

EARLY BIRD WEEKLY

Rotary
Newberg Early Birds



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

April 20, 2023

Rotary's 7 Areas of Focus ... Casey has actually covered all of them but last week was about the funding that makes those areas viable and productive. The Rotary Foundation.

Since its inception 100 years ago The Rotary Foundation has invested over \$4 billion in life changing, sustainable projects with nearly half of that going to disease prevention and treatment (like polio eradication).

Past President Mark Moisan added that he admires the discretionary time that our club's members invest in our club, our community and our world.

Michelle Tietz, representing **Newberg FISH**, Friends In Service to Humanity, founded 1970.

It was originally a 24 hour hotline ran out of private homes for help finding babysitting, rides to doctors, help with lawns, home repair, food ... the kind of things friends, family and neighbors would do for one another. One of the volunteers even raided her own kitchen and delivered food on her bicycle to a family in need.

All of FISH is 100% volunteers with about 50 right now and an average eight years' service.

Things have changed a lot over the years. 2017 saw the beginning of a shopping-style pantry instead of a one-size-fits-all food box.

The benefits of this style of service include preservation of dignity and respect for individuals' dietary needs.

COVID precipitated the next change requiring that a phone call with requests be made from the parking lot out front and let volunteers bring food to waiting vehicles.

This delivery method is no longer a requirement but still used by some.

An example of individual need includes victims of domestic abuse taking shelter in a hotel room with little access to food, no ready transportation, and only a microwave oven to cook with.

Newberg-Dundee Police Department funds emergency lodging at local motels.

Newberg FISH provides funding to Love INC for help with emergency rent, utility bills, dental work and prescriptions.

Most of FISH's food donations come from the community. Some comes from the USDA but food only, no funding. Some comes from

donations by Grocery Outlet, Naps, and Safeway.

FISH has seen a 40% increase in demand since 2021, not surprising in the wake of the pandemic.

During the holiday seasons Grocery Outlet donates food vouchers for December (Christmas) with Naps taking November (Thanksgiving). These vouchers are only valid for meat and produce and only for the holiday month.

In 2022 alone FISH delivered 992 food bags to Edwards Elementary students in

FISH believes that food is a basic right and they want no one to feel ashamed of asking for help.

One example is the parent that often went without dinner so the children could eat.

The last year has seen its own difficulties with the rise in food costs. Compounding that difficulty is the elimination of the temporary bump in benefits from COVID relief from SNAP (supplemental nutrition assistance program), commonly known as food stamps. So costs went up, available assistance went down.

TEFAP (temporary emergency food assistance program) is only available to families 200% below the federal poverty level. For a family of four that's \$36,000 annual income. FISH's threshold is double that amount making food access much easier.

Do you feel the call to help?

They need Spanish speaking volunteers. Not necessarily translator level fluent, just enough to understand the needs of the individual/family.

Money: cash and credit donations help buy food from federally funded YCAP (Yamhill Community Action Partnership).

Donations can come by cash or check, by mail or in person, or from its Donation page at <https://donorbox.org/independence-from-hunger-2020>

They need pantry boxers, warehouse workers, delivery and pick-up drivers, receptionists, finance and administration.

They need a public relations manager.

They accept donations of non-perishable foods from food drives during normal hours or by appointment.

And, "We love our gardeners who provide us with fresh produce during summer months." You heard that right. FISH actually welcomes those fresh fruits and vegetables from your gardens!

FISH is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 1 pm for donations and volunteers. from 10 am to 1 pm for food assistance guests.

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need for its Weekend Backpack program. These 40 students live in homes where parents/guardians work all weekend. These backpack meals are things kids can fix unattended. And there is no direct contact between FISH and student recipients.

Teaching kids how to cook is actually one of Love INC's Relational Ministries.

Ready for some more statistics?

FISH served over 7,000 individuals from its pantry last year.

Naps served over 1,100 individuals with food boxes and vouchers.

Over \$112,000 was allocated to purchase milk, eggs, cheese, produce, cooking oil, and proteins to stock its shelves.

18,000 lbs of food was shared with other organizations to support needs of their clients.

502 individuals were served through its partnerships with NDPD and Love INC.

FISH's volunteers logged 9,300 hours in service to our community.