail mix, pop tarts, granola bars, protein bars, fruit bars. If you would like to donation items for this project, please contact the Madras Community Food Pantry. Donations will be greatly appreciated by the MCFP and the children.

Thank You Trader Joe's



We would like to extend a thank you to our Local Trader Joe's grocery store in Bend, Oregon.

They have been donating paper grocery bags to the Pantry for several years now. Trader Joe's is a national chain of neighborhood grocery stores. They are committed to providing their customers with outstanding values in the form of the best quality products at the best everyday prices. Through their rewarding products and knowledgeable, friendly Crew Members, they have been transforming grocery shopping into a welcoming journey full of discovery and fun since 1967.

They continuously connect with food donation partners in diverse metro areas to evaluate and extend the reach of Neighborhood Share Programs. Through this seven-day-a-week program, they donate all products in our stores that go unsold but remain fit to be enjoyed to a range of non-profit, community-based organizations. For sometime now, they have donating the shopping bags that the MCFP uses for food distribution to the community, making our distribution efforts so much easier.

It's a Wrap! The 2023 Great Madras Community Dine-Out

For all practical purposes, the 2023 Great Madras Community DINE-OUT fundraiser exceeded all expectations. As of this date, \$7,404.60 has been received from participating restaurants, local merchants and service organizations and a few individuals. This amount topped the goal of \$6,000. DINE-OUT Coordinator Les Weidner continues to have faith that there will be a few more late donations that will push the total over the \$8,000 mark.

Les said: "To witness the wonderful outpouring of concern for those in our greater Jefferson County community who struggle with poverty and food insecurity has been phenomenal. Many donations were above and beyond what we expected. I was floored with a mix of pride and gratitude when handed a check for \$50 or \$300 or sometimes \$500. This was truly a wonderful side effect of the fundraiser - witnessing the empathy of our community for those in need."

Madras Community Food Pantry Executive Direct Kathy May thinks DINE-OUT should be MCFP's primary fundraiser on an annual basis going forward. "To have a fundraiser that creates 'community' as well as funds for the Pantry is a win-win that must be repeated." Kathy also thinks that next year we should expect an even better result because our community and restaurants will already be familiar with the DINE-OUT concept.

Turkey Trot 2023



Are you participating in the 1st Annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot? It is being sponsored by the Madras Downtown Association; BUT, did you know it is supporting the Madras Community Food Pantry?

What a wonderful reason to run. You can strengthen and tone your physical body and feed those experiencing food security.

I call that a dual purpose.
Good Luck to all participants.

Calling All Volunteers

The Madras Community Food Pantry is needing volunteers. As we expand our services to the community, we need more volunteers to help provide these services. If you have a couple of hours during the week, I am sure we could use you. We have lots of jobs that we are needing more people. YOU could be one of those people. Please contact the Madras Community Food Pantry and we will put you to work.



Small Restaurant Owners with Huge Hearts!

With a fundraiser like the recent Great Madras Community DINE-OUT, one would expect the biggest, busiest restaurants to make the largest donations. Truth be told, It doesn't always work that way, as Les Weidner, Coordinator of the event explained. "The premise for a DINE-OUT event is to encourage the community to eat out at a participating restaurant on a specified date, and in turn for the increase in diner traffic that day, the restaurant returns a donations to the organizer of the event. There were indeed some large donations received from some busy restaurants, but the donation that made the biggest splash was from Eric and Laura Hernandez of La Posada Mexican Grill in Madras who (out of all participating restaurants) gave the largest donation!"

Les went on to say: "When I was handed the check, I didn't really look at it until I got in my car. When I saw the amount I was astounded at the generosity of owners Eric and Laura. It made me instantly recall the scripture of the poor widow who gave two small coins from her whole livelihood.' That measure of care and concern for those in our community who struggle with providing food for their family, is a true act of grace."

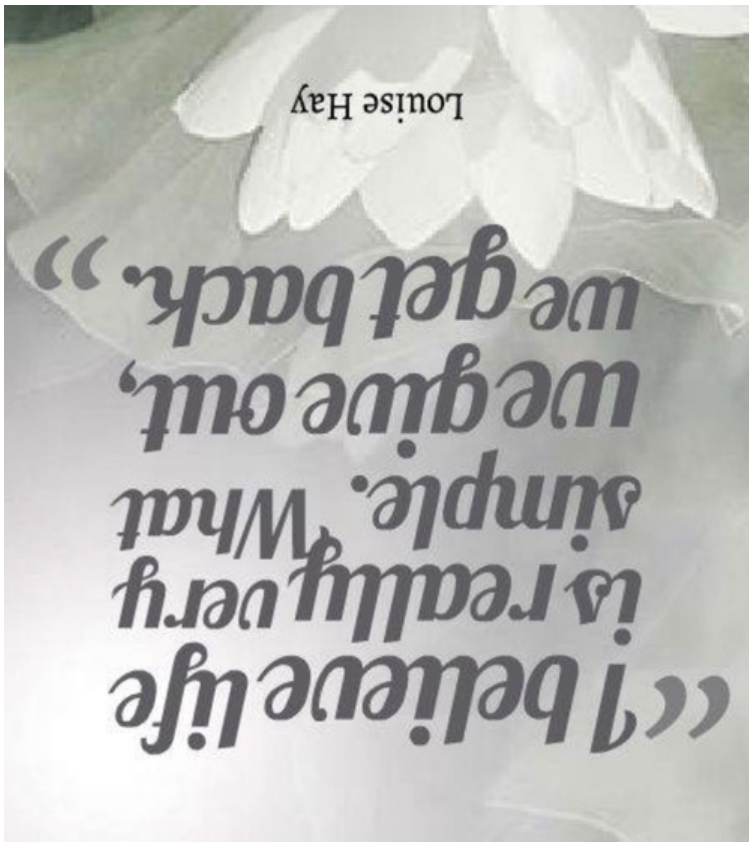


Madras MidOregon Credit Union Providing for MCFP

Mid Oregon Credit Union is helping the local food pantry. They had a very successful food drive in October. They named the Madras Community Food Pantry as the recipient in Jefferson County. The MCFP received 708 pounds of food from their food drive. This food was distributed throughout our community to many thankful and appreciative families. What a great way to help families in our community.

AND they are beginning their annual fundraiser "Holiday Dough" on November 13th. Financial donations will be collected in branches and online which will benefit local food pantries. All donations stay local ensuring every family has help with holiday meals and other essentials this season. Madras Community Food Pantry will be the recipient of these funds, which will help provide Holiday Meals for many local families. Visit midoregon.com for further information or to make an online donation.





Madras Community Food Pantry
P.O, Box 646
Madras, OR. 97741



If you would like to volunteer please give us a call at 541-953-4259 or email us at: mcfp.volunteer.outlook.com

Want to go paperless and receive our newsletter electronically? Just contact at the number or email above.

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Send your check to:
Madras Community Food Pantry.
please make your check payable to the Madras Community Food Pantry, if you would like to make a donation to