



Marion-Polk Food Share
Board Packet
December 7, 2017

<u>Document</u>	<u>Page</u>
Meeting Agenda	1
Board Meeting Minutes, October 26, 2017.....	2
Monthly Food Reports.....	6
Development Memo and Reports.....	7
Board Committee Updates.....	13
Concurring Resolution.....	14
Advocacy Policy	
Influencing Public Policy	15
Examples of Public Policies Supported by MPFS	16
Oregon Food Bank Network 2017-19 Legislative Agenda	19
Board Holiday Party Invitation	21

Please note: Financial reports are in a separate packet to the Board.



AGENDA

Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, December 7, 2017

8:00 – 8:15	Light Breakfast	
8:15 – 8:20	Call to Order – Alex Beamer Guest Introductions – Rick Gaupo	
8:20 – 8:40	Audit Report – Grove, Mueller & Swank	
8:40 – 8:50	Board Member Spotlight – Bahaa Wanly	
8:50 – 8:55	Consent Agenda – Alex Beamer - Board Meeting Minutes, October 26, 2017 - Financial Statements ending October 31, 2017	Action: Board Vote
8:55 – 9:05	Development Update – Julie Hambuchen - Update on Food Share Development status - City of Salem Resolution	Action: Board Vote
9:05 – 9:20	Public Policy – Rick Gaupo	Action: Board Vote
9:20 – 9:30	CEO Review – Alex Beamer	
9:30	Adjournment – Alex Beamer	

Dates to Remember

December 14: Board Christmas Party @ 6pm-9pm

January 25: Board Meeting @ 8am-9:30am

Marion-Polk Food Share
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2017

Board Members Attending: Frances Alvarado, Alex Beamer, Warren Bednarz, John Burt, Mike Garrison, Jim Green, Julie Huckestein, Esther Puentes, Brenda Tuomi, Bahaa Wanly, Cheryl Wells, Eileen Zielinski

Staff Members Attending: Rob Demchak, Eileen DiCicco, Aalicea Dominguez, Ian Dixon-McDonald, Rick Gaupo, Josh Gwin, Julie Hambuchen, Corrina Hawkins, Tom Oblack, Allen Pfeiffer, Auzeen Rasaie, Lexi Stickle, Taylor West, Cheryl Young

Call to Order

Alex Beamer called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Guest Introductions

Rick Gaupo introduced staff and new board member **Bahaa Wanly**. Bahaa comes to us from Salem Health and says he's excited to be here and sees a lot of opportunity for Salem Health and the Food Share to work together.

Mission Moment

Food Share Food Distribution Manager Tom Oblack talked about his experience in Houston helping with the Hurricane Harvey emergency relief effort. Rick explained that Tom was on loan to Feeding America, which takes the coordinating role in national disaster response.

Tom spent two stressful, demanding, but rewarding weeks in a temporary relief warehouse that covered 2-3 city blocks. He spent his first 3 days on a forklift staging orders and finished product, then focused his attention on organizing the warehouse and getting people to understand the systems. He said they were distributing about 1 million pounds of food per day, compared to our 750,000 pounds per month. His most significant takeaway was the attitude of the people who worked long days helping their community, while handling the personal impacts of the disaster.

John Burt asked how the relief effort compares to what we have in place. Tom said he will be working with our Facilities Manager Rob Demchak to share what he learned. Rob has spent the past 2.5 years on the Marion-Polk COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) team to prepare for disaster response, largely for earthquake. The Food Share will offer staffing, equipment and a distribution network to get food out. We are staying engaged in the conversations.

Financial Report

Jim Green said revenues are ahead of last year at this time. Oregon Community Foundation endowment fund interest has not been reported for Q1 of the fiscal year, so that is incomplete in our current financial statement. He said Food Share donations are up significantly. VP of Development **Julie Hambuchen** noted that this quarter showed strong performance across the board, led by a \$70,000 bequest. Large gifts, base gifts and foundation gifts are up this quarter. Jim said we will be consolidating financials into some briefer reports in the future, with details available on the board portal. Audit review will be done Dec. 5. We have begun the process of looking for a finance director. Rick notes we are going to take our time to hire the right person and we are covered to handle daily fiscal responsibilities in the meantime.

Consent Agenda

ACTION: Warren Bednarz moved and **Cheryl Wells** seconded adoption of the following items. The vote was unanimous.

- Board Meeting Minutes, September 28, 2017
- Financial Statements ending September 30, 2017

Development Update

Julie Hambuchen presented an update on Food Share Development activities.

- Chefs' Nite Out – Successful event. 9 new food and beverage purveyors; ticket sales increased from 719 to 820; net revenue increased from \$42,942 to \$58,022. Board members were asked to sign up to deliver thank-you gifts to restaurants and wineries in December. That kind of relationship building makes them want to return.
- Thank-you notes were handed out to board members at end of meeting. Julie said the board member's peer endorsement of the work the Food Share does really matters.
- Empty Bowls – Board members were invited to the 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, Willamette Art Center, pre-public sale reception.
- Direct Mail – The program's revenue/expense report was included in the board packet. If anyone wants more information, Julie is available.

Food distribution

Rick reported food receipts are down 14% over September of last year. However, he noted OFB and USDA are about 30% down, and if they're down, we're down. Our retail remains strong thanks to food resource developers Kendra Alexander and Josh Gwin. We'll be keeping an eye on these trends.

Cheryl Wells asked about the dramatic drop in frozen food distribution. Staff explained that last year we focused on reducing our frozen inventory, and during the first quarter this year energy went to repacking fresh product for distribution.

John Burt said during a recent Oregon Hunger Task Force meeting the downward trend in food insecurity was noted at the end of 2016. However, urban is down and rural is higher. A new

survey will be done in December and we need to keep an eye on the trends. VP of Programs **Ian Dixon-McDonald** said in our region the overall food insecurity trend is down, but that's being driven urban areas. Rural food insecurity is flat.

Strategic Planning

Rick Gaupo introduced a Discussion of Strategic Direction that focused on changes that have been influenced by the discussion so far. He presented a grid with the disclaimer that the document was not final or complete. It's a work in progress.

