



Volunteer Newsletter

Vol VII – Feb 2024

OFBA Volunteer Family

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas season and survived the crazy cold spell of Jan. BRRR! Although Balzac Billy saw his shadow on Feb 2, I am still encouraged to notice the days getting longer. Only 10 more weeks until camping season begins (or whatever spring adventures you enjoy).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are exploring the idea of assembling a fundraising committee. Do you have great ideas for how to raise funds for our Food Bank? Do you enjoy planning events? Chat with Char and we'll see how much interest there is before moving forward.

It would also be so helpful to have a volunteer who enjoys posting on Facebook and Instagram. Let us know if you're willing and available and we can chat about the details.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Our volunteer Christmas Party at the George was lovely. We had yummy food, enjoyed great conversation, and bid a very fond farewell to our Executive Director, Pamela who is retiring. I'm delighted to share that our new ED is Bente Yanota!!! She has such fantastic experience in every aspect of the Food Bank and is phenomenal with our clients! We know she will be amazing in this new role!



FOOD BANK CHRISTMAS CONCERT

What an amazing concert this year. All the bands and performers were fantastic. It was a huge success with \$125,000 raised from sponsorships and ticket sales. WOW!



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

This December we gave out 235 Christmas hampers. We had 8 volunteers making deliveries and over 30 volunteers building and distributing hampers. Here's our volunteer Joshua who is always willing to lend a helping hand.



MANY HANDS SOUP PROGRAM

On the 2nd Wednesday of each month, our volunteers cook soup for our hamper program at the United Church. We had quite a few new volunteers join this event in January. Thanks so much for answering the call for help!



SAFETY REMINDERS

With our volunteer numbers continuing to grow, we would like to remind everyone of a few important Safety items.

- 1) It is very important to completely stop when the forklift is moving. Make sure you communicate with the driver if the forklift isn't moving before crossing in front or behind it. NEVER walk under a forklift when it is raised in the air.
- 2) Please do not lift any crates or boxes above your shoulder height. We don't want any injuries, and this can also pose a safety risk for other volunteers trying to get items down. When bringing crates up to the wire shelves by the Help Yourself Shelves, please don't place any heavy items on the top shelf. Please ask for help with heavy items.
- 3) Please report any injuries or accidents right away to Carl or Char!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 19 – Closed for Family Day

March 29 – Closed for Good Friday

April 1 – Closed for Easter Monday

April 14 – 20 NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

VOLUNTEER HOURS Oct - Dec (Q4)

Core Volunteers	2147
Cobs Bread	58
Food Bank Shopper	36
Store Pickups	225
Garden	0
Soup Sessions	38.5
Community Events	125.5
Hamper Delivery	11
Corporate Groups	128.5
Board Activities	60
Students	67
TOTAL	2896.5

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS IN 2023 = 11049.5

An increase of 2,853 hours from 2022! I'm so grateful to watch our volunteer team flourishing.

We  Volunteers
