



MARION POLK  
**FOOD  
SHARE**



# 2023 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".

Rick Gaupo  
President

## WHAT YOU MADE POSSIBLE FOR OUR COMMUNITY IN 2023:



**2,000 volunteers contributed 56,000 hours of service** in the Food Share's warehouse and office, Meals on Wheels, the Youth Farm and Community Gardens.



**More than 8.3 million meals were shared** with hungry neighbors in our community.



**More than 16,000 families received food assistance every month.** These families include nearly 19,000 children.



**1,000 meals were provided each day for seniors and disabled adults,** through the Meals on Wheels program.



**761 households grew healthy food** in the Food Share's network of over 56 community gardens.



**41 youth helped grow over 15,000 pounds of fresh produce** on the Food Share's Youth Farm located 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!**

“This (FarmShare Rx Program) is an amazing program, especially for low income families to get introduced to foods that they normally wouldn’t have an opportunity to do so. We wouldn’t have known we love salsa or bok choy if it weren’t for the vegetables we’ve had come our way.”

-FarmShare Rx Program Participant



“Every time I volunteer at the food bank, I see more than just meals being shared; I witness the strengthening of our community. These services are more than just providing food; it’s about upholding dignity, fostering connections, and ensuring that no one in our neighborhood has to face hunger alone.”

- John, Jason Lee Food Bank Volunteer

“This service really allows us to breathe. I don’t know who is making all this possible, but personally, I’m so grateful for all of it.”

-Luis, AWARE Food Bank client



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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: Volunteers from Temple Beth Shalom in Food Share Warehouse