



MARION POLK  
**FOOD  
SHARE**



**2021 Gratitude Report**

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friend,

We make a promise every day to thousands of our neighbors – to make food available to anyone who needs it.

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". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light green background.

Rick Gaupo  
President

## WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE FOR OUR COMMUNITY IN 2021:



**1,200 volunteers contributed 30,000 hours of service** in the Food Share's warehouse and office, Meals on Wheels, the Youth Farm and Community Gardens.



**More than 9 million meals were shared** with hungry neighbors in our community.



**More than 13,000 families received food assistance every month.** These families include 19,500 children.



**Over 760 meals were provided each day for seniors and disabled adults,** through the Meals on Wheels program.



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



**51 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!**

“There is a lot of hesitation to ask for help, and people will find [other] ways – borrow money, get a second or third job, or skip meals so kids have something to eat. People have told me they’re embarrassed to be asking for this type of help, but they’ve exhausted all other resources and they’ve come about reaching this decision to seek a food box, financial assistance etc.... It takes a lot of trust, and it takes time to build that trust, but we’re here to do that work.”

-Ana, Resource Navigator, Mano-a-Mano Food Share Partner Agency



“I feel a lot better. I feel better, I sleep better. I have depression and anxiety, I take medicine for that, but even my depression gets better knowing somebody’s going to help me with some food that I can fix in my apartment.”

-Pedro, Diabetes Support Services Pantry Client

“Everybody out here is somebody’s brother, somebody’s son, somebody’s sister, somebody’s mother. It all relates in the same way to growing things that are healthy. You have to feed them. You have to care for them. And the garden is the same thing, we’re just showing people how to care for it.”

- Juanita, Community Garden Coordinator, Garden by the Park



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FOOD SHARE**



EST. 1987

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

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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](http://marionpolkfoodshare.org) or by calling: 503.581.3855

**1660 Salem Industrial Dr NE, Salem, OR 97301 / [marionpolkfoodshare.org](http://marionpolkfoodshare.org)**

Cover Photo: Meals on Wheels client Judith smiles while receiving a home delivered meal