

## 2023 Coos Food Cupboard Annual Report

In 2023 Coos Food Cupboard provided 5685 household food allocations to feed 16,154 individuals. This was nearly a seventy-five percent increase from the 2022 visits logged. This marked increase is believed to be a result of the expiration of many COVID-related assistance programs. These 2023 numbers are back consistent with our pre-COVID visitation records.



The increase resulted in a very challenging year for the Cupboard but the support of our community helped us to continue to serve our clients who do not readily have access to nutritious foods. The Cupboard distributed 199,121 pounds of food received from the South Coast Food Share plus 25,706 pounds of community food donations. Additionally, the Cupboard purchased locally \$ 50,782.94 of additional food to meet the needs of our clients. Overall, the cost of food, purchased from both local vendors and from South Coast Food Share, increased from \$30,775 in 2022 to \$69,884 in 2023.

Several factors have contributed to increased expenditures for food in 2023. First, the amount of free and reduced cost high nutrition food available from South Coast Food Share fluctuated and reduced throughout the year. Second, inflation made it much more expensive to purchase food from our local vendors.

Fortunately, the Cupboard had generous funds donated during COVID helped to offset these additional expenditures in 2023. To be able to sustain our support of our hungry community members, the Cupboard has had to adjust a few of its practices:

- During COVID the standard allocation was increased to provide 5 to 7 days of food. Mid-year, the cupboard returned to its pre-COVID allocation of 3 to 5 days of food.
- Beginning this month, clients will be limited to just one visit per month. During the COVID years, clients were allowed to visit twice per month.

Despite the challenges of the year, the Cupboard undertook several special projects in 2023 in addition to regular food distribution:

- The Cupboard Applied for and was granted a City of Coos Bay Business license. To become licensed, the cupboard had to undertake some facility improvements to meet the fire code requirements. This work required updates to the electrical facilities, signage, walls and ceilings. Some work was carried out by Cupboard volunteers. The electrical work was completed by Cedar Electric and Art Signs was contracted to update the exterior signage.
- Phase 2 of our facilities improvements project had been planned for 2023 however, the project was not completed due to the need to complete the needed work required for the business license. The walls and ceilings were sealed so pests would not have access

to the facilities as part of our business license improvements, however, the replacement of the old wood shelving with metal shelving that can be easily moved and cleaned, and the necessary electrical work to accommodate a more efficient workflow in the distribution room will be completed in 2024. The goals of this project are to provide a warm, welcoming, and safe environment for our clients and a facility that can be easily cleaned and maintained.

- This year, the Cupboard also decided to again purchase extra food to provide clients with the makings for Thanksgiving and December holiday meals. A special distribution before Thanksgiving provided more than 100 households with the ingredients for turkey dinners. In December, clients were offered the ingredients for a ham holiday meal in addition to their regular food allocations (100 hams). Recipes and sweet treats enhanced the baskets.

The Food Cupboard is very fortunate to have the support of our community. Generous cash donations this year helped enable the Cupboard to purchase food from local stores and South Coast Food Share. The Cupboard also received many generous food donations totaling 6850 pounds of food from individuals, local churches, the Ladybug Community Garden, local gardeners, and food drives as well as 18856 pounds of groceries from local businesses.

The Cupboard received significant financial support from members of the community: corporations and their employee/client benefit programs, grants, and individual donations. We value the generous donations of our supporters and we make every effort to maximize the services we can offer our clients using these funds. In 2023, less than five percent of our operating budget was paid for contracted services.

With the generous support of the community in 2023, the Coos Food Cupboard wants to acknowledge and thank the Cupboard's supporters: Local churches, schools, organizations, corporate donors, countless individual community donors, and the team of twenty plus volunteers who keep the Cupboard running smoothly!