



October 28, 2014

## ***Students Receive Backpacks***

Backpacks of food for the weekend were distributed to qualified homeless students beginning on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. As identifying and qualifying homeless students is an ongoing process, the number of students requesting and receiving backpacks is expected to increase each week.

## ***Referral Program in Place***

A referral program for use by OCHS administrators, counselors and staff for referring food insecure students is in place. Upon qualification and parental approval, these students will also receive backpacks depending on available resources.

## ***Fundraising Progress***

- The Pioneer Pantry has received over \$11,500 in cash and pledges of support. The estimated budget for the first year of operation is \$2,000 for start-up and operational costs and \$13,000 for food and supplies. Exceeding the \$15,000 projected budget will allow The Pioneer Pantry to serve more students and/or provide food for breaks.
- A business donation program involving personal contacts as well as direct mail is in the final stages of development and will be implemented in the coming weeks.
- In addition, donation requests have been submitted to Fred Meyer for backpacks and to Bi-Mart for backpacks along with easy to use can openers.

## ***Donor Stories***

- The class of 1945 read the story about The Pioneer Pantry in the fall issue of the school district's "Upfront" newsletter and donated the balance of their reunion account to The Pioneer Pantry. Two members of the class also made personal donations.
- A former Instructional Aid and regular volunteer was also moved by the story to make a donation of \$250 which will "feed one student throughout the school year."
- Following a presentation at the Beaver Creek Lions Club, a former teacher handed the presenter a handful of cash with the comment, "This is all the money I have with me."

## ***Grant Applications***

The Pioneer Pantry partnered with the "OC Backpack Buddies" program in submitting an application for a Clackamas County Small Grant to support both programs. Additional grant opportunities are currently being reviewed.





## ***Volunteer Coordinator***

Rachel Thompson has agreed to become the Coordinator of The Pioneer Pantry. Rachel has a freshman at Oregon City High School and a first grader at Jennings Lodge. She has a degree from PSU in Business and is currently working as an Instructional Aid sub for the Oregon City School District. Rachel is an active member of and volunteer for the Milwaukie Elks Lodge. Rachel has also been involved in organizing the City's National Night Out annual event, served on the community advisory team for the South End Concept Plan and has volunteered for the school district as well as for other community programs and organizations. She lists her strengths as being able to talk to people of any age including kids, being well organized, and having excellent written and oral communication skills Rachel is being trained by Mary Ellen Winterhalter, the districts' Homeless Liaison. Her duties will include managing the operation of The Pioneer Pantry, as well as securing and scheduling volunteers to fill the backpacks each week. We are very excited to have Rachel as a member of The Pioneer Pantry team.

## ***Food Drive Plans in Process***

Several businesses within and outside of Oregon City have volunteered to hold food drives to help keep the shelves at The Pioneer Pantry well stocked. Student organizations and clubs are being offered the opportunity to coordinate these events in order to meet their community service requirements.

## ***Thanks to Initial Supporters***

Tom Lovell, Principal OCHS and Ted Thonstad, Project Coordinator want to thank all of those who have donated funds or goods to support The Pioneer Pantry. The list of businesses, local service clubs, and individual supporters continues to grow. A list of the "Initial Supporters" who agreed to be recognized follows:

- Beaver Creek Lions Club
- Beaver Creek Telephone
- Citizens Bank
- Grocery Outlet
- Grocery Outlet Customers
- Kiwanis Club of Oregon City
- Lewis & Clark Bank
- Oregon City Optimist Club
- Pacific Seafood
- Rotary Club of Oregon City
- Shari Anderson, CPA

## ***Oregon Food Bank***

A "Partner Agency" application was submitted to the Oregon Food Bank. The initial contact for Clackamas County left the Oregon Food Bank in June. The new Oregon Food Bank representative for Clackamas County is in the process of reviewing the information we have provided.

*Note:* If you would prefer to receive this update electronically, please send your email address to [tom.lovell@orecity.k12.or.us](mailto:tom.lovell@orecity.k12.or.us) and include The Pioneer Pantry Update in the subject line.

