

August 18, 2016

Board of County Commissioners
Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

**Presentation regarding Hunger in our Community and
announcing the results of the 2016 H3S Food Drive**

Purpose/Outcomes	Every year, Clackamas County Health, Housing and Human Services holds a food drive to help support the Oregon Food Bank and the many organizations here in Clackamas County that rely on donations.
Dollar Amount and Fiscal Impact	42,226 pounds of food
Funding Source	N/A
Safety Impact	Reduction of food insecurity
Previous Board Action	None
Strategic Plan Alignment	1. H3S – Individuals and families in need are healthy and safe 2. County – Ensure safe, healthy and secure communities
Contact Person	Richard Swift, Director, 503-650-5697
Contract No.	N/A

Background:

Even in a nation as wealthy as ours, hunger is a serious issue. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 50.1 million Americans live in food-insecure households – 33 million adults and 17.2 million children.

Hunger is a particularly serious problem in Oregon. It is estimated that 1 in 5 children in Oregon is food insecure, with limited or uncertain access to safe and nutritious food.

Record numbers of people are seeking food assistance. In fact, according to the most recent statistics from the Oregon Food Bank, for the first time ever, the OFB statewide network distributed more than one million emergency food boxes. 270,000 people per month ate meals from emergency food boxes. In an average month, 92,000 children eat meals