



MARION POLK

**FOOD
SHARE**



2020 Gratitude Report

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friend,

To say the least, 2020 was a challenging year. So many of our neighbors suffered not only through a pandemic, but devastating wildfires, too.

Which is why I am so grateful for you. When our neighbors wonder how they can put food on the table, your generosity provides the meals they need.

Your support makes a difference for a parent who has to choose between paying their electric bill or buying food for their kids. Your gift is a lifeline for a senior living on a fixed income. Your generosity does a world of good ... right here in our community.

I can't express enough my gratitude for this community, and the kind and compassionate people like you who live here.

On behalf of thousands of our neighbors, and the Board and staff of Marion Polk Food Share, **thank you.**

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Gaupo".

Rick Gaupo
President

WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE FOR OUR COMMUNITY IN 2020:



1,500 volunteers contributed 52,500 hours of service in the Food Share's warehouse and office, Meals on Wheels, the Youth Farm and Community Gardens.



More than 10 million meals were shared with hungry neighbors in our community.



40,000 meals were distributed every day at the height of the Food Share's COVID response.



Over 1,000 socially distanced meals were delivered each day to seniors and disabled adults, through the Meals on Wheels program.



607 households grew healthy food in the Food Share's network of over 50 community gardens.



55 Youth Farmers participated in a socially distanced farming season on the Food Share's 6-acre urban farm on the campus of Chemeketa Community College.

These stories and statistics are just a sample of the powerful difference you are making for hungry neighbors in our community. **Thank you!**

“Especially in this pandemic year that has hurt many people, I have realized the importance of the Youth Farm. Knowing I am helping food-insecure families just makes my work more fun and fulfilling. As a Pack Shed and Crew Leader, I have expanded my leadership skills and been directly involved in getting the crops we harvest ready for distribution. None of this could have been possible without you.”

-Sudip, Youth Farmer



“Losing my husband and then losing so many friends in between there; it’s just been one thing after another. [When the opportunity to join Meals on Wheels came up], I couldn’t turn it down. It’s been a tremendous help”

-Phyllis, Meals on Wheels Client

“The need is continuing to increase over time, and to be able to offer even a gesture of, ‘Here’s something to help you get through to the next pay day,’ or ‘the next time you can access food,’ or something additional to supplement the meals they’re picking up from the school site for lunches and breakfast. I know for the families we’re serving it really does make a difference. To be a part of that is pretty powerful.”

-Cortney, First Grade Teacher & School Distribution Site Volunteer



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EST. 1987

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We use your gifts wisely and efficiently to feed hungry families, children and seniors in our community. Our complete audited financial statement is available at marionpolkfoodshare.org or by calling: 503.581.3855

1660 Salem Industrial Dr NE, Salem, OR 97301 / marionpolkfoodshare.org

Our mission is to bring people together to end hunger and its root causes.