The discussion included 1) how thinking has changed, and; 2) lenses for evaluating programs. Following are a few highlights:

- We want to be involved in community conversations about poverty because of the relationship of hunger and poverty. Doing this now.
- The newest influencer of our thinking is social injustice as a root cause of poverty. Historically, people of color experience poverty and lack of opportunity.
- Our work is guided by not just food distribution, but consciousness about social connections.
- Biggest lens change is recognizing our regional role within the parameters of the individual communities we serve. How is service different in each community; how do we engage communities in the work to be done? (e.g. Gardens program and Youth Farm program are Salem-based.)
- Where are the highest needs and how do we address them best (e.g. where is the next pantry, mobile pantry)?
- How are people getting to the places where food is distributed? What is our impact on creating healthy individuals (e.g. Farm Share Rx & health care partnerships)?
- What is our role in closing the opportunity gap through inclusion?
- Is what we do fostering community caring?

Key new activities that have come out of this thinking include:

- Community Pilot Projects - Engaging community leaders in assessing needs and coming up with action plans that come from conversation. Our work in Grand Ronde is an example of this approach. We need to do community assessments and pick communities that want to work with us. It's a slow process.
- Influence public policy – This is changing public policy on issues of hunger and poverty; we have already begun this work.
- Cross-sector partnerships: This includes our participation on Service Integration Teams.
- Increase partnerships with health sector: Food banks around country are partnering with health organizations. We need to think of this as a business partnership that benefits the community and health care entity.

- Inclusion – This needs to start with us. We’ve used it for board selection. How is it emphasized in our advertising, trainings, etc.?

Q&A:

Alex: How do we determine the resource balance of food distribution and these other root cause issues? Rick said MOW and Community Gardens are both feeding programs and long-term root cause solutions. We have to be careful about not diminishing our role in providing food. We need to advance future [root cause] work incrementally, and engage communities in this work.

Esther Puentes and Warren Bednarz believe mental health issues that keep people in poverty need to be addressed on par with physical health issues and want us to speak up about this.

Eileen Zielinski asked whether education is connected to social injustice. **Ian** and **Rick** said yes, and we’re thinking about school pantries.

Bahaa Wanly asked how we define strategy (1, 5 years out?) **Rick** said for now we’re putting parameters on the way we think about our work. Then, once we are all facing the same direction, we’ll work on the resources.

Julie Huckestein said this collective impact approach is a good way of looking at things, and noted there are organizations that train on that.

Bahaa asked how many people are hungry in our community. **Ian** said food insecurity is 15% in Marion County and 13% in Polk County. However, we’re serving about 18% of the community. Some people are food secure because they’re getting food from us.

Rick assured the board that nothing presented today diminishes our getting food out to the community. It’s not an either/or, it’s about leveraging the service. **Ian** added that how we get better at what we are already doing is also part of the plan; we just focused here on the new things.

Next board meeting is Dec. 7.

Adjournment

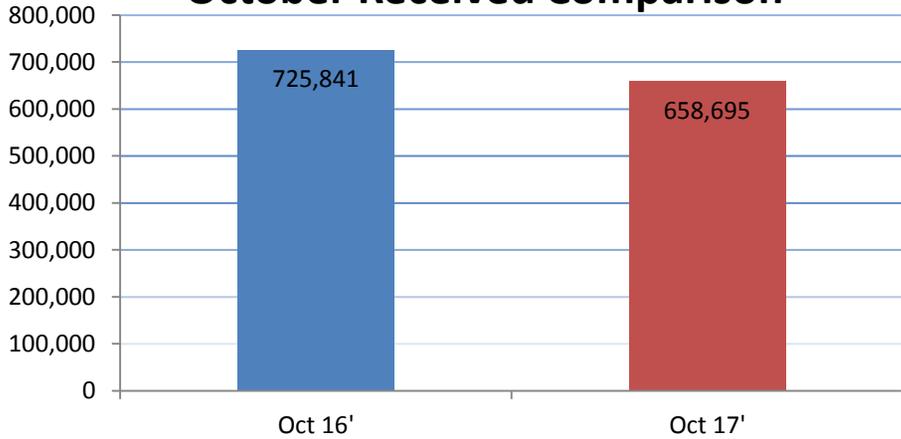
Alex Beamer adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Courtney Knox Busch
Board Secretary

