

*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!*

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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How you helped in 2008

This is an annual review of the workings of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's (EMO) Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) at Luther Memorial. There are numbers and charts in the report, but in reality, there are only people—people in need, people who care and people who share. *All are blessings!*

You, our donors, make it happen!

New venue, new service, 22 percent growth, and NEFP at Luther Memorial was able to raise enough food and money to serve all who came in a time of great and increasing need.

The donations you made in 2008 reflect the generosity and awareness of those who know EMO and NEFP. The generosity is reflected in the amount of money donated. As the economy fell apart, you understood that people with the lowest income are those first harmed and least able to absorb the shocks of the financial downturn. And you responded with overwhelming generosity.

The pie chart (on the back page) shows the sources of funding for our work. It is important to know that **254 individual donors provided 434 gifts**. As the other chart shows, requests for food continue to increase (January 2009 was the largest service month on record, with 736 families made up of 2,123 individuals), we know we need to expand our donations.

What can you do? Surely you notice the return envelope with this report. How about giving the envelope and this report to a friend who shares your values? Most people donate because they have connection to the program they support. *Won't you be that connection to NEFP?*



In January 2009, NEFP at Luther Memorial had the largest service month on record, with 736 families made up of 2,123 individuals visiting the "shopping style" food pantry.

Remember, you can easily make regular, monthly donations. Your monthly donation gives NEFP a steady source of income and balances your annual giving throughout the year. For \$15 per month, you can have a significant impact on a family struggling to make ends meet by providing an emergency food box with food staples like rice, fresh produce and frozen meat, for five days worth of meals!

Volunteers at the heart of it all

Northeast Emergency Food Program has an amazing array of volunteers who perform a diverse set of chores. They stock the shelves, refrigerators, freezers, bread counter, produce stand and clothing racks. They interview clients, help clients get food and clothing, take food and clothes out to cars (rain, snow or shine), track down wayward shopping carts, and recycle cardboard and other products by the dumpster load.

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How much work is it? Well, let's see ... **volunteers handled upwards of 350,000 pounds of food in 2008.** The four teams of people (and their loyal backups) muscled almost 30,000 pounds of bread and pastry from Jantzen Beach Safeway to NEFP. The teams from Moses Movers at Augustana Lutheran Church picked up and delivered over 85,000 pounds of fresh produce and dairy from the food bank. The good people of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church are bringing us about 650 pounds of fresh foods, including meat, from the Hollywood Trader Joe's each week. Our Thursday "muscle" unloaded over 200,000 pounds of food from the Oregon Food Bank.

This is real work, real service and real dedication from a group represented by some 40 weekly volunteers, 50 or 60 monthly or "couple of times a year" workers, and another 50 workers from church youth groups or other work parties. We also do want to recognize the host of "volunteers" who come to us courtesy of the County Community Court system who are willing to perform their community service right here in the Cully Neighborhood.

Service anyone?

The chart to the right shows the volume of people who have come to us from 2006, 2007 and 2008. As mentioned earlier, we have seen continued growth in January 2009. Our location between two bus lines (#71 and #72) means that we can help people who live all over the Portland metro area. Not many people come from southwest Portland, but all other neighborhoods are well represented.

At the beginning of 2008, we had slow service since we had just moved, and word of our new location was still trickling out. Now, we serve a much more diverse group with increased representation from Eastern European immigrants, a variety of Asian cultures and Pacific Islanders, and increased numbers of Hispanic folk, as well as African Americans. Native American and mixed race families are regular visitors in about the same percentage we served at our prior site.

We are so very fortunate to have this diversity. Our waiting room looks and sounds like an oasis with sojourners from across the globe passing through, meeting each other, and wondering about the different shades and sounds of these new neighbors. We suspect our waiting area is one of the few places where these cultures cross so frequently.

Since the fall of 2008, we have seen far more newcomers than during any other period. We see many combined households, as relatives and friends aid each other with

shared rent and utilities. Every day we see "new to the system" families—people who have never before been unemployed or needed emergency food. After the big December cold snap, we saw many people who had spent discretionary income on utilities and now needed food assistance (there is more food available than rent or utility funding).

What's new?

The big news for NEFP is the Feb. 5, 2009, grand opening of our Genesis Satellite. Genesis Community Fellowship and Westminster Presbyterian Church approached NEFP about launching a supplemental food program (providing one to two days of food) in the Vernon neighborhood—just a few blocks east of our former site. We had labored to reach back into this community but had poor results since our move.

This satellite operation makes food available on a monthly basis only to people living in zip codes 97211, 97212, 97217 and 97203. We are in the startup phase and are excited about the opportunity to help out in these neighborhoods. *Many thanks to the Genesis and Westminster communities!*

The numbers

