

*Have you
stopped by for
a visit?*

The staff at NEFP and the Genesis Satellite hope you come by, introduce yourself and have cup of coffee.

*We'd enjoy showing
you around!*

Generosity goes both ways!

The Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) at Luther Memorial opens at 1 p.m., but people start arriving at 9 a.m. to take their number in line for produce or to sign up for a food box. This morning, a young man who comes almost every day for produce brought us a gift from his family. There in our waiting area was a grocery bag with an angel food cake. We were touched by their generosity.

So many of you have responded intuitively to the needs of others during this economic crisis—it is just wonderful!

We often get questions about how we are doing here at NEFP ...

Are you getting lots of people?

Yes we are! Compared to 2008, the number of people served has increased 40 percent in the first four months. Beginning in mid-2008, our numbers began to rise and have reached new records since the first of the year. We are now serving between 1,700 and 2,100 people each month—up from a peak of 1,500 monthly.

Do you have food?

Amazingly, the answer is yes. We have lots of food. How come? **First: The Oregon Food Bank** has been able to increase its distribution of U.S. Department of Agriculture food to us, and the Farm Bill and the Stimulus Package increased government funding of emergency food. In addition, the Food Bank is using its resources to buy food and give it to agencies like NEFP.

Second: Individual generosity. Rarely a day goes by when someone doesn't stop by with a bag of groceries, or more. Lots of people just get it. They know that this economy hits the vulnerable the hardest. We have been blessed by such generosity.

Third: St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church and Trader Joe's Hollywood. In December, a group of St. Michael volunteers began delivering the out-of-date items from their local Trader Joe's. Twice each week, and with an occasional bonus delivery, they bring us a vast



Volunteers Bill Beal and Junior Reynolds hand out fresh produce.

array of fresh produce, meats, cheeses, salads and dairy goods. My oh my, what a wonderful assortment of foods that has served to keep our larder stocked!

Fourth: Moses' Movers from Augustana Lutheran Church brings us fresh produce and dairy products from the Oregon Food Bank twice each week. This food has become a major program offering at NEFP, often with over a thousand pounds of food weekly.

Even with this bounty, we still buy about 60 cases of canned fruit each month and have a **continuing shortage of personal care items**, such as toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste and bars of soap. **Feel free conduct a "special items drive" in your neighborhood or with your group!**

Our clothes closet is going very well indeed too. We suffered a broken pipe that closed our doors for repair in the winter. But now we are back in service, providing clean, gently used clothes for the whole family. **We do need volunteers, so if you would like to step up and help, please call!**

Who is coming for help?

Back in December, NEFP served a young family of three when the breadwinner lost his warehouse job of two years. They had moved in with her Mom just to get by. In April, we served a lady who had worked as a warehouse supervisor for nine years. She was doing okay with rent as long as her roommate could pay his share. But, there was no money left over for food. My take is we are watching the recession move deeper into the workforce.

Young families were very hard hit this winter when the construction season slowed as usual, and then stopped due to the economy. We knew there were troubles when Dads showed up with Moms and kids; it meant Dad was home and not working. Last week, several young Moms talked about hours being cut on their part-time jobs. They felt lucky to be working but were



Volunteer Karen Grossman helps a person "shop" from our full pantry shelves.

From the Heart is published by the Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) at Luther Memorial, a community ministry of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO).

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still struggling. Spring break was really tough this year, and I suspect summer will be very hard as well. So many families depend on school lunches and breakfasts anyway, and if there are more money troubles at home, then the pressure is really great. Feeding kids seems to be an important part of our food boxes. Thank goodness we can help these families!

What have you done to respond to the demand?

In partnership with Westminster Presbyterian Church and Genesis Community Fellowship, NEFP expanded services in February.

This relationship allows us to operate a supplemental food program (one to two days of groceries) at Genesis, located on the corner of NE 27th and Killingworth. Rob Blake, a Genesis member, took on the part-time job of running the program for NEFP. Genesis and Westminster are providing the volunteers and funding.

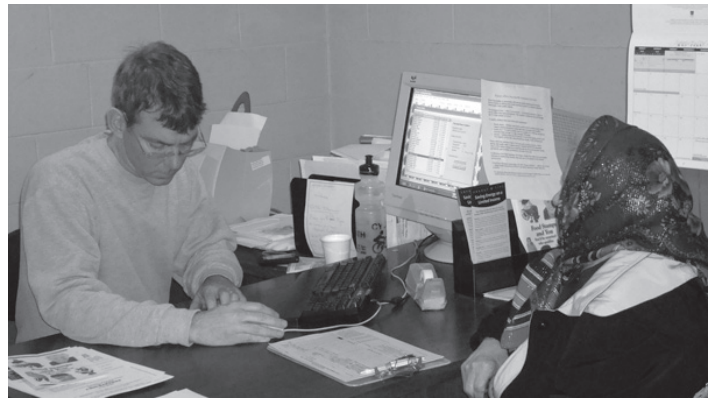
This weekly offering, on Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m., is going to give us an extra boost of outreach. The operations are running smoothly, and we are excited to reach back into this neighborhood where NEFP operated for nearly 25 years. The service is available for all who live in zip codes 97203, 97211, 97212 and 97217.

And volunteers?

Talk about hard work! Serving 2,000 people with groceries is a lot of work. Our trusty volunteers are wonderful. A few groups are mentioned in the section on food supply, but there are so many more who help. We have teams who get bread at the Jantzen Beach Safeway four days a week. We have crews working mornings and afternoons on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Regular volunteers show up faithfully. Some come because they heard of us at church, or some come because they got food here and want to give back. *And you? Would you like to help once or twice a month, or even once a week?*



Volunteer Ellen Rice organizes NEFP's busy waiting area.



Volunteer Dave Hogan interviews a visitor for a food box.

How are the finances?

We are doing pretty well so far. At least we have the same level of donations at the end of March this year as we did at the end of March last year. Obviously, we can't continue that pace given our surge in people getting food. But, we are very thankful that so many people have responded to our work. The Genesis program is fully funded—with blessings from Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Oregon Community Foundation/LIFE Center fund.



We have more money to raise as we see the rest of the year unfold. This appeal asks for your help through the summer months. Our food boxes are going to get a boost as we start wholesale purchases of eggs. This will be a stretch for us financially, but it is the right thing to do nutritionally.

We know that our donors feel the economic pressures just like everyone else. We ask you to help us again. *How about telling a friend about NEFP, our work and the people we serve?* Surely, our service is more than about food. It is about kids home for the summer and needing a nutritious breakfast. It is about families struggling with income losses and few jobs available to help them. It is volunteers who greet people with a smile and an offer of encouragement and support. *It is about donors helping neighbors in need.*

Thanks!

John Elizalde

John Elizalde,
NEFP Program Manager

Yes, I'd like to help my neighbors in need!

Donor's Name _____

Honoree's Name (if applicable) _____

Honor/Memorial Celebration

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Church/Denomination/City _____

Please make tax-deductible checks to *EMO Northeast Emergency Food Program* or pay by (check one)

Visa MasterCard American Express

Credit Card No. _____ Exp. date _____

Please send to NEFP, 4800 NE 72nd Ave., Portland, OR 97218, or use the enclosed envelope.

Your gift makes a difference . . .

- \$25 would provide food for a family of five people for five days
- \$50 would provide food for three families of three people for five days
- \$100 would supply 1,000 pounds of donated food from the Oregon Food Bank
- \$500 would provide a can of vegetables for every person served in a month
- \$1,000 would provide five days of food for 77 families
- Other amount _____