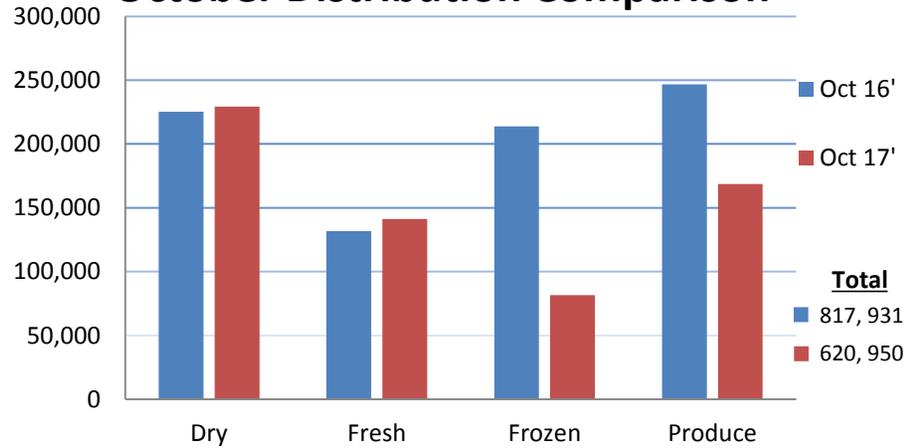
Monthly Food Report For October

Monthly Receipts and Distribution Comparisons

October Received Comparison

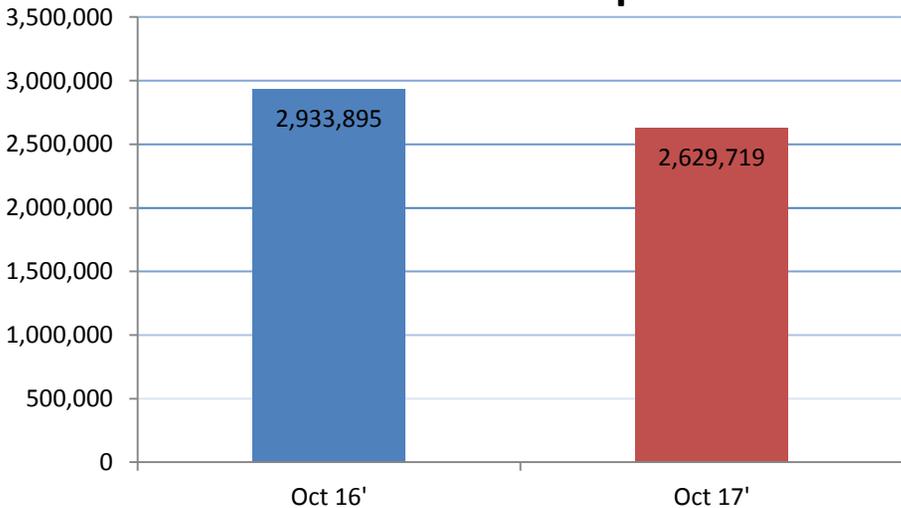


October Distribution Comparison

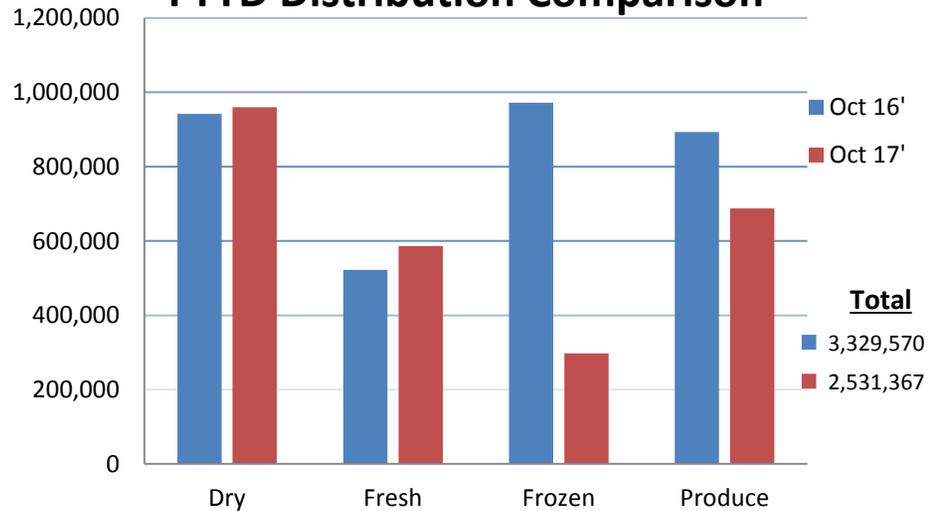


FYTD Receipts and Distribution Comparisons

FYTD Received Comparison



FYTD Distribution Comparison





Date: November 27, 2017

To: Marion-Polk Food Share Board of Directors

From: Julie Hambuchen

Re: Development news

Chefs' Nite Out

Thank you to all Board members who signed up to deliver holiday gifts to Chefs' Nite Out restaurants and wineries. The gifts will be ready for you to pick up at the Board meeting, to deliver any time before Christmas. We know that owners and managers really appreciate this gesture, and we hope you enjoy the making the deliveries.

Holiday Events

As you know, community support for the Food Share is especially strong during the holiday season. Many food and fund drives and other holiday activities are going on in November and December, including Safeway Turkey and Santa Bucks, Salem Hospital Food Drive, Venti's Live Salem, Chipotle Fundraising day, Courthouse Athletics Food Drive, Salem Center Christmas Tree Voting, and Keizer Miracle of Christmas Lights Display starting December 1.

Marion-Polk Food Share

Donation Revenue by Fund Category and Activity

	Past Year	Current Year
	Fiscal Year to Date	Fiscal Year to Date
	Actual	Actual
	7/1/2016 -	7/1/2017 -
	10/31/2016	10/31/2017
Operating Revenue		
Donor Communications	\$105,357	\$103,557
Events	\$141,822	\$150,464
Food and Food Drives	\$177,335	\$166,444
Fundraisers	\$0	\$2,016
Grant Proposals	\$166,960	\$201,162
Mission and Brand Awareness	\$66,549	\$94,485
Monthly Sustainer Circle	\$243,661	\$255,846
Online Solicitations	\$0	\$0
Planned Gifts	\$51,651	\$118,095
Personal Solicitations	\$105,760	\$145,190
Total Operating Revenue	\$1,059,094	\$1,237,259
Capital Revenue		
Donor Communications	\$0	\$0
Fundraisers	\$0	\$0
Grant Proposals	\$8,100	\$0
Mission and Brand Awareness	\$0	\$0
Monthly Sustainer Circle	\$0	\$0
Personal Solicitations	\$45,000	\$0
Total Capital Revenue	\$53,100	\$0
Endowment Revenue		
Donor Communications	\$125	\$0
Food and Fund Drives	\$0	\$0
Mission and Brand Awareness	\$0	\$0
Planned Gifts	\$0	\$0
Personal Solicitation	\$0	\$0
Total Endowment Revenue	\$125	\$0
Total Revenue	\$1,112,319	\$1,237,259

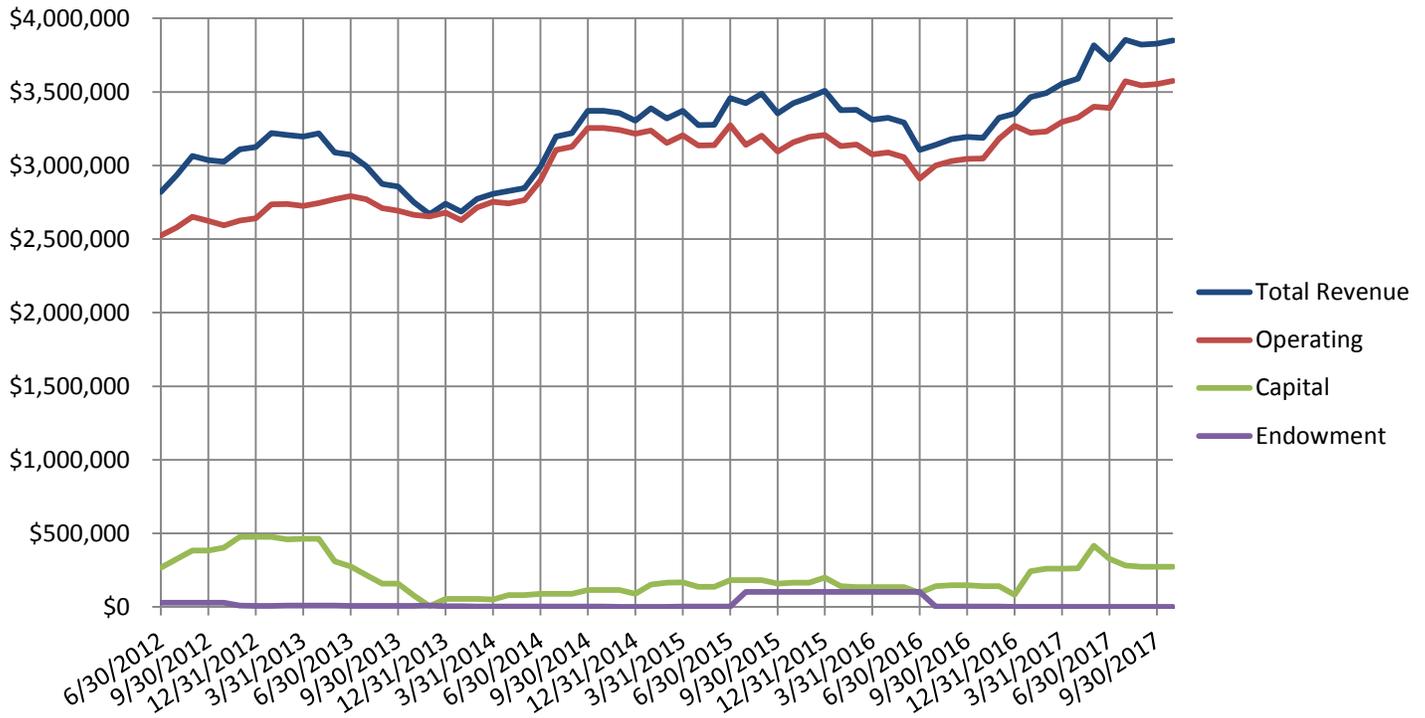
Marion-Polk Food Share

Donation Revenue by Fund Category and Activity

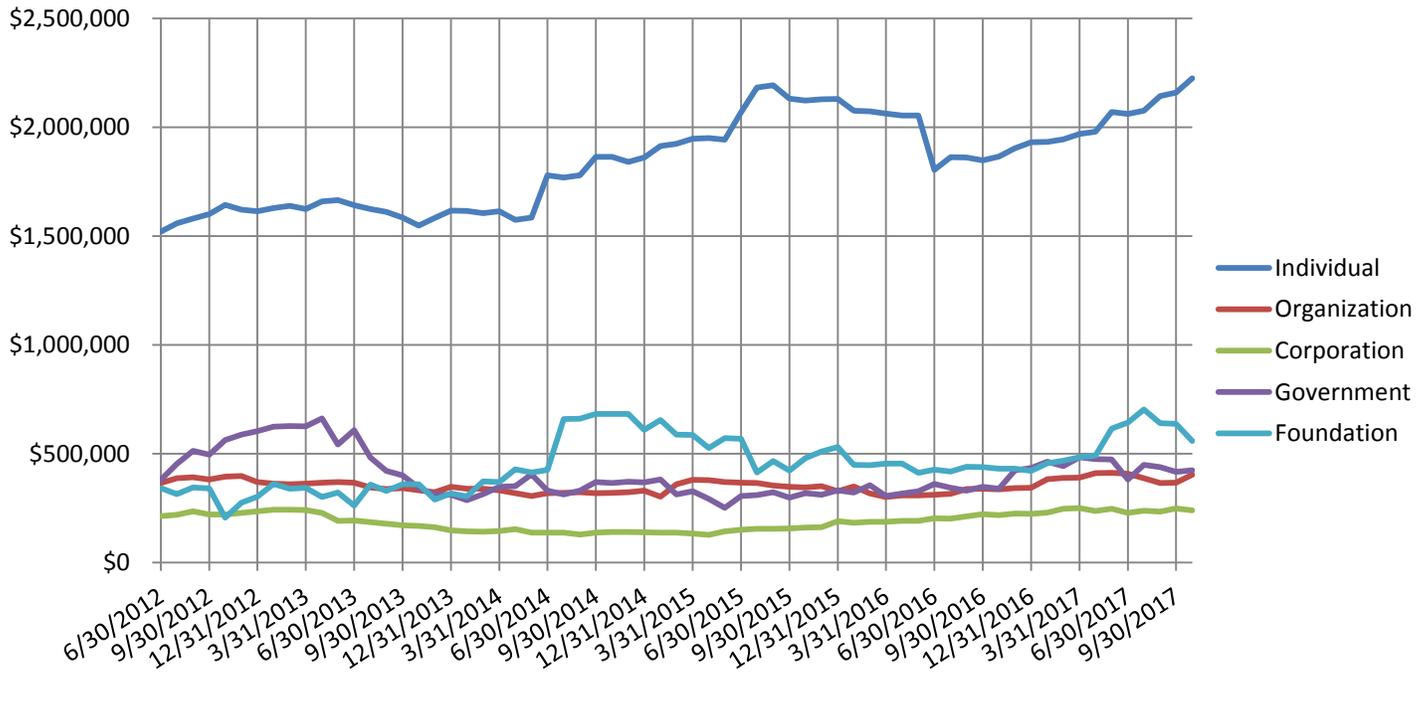
The definitions below indicate the activity which generated the donation. They do not indicate the type of donor. For example, an unsolicited foundation grant is included in Mission and Brand Awareness. A donation from a Monthly Sustainer in response to a direct mail solicitation is included in Direct Mail.

Activity	Definition
Donor Communications	Mass mailings for communicating with donors and/or soliciting donations
Events	Events with ticket sales, includes revenue from sponsorships, auctions, donations during the event
Food and Food Drives	Food and Fund drives of all sizes
Fundraisers	Events without ticket sales
Grant Proposals	Grants received in response to a proposal
Mission and Brand Awareness	Donations which cannot be tracked to a specific activity, including unsolicited grants, general online donations, general mailed donations
Monthly Sustainer Circle	Donations made as part of a monthly sustainer commitment
Online Solicitations	Donations which can be tracked to a specific online activity, including email, social media links, etc.
Personal Solicitations	Face to face solicitation, including individuals and small groups
Planned Gifts	Bequests, annuities and other planned gifts

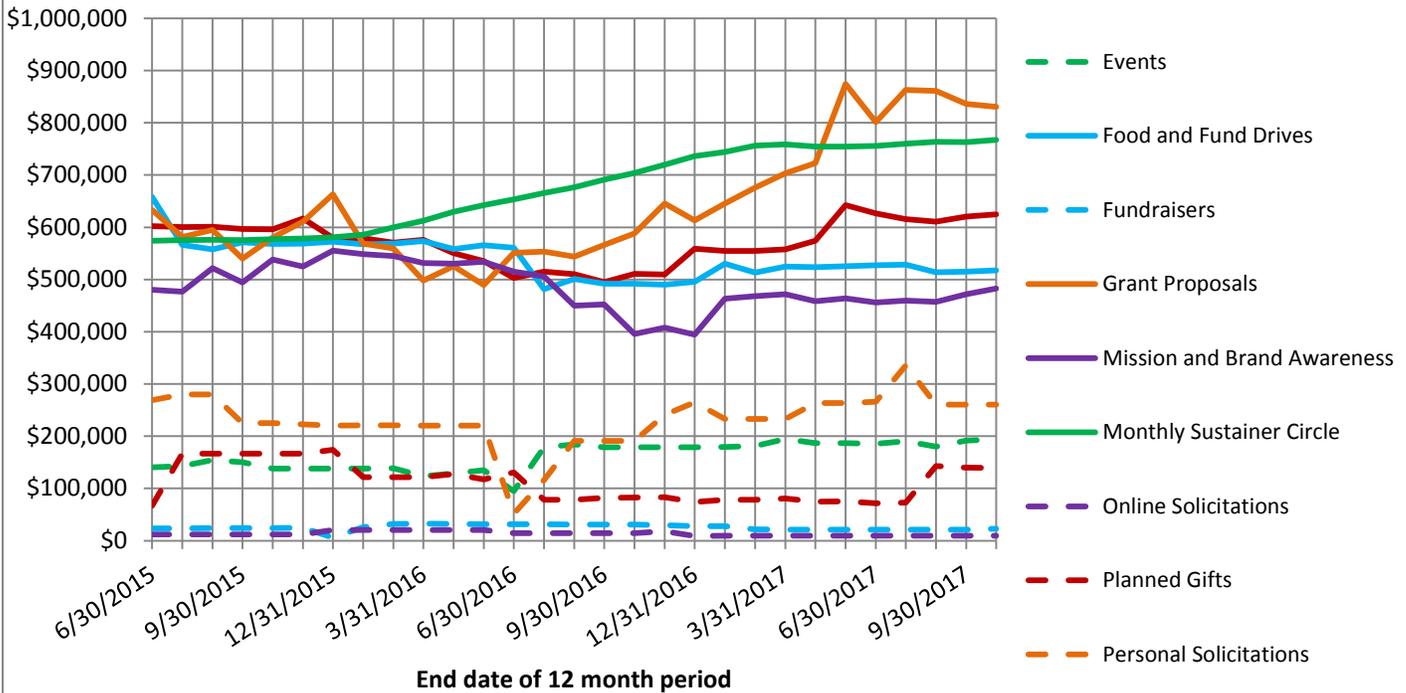
Total Giving by Fund Type Rolling 12 Months



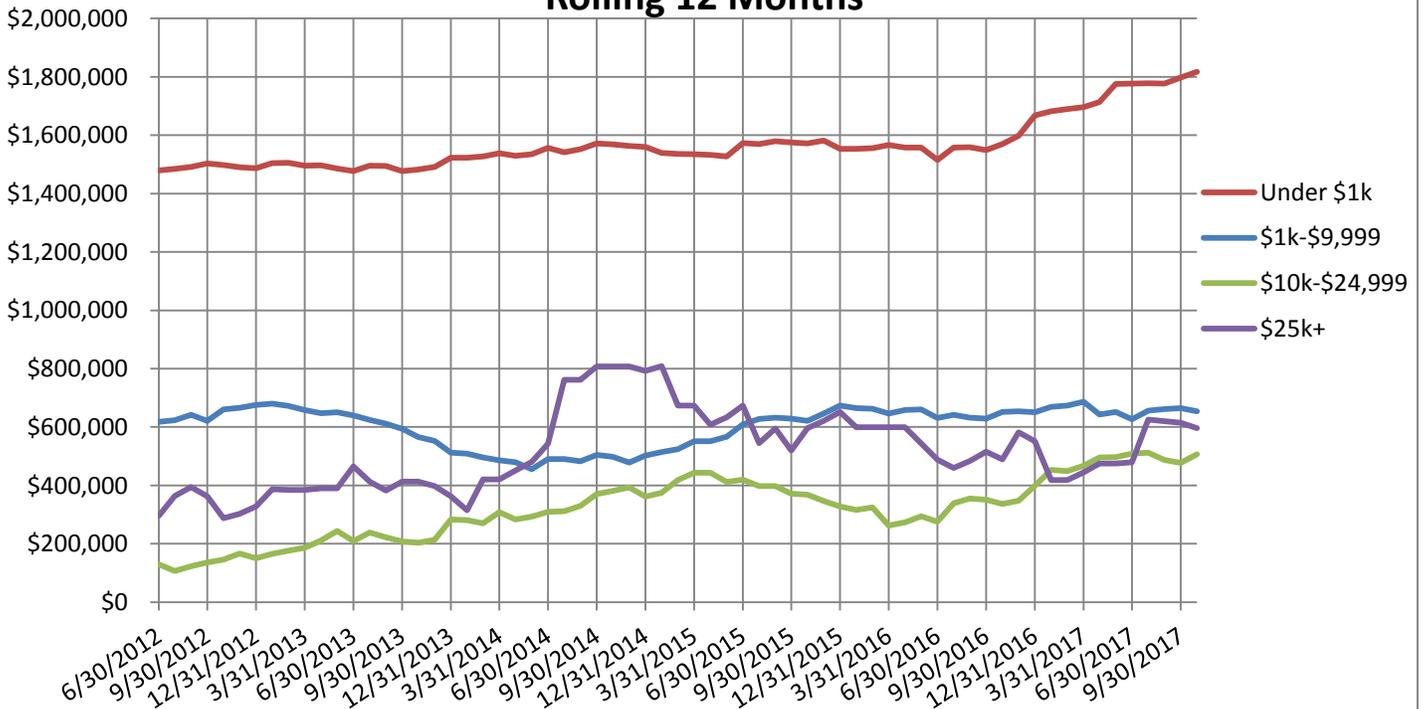
Total Giving by Constituent Type Rolling 12 Months



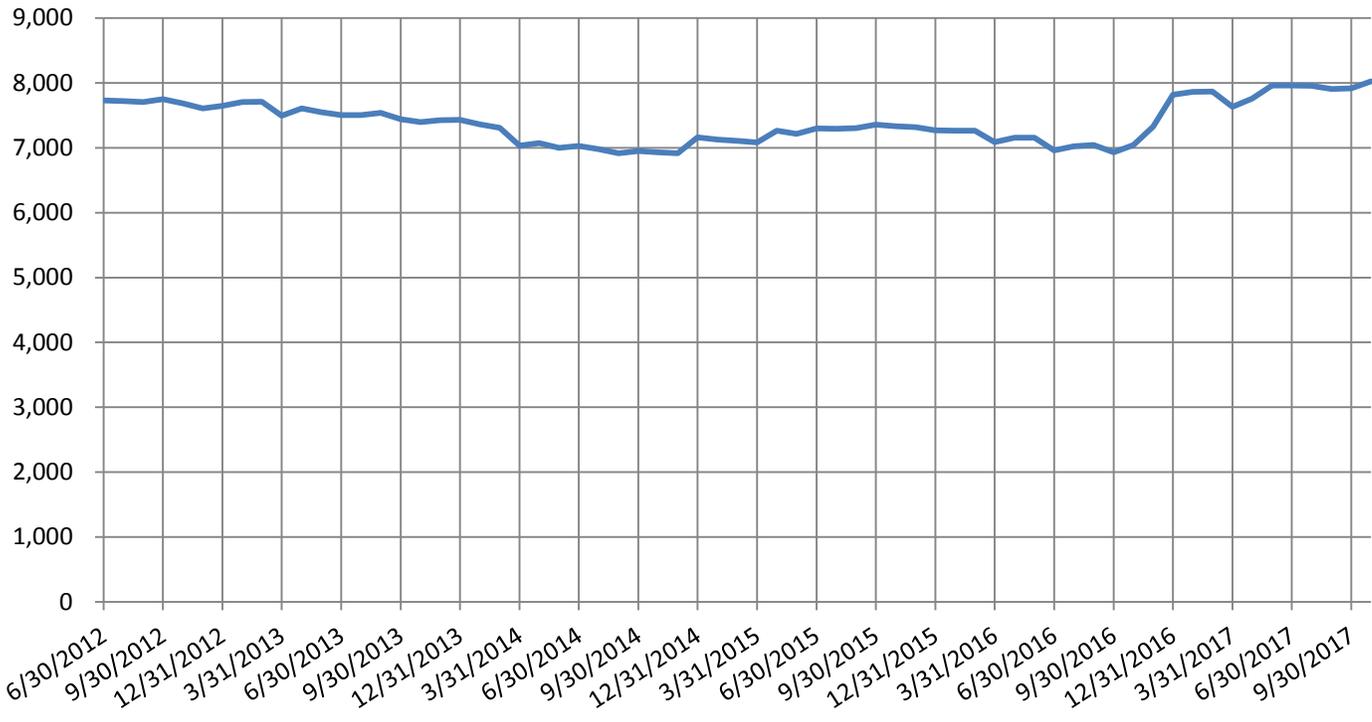
Total Giving by Activity Rolling 12 months



Operating Gifts by Gift Size Rolling 12 Months



Number of Donors Rolling 12 Months





Board Committee Updates

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on November 16. The committee provided Rick with an overview of his performance evaluation and established 3 common goals for him to work on over the next year. This information will be presented at the board meeting on December 7.

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee met November 8. The focus of the meeting was on new board member recruitment and orientation, particularly the materials being used in this process. It was agreed the informational packets being used currently could be improved. The committee identified the changes to be made. One significant change will be moving from paper copies of everything to placing much of the information on the board portal.

The committee also began discussion of board recruitment for 2018, starting the process of identifying the types of community partnerships and skill sets to consider in the recruitment process. Discussion will continue at the January 2018 meeting.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee did not meet in November as numbers were reportedly good. The committee will meet in January to review the revised budget.

Concurring Resolution

The purpose of the Resolution form is to have on record a statement confirming that the applicant has formally requested a grant and/or loan, has designated an official to perform the required duties between the applicant and the City of Salem, Urban Development Department and has assured, where applicable, the provision of local matching funds. In addition, the applicant will comply with all other provisions of the HOME application.

Resolution of the **Marion-Polk Food Share Board of Directors** (*Name of Operating Agency/Municipality*) Authorizing the filing of an application for funds with the City of Salem, Urban Development Department.

WHEREAS, the **Marion-Polk Food Share Board of Directors** (*Name of Operating Agency/Municipality*) is desirous of obtaining funds from the City of Salem, Urban Development Department in the amount of **\$170,000** (*Funds requested*) under the Federal Housing and Community Development Act as amended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that **Marion-Polk Food Share Board of Directors** (*Name of Operating Agency/Municipality*) does hereby formally request authorization of an application for funding from the City of Salem, Urban Development Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that **Marion-Polk Food Share Board of Directors** (*Name of Operating Agency/Municipality*) does hereby designate **Rick Gaupo, CEO**, (*Authorized Official*) as the official to sign and file all applications and forms between **Marion-Polk Food Share Inc.** (*Name of Operating Agency/Municipality*) and the City of Salem, Urban Development Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that **Marion-Polk Food Share Inc.** (*Name of Operating Agency/Municipality*) will assure, where applicable, the provision of the full local share of the project costs.

Adopted this 7th day of December, 2017, by

ATTEST:

Signature (Must **not** be the same as Authorized Official and must be the President listed at the State of Oregon, Corporation Division website.)

Board Chair
Title

Printed Name: **Alex Beamer**



Influencing Public Policy

Policy Level: Board Level
Policy review and recommendation entity: CEO
Last revised on: 12/7/2017

Purpose of this policy: To establish a clear understanding of the process and issues on which Marion-Polk Food Share staff and Board may advocate.

- 1. Marion-Polk Food Share Board of Directors will establish the public issues that staff and Board members can support without seeking additional Board review or direction.**

These issues include:

- A. Supporting policies that increase individual's access to nutritious food.
- B. Supporting policies that address issues of poverty, specifically areas concerning affordable housing, affordable healthcare, education and job readiness.
- C. Supporting policies that address social injustice and promote equality of opportunity.

- 2. The Board of Directors will also establish a clear understanding of specific situations where prior Board discussion and vote are needed, even if the specific situations pertain to issues already approved by the Board for public support.**

Specific situations where Board discussion and vote are needed prior to staff and Board members taking a public stance are:

- A. All ballot measures, initiatives, referrals and referendums regardless of subject matter.
- B. Topics that are politically charged. The CEO is expected to work with the Board Executive committee to determine which issues fall into this category.

Attachments

- 1. Oregon Food Bank Network's 2017-19 Legislative agenda**
- 2. Examples of public policies supported by Marion-Polk Food Share**



Examples of Public Policies Supported by Marion-Polk Food Share

Examples of policies that increase individual's access to nutritious food

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is the most important nutrition program in the United States, helping about 45 million Americans have enough to eat—including roughly 750,000 Oregonians. The OFB Network seeks to protect and strengthen the program, especially by increasing benefit levels, which OFB Network surveys show last just 2-3 weeks out of each month. Additionally, the Network opposes the block granting of SNAP and other federal nutrition programs.

- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

TEFAP provides food and financial assistance to food banks. Food is provided by both mandatory purchases required by the farm bill and bonus purchases made at the discretion of the secretary of agriculture. Storage and distribution funds are discretionary, so the OFB Network seeks to secure the full authorized amount through the annual appropriations process.

- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

CSFP serves seniors with low incomes by providing food boxes with specifically chosen foods to enhance their health and nutrition. Because the needs exceeds available, resources, the OFB Network seeks to increase funding in order to serve more seniors.

- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)

FDPIR is a federal program that provides USDA foods to households with low incomes living on Indian reservations, and to Native American families residing in designated areas near reservations. It serves roughly 800 people in Oregon. The OFB Network seeks to strengthen the program through policy improvements and additional investments.

- Other similar programs and policies that provide food and funds to support the Oregon Food Bank network are increase an individual's access to nutritious food.

- Child nutrition programs
 - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
 - National School Lunch Program
 - School Breakfast Program
 - Summer Food Service Program
 - Child and Adult Care Food Program
 - WIC Farm Direct Program
 - Other school food programs

Child nutrition programs play a critical role in supporting the health, development and educational outcomes of children. During their reauthorization, the OFB Network seeks to strengthen these programs so they may serve more children—especially in the summer time.

- Senior nutrition programs
 - Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program
 - SFDNP provides seniors with low incomes with checks that can be used to purchase fresh locally grown fruit, vegetables and cut herbs. The checks can be used at farm stands and farmers' markets. The program is intended to improve nutrition for Oregon seniors in addition to supporting local Oregon farmers. Seniors are eligible to use \$32 in coupons annually. The OFB Network seeks to increase investments in SFDNP.
 - Older Americans Act (OAA) nutrition programs
 - The OAA authorizes a range of services and supports that help older Americans remain as independent and productive as possible in their own homes and communities—including congregate and home-delivered meals (Meals on Wheels), nutrition education, and nutrition counseling.

Examples of supporting policies that address issues of poverty, specifically areas concerning affordable housing, affordable healthcare, education and job readiness

- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Each month, TANF serves about 46,000 Oregon families with extremely low incomes, providing job readiness services along with cash assistance. The OFB Network seeks to maintain the TANF 3rd party MOE provision, which allows Oregon to draw down additional federal funding in order to provide services to thousands of additional families that face hunger. The Network also seeks policy and budget improvements during reauthorization.
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP is a federally funded program that is designed to help households with low incomes with home heating costs. It assists about 65,000 households statewide
- Housing Choice Voucher Program (“Section 8”)
 - Allows private landlords to rent apartments and homes at fair market rates to qualified tenants with low incomes through a rental subsidy
- Other similar programs and policies that support affordable housing and decreasing homelessness
- Earned Income Tax Credit

EITC is a federal tax credit for working people with low and moderate incomes that encourages and rewards work. The OFB Networks seeks improvements in EITC to better serve workers without children.
- Economic development initiatives/ job creation efforts
 - i.e. tax credits for hiring veterans



2017-19 Legislative Agenda

FEEDING HUNGRY OREGONIANS

\$4 million for Oregon Hunger Response Fund

Dept. of Human Services budget

The statewide network of 20 regional food banks distributes food across the state to over 950 partner agencies that reach hundreds of thousands of Oregonians experiencing hunger. The network is also a part of Oregon's emergency management system, providing food in disaster relief. The network moved 90 million pounds of food in 2015. The annual operational costs are tremendous, and ranges from \$20 to \$30 million not including the value of food. It is an effective and efficient operation that relies on volunteers, philanthropy and partnerships. We are proud to say that 86 percent of those costs come from non-governmental sources. Current funding is \$3.2 million for the 2015-17 biennium for the Oregon Hunger Response Fund.

Farm Direct Nutrition

Oregon Health Authority budget

Two popular services comprise the Farm Direct Nutrition program. They are helping seniors on fixed incomes and WIC mothers and their children eat healthy food grown by Oregon farmers. Coupons are redeemed at farmers' markets and roadside stands throughout the state. 94,000 seniors are eligible to use \$24 in coupons annually. Approximately 43,000 seniors currently participate in the program. About 100,000 WIC families are eligible to receive \$20 but participation is restricted to about 38,350 families. A total of \$259,558 was appropriated for 2015-17, far less than what is needed to serve all eligible individuals. We will be supporting ways to increase access to nutritious Oregon produce for seniors and mothers with infants.

Crop Donation Tax Credit

Oregon's farmers have been generous and supportive with crop donations to Oregon's food banks. Fresh fruits and vegetables are a must in a nutritious meal, especially for children and seniors. Oregon's crop donation tax credit expired in 2011 but was reinstated in 2014 with a small increase in the value of the credit, but still below the costs borne by the local grower. The reinstatement is a good start to gradually reach a credit value that incentivizes the greatest level of crop donations. The credit value is 15 percent of the wholesale price of the donated crop and can be carried forward for up to three tax years. We will look for opportunities for stronger incentives for crop donations.

Oregon Hunger Task Force

All hands on deck are needed to fight hunger from government to community organizations and public citizens. How do we know if we have the right programs and the necessary resources to fight hunger? The task force brings together on a monthly basis state legislators, state agencies, and community organizations to evaluate our progress on defeating hunger by examining federal and state programs, community efforts, statutory and administrative policies; and to recommend an action plan that reflects Oregon's current priorities. The task force is at risk to discontinuing due to current budgetary constraints. At a cost of just \$75,000, Oregon would lose an invaluable tool. \$150,000 is needed to keep the task force for 2017-19.

Non-Profit Tax Status Preservation

Many of the 970 plus partner agencies and the 20 regional food banks that comprise the Oregon Food Bank Network are non-profit organizations that rely on its tax exempt status to distribute millions of pounds of food efficiently and cost effectively to families and individuals experiencing hunger. The legislature is debating whether to make changes to non-profit tax law to better reflect the different types of non-profit organizations. We will advocate to preserve tax exempt status that enables members of the Oregon Food Bank Network to continue to do our work.

HOUSING OREGONIANS

\$50 million for State Homelessness Assistance Program/ Emergency Housing Account:

Dept. of Housing and Community Services budget

Oregon's housing crisis shows no signs of lessening. Homes and rents are unaffordable for too many Oregonians. These programs are the frontlines of the crisis because they work to prevent homelessness. Ten regional food banks also serve as Community Action agencies where people in need can access both food and receive housing assistance with counseling, transitional housing, and support services. The gateway to stable housing for the most vulnerable begins with addressing immediate needs such as rent or heat assistance, and other social services.

ENCOURAGING JOB SUCCESS

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families:

Dept. of Human Services budget

TANF is a job-readiness program that helps families with significant personal and financial difficulties. Families are given tools to rebuild their future as workers and parents. The cash assistance and linkage to support services stabilize families in crisis. Parents attend workshops through the JOBS program, learning how to conduct a job search, write a resume, interview with employers, meet with jobs counselors regularly and develop professional work habits. In 2015, the Oregon Legislature reinvested \$28 million into the program after successive years of budget cuts that totaled more than \$50 million. There is much more work needed, especially given the cash assistance level has not changed since 1996 when a gallon of milk cost \$1.23. We support continued reinvestment

Earned Income Tax Credit

In a recent analysis, many low-income Oregon tax filers were not taking advantage of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, which is refundable. The average federal tax credit in 2014 was \$2119. The total value of unclaimed credit is \$124 million a year that could go towards making ends meet for these low-income households. Oregon is lowest among states in EITC participation. Roughly a quarter of eligible tax filers may not be even aware of their eligibility. Oregon has a state earned income tax credit that is refundable at 8 percent of the total federal eligibility. We need to increase the utilization of the EITC by raising awareness to eligible low-income tax filers.

Economic Development - Transportation Access

Throughout the state we've heard increasingly from clients about the need for increased transit services. Many of our urban clients are transit dependent, relying on public transit to get them where they need to go. Our rural clients often express the need for a transit service in their communities. Without accessible and affordable transit, low-income Oregonians throughout the state struggle to get to their jobs, school, doctors' appointments and the grocery store. A strong statewide investment in transit would be an economic development boost and give low-income Oregonians access to meet their basic needs.



For more information: Phillip Kennedy-Wong 971.645.2601
pkennedywong@oregonfoodbank.org

Anneliese Koehler 971.313.8318
akoehler@oregonfoodbank.org



• ❄️ Please join us for our Annual ❄️
Holiday Party ❄️

Celebrating Marion-Polk Food Share Board of Directors

You and your guest are invited to join us for a fun evening of dinner, mingling, and merriment.

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 14TH | 5:30P.M.
REDHAWK WINERY: 2995 MICHIGAN CITY LN NW, SALEM**

**PLEASE RSVP BY DEC. 7TH TO JULIE:
JHAMBUCHEN@MARIONPOLKFOODSHARE.ORG**