

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
THROUGH: *Linda Norris*
LINDA NORRIS, INTERIM CITY MANAGER
FROM: *Barbara Roberts*
BARBARA A. ROBERTS, CPRP, DIRECTOR
PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: SALEM SOCIAL SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD PRESENTATION:
EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM

ISSUE

Monthly, the Social Service Advisory Board highlights one of the social services supported by City funding through General Fund dollars and/or federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only.

BACKGROUND

Among the duties of the Social Service Advisory Board is the responsibility to monitor and report on the social services provided with City funds. The Marion-Polk Food Share (MPFS) provides emergency food boxes, clearing line services, and food drive coordination. The 2007-08 General Fund allocation to help support this program is \$122,000.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. The poverty rate in our community continues to increase. Marion County is the only county in Oregon with a population of over 100,000 that has over 50 percent of its students on the free and reduced lunch program. In the last five years, the Salem-Keizer School District has seen a 29 percent increase in the number of students on this program. Last school year, 48% (19,297) of the students in the Salem-Keizer School District were on the free and reduced lunch program. Eighty-four percent of those students were receiving a free lunch, which represents 16,209 K-12 children in Salem and Keizer who are living close to or below the Federal poverty line.
2. Last fiscal year, MPFS distributed over 1.9 million pounds of food to Salem residents. MPFS has seen an 18 percent increase in households served since last year. In order to meet the food needs of Salem residents, MPFS provides the following:
 - a. Acquisition of food for distribution by 17 local charities
 - b. Delivery of overnight food boxes to assure 24-hour availability of food
 - c. Telephone clearing service to ensure tracking of usage as well as to reduce or prevent duplication and abuse of the emergency food system
 - d. Support for and coordination of food drive programs to augment food supplies in the community
3. MPFS Executive Director Ron Hays will join a SSAB member to make a short presentation during the time allotted for reports from the City Council's Boards and Commissions.

Jan Calvin

Jan Calvin, Neighborhood and Community Services Manager