

# BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE BOARD AND COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 2025

## WILSONVILLE COMMUNITY SHARING

Wilsonville Community Sharing is a non-profit social service agency that operates a food bank as well as offering assistance with utility and rent payments to Wilsonville community members.

WCS has a partner agreement with the Oregon Food Bank (OFB) and our-

“shared commitment to working toward the common goals of maximizing the provision of safe and nutritious food resources to people in need in the Metro & Washington County Services areas; maintaining high standards of customer service, storage, handling, and distribution; and establishing cooperation among all members of the Oregon Food Bank Network. By electing to join this, we choose to collaboratively engage in actions that advance the expressed aspirations of people facing hunger”

Our data indicates that 4072 individuals and 1549 families used our emergency food pantry last year.

- Individuals: the number of individuals served by WCS increased by slightly more than 6 percent from 4072 in 2024 and 3817 in 2023.
- Families: The number of families saw the greatest increase with slightly more than 15 percent from 1549 families in 2024 up from 1312 families in 2023.
- There were some minor variations with regards to ethnicity. In 2024 approximately 91 percent were either white or white Hispanic and in 2023 the total was 83 percent.
- In the age distribution, the age cohorts stayed essentially the same percentage-wise with the two largest groups being the 5-17 and 25-44. There was an increase in the 65 and older cohort and a slight decrease in the 18-24 cohort.

While there has been an increase in the use of the WCS emergency food services, there has also been an increase in the overall population of the city. During the year the Board also amended using the emergency food bank from once a month to multiple times. This was in keeping essentially what staff had allowed. WCS has never turned away someone in need of food. This is also true of that family or individual that does not live in the city. WCS provides some assistance and then provides them with the information as to where their local food bank is located.

The food pantry is a major responsibility of WCS. This aspect of our work could not occur with the assistance of volunteers as well as local citizens and businesses that donate food. The food donated essentially tripled this past year from 32,460 pounds to 99,790 pounds. The value of that food is calculated at over \$650,000. This would not be possible without various food drives as the monthly Charbonneau food collection. The Boy Scouts, schools, churches and others

hold food drives on a regular basis as well. Some of the drives also target specific needs that might exist at that moment in time from diapers, toilet paper to various food items. Our food pantry also gets fresh fruit and vegetables periodically from local farmers. Our volunteers (50 active working multiple shifts) have put in over 1000 hours. We have volunteers that “shop” with our clients every Tuesday during both of our open pantry times. We also have volunteers that help stock and organize the pantry, unload the truck from Oregon Food Bank, organize local food banks, and volunteer at city fundraising opportunities such as Shred Day, Leaf Day and Bulky Waste Day. These *Days* are all city sponsored events where the request is for those utilizing these opportunities to voluntarily make a donation to WCS. These are always successful events as citizens of Wilsonville seem more than happy to support the work of WCS.

WCS’ utility and rent assistance is a rather unique service compared to other local food pantries. This work is handled by our staff (Executive Director, Data Specialist and Client Advocate). This is the most time- consuming work for staff. They have developed efficiencies such as putting the application on-line and working together to bring forward a solution. Their work is guided by a Board approved Financial Policies and Procedures document. They primarily work with clients in the areas of rent and utility assistance. This is a key priority of the City of Wilsonville as they provide some financial support for this work. In the most recent budget, the Board was able to increase the amount of funds that went into this work. There are limitations on how much and how often we are able to assist. This is where partnerships become so important as staff works with Heart of the City, St. Vincent De Paul and others to tackle many of the assistance requests. WCS was able to distribute approximately \$30,000 in assistance in 2024. In the past year staff was able to assist 57 families or individuals.

As is evident, WCS relies on partnerships in order to provide the services from food assistance to utility to rental assistance. We would not be able to this without our volunteers, partnerships, donors and the City of Wilsonville. The City provides annual financial support, provides opportunities for fund raising opportunities, shares their building space at a minimal cost. The city also recognizes the leadership and knowledge that the WCS Executive Director has with regards to needs of some of the more vulnerable citizens of the city. Our Executive Director is a member of some key committees: Fentanyl Awareness Committee; Homeless Task Force and Housing of the Future Committee.

WCS could not do what we do without key partners and donors. Such as Safeway, Target and Pearl Bakery and, local businesses such as Orepac, Apcon and Wilsonville Diamond to name a few. Other key partners include Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis Boy and Girl Scouts and many local churches. Donations play an important part in the budget of WCS. Last year, donations totaled just over \$170,000. With almost 70 percent coming from individuals, this varied from those that donated during shred and leaf days, to our ongoing contributors, to one-time large legacy donations. Foundations, businesses and churches donated approximately \$30,000.

In closing, a key initiative will be our moved into the new Transit Oriented Development building that will house a number of social service agencies, but more importantly housing for those

with limited resources. We have had to move a few times in the past 10 years but hopefully this will be our final move. It is anticipated that the lease agreement will be finalized this year and the actual move occurring sometime in early 2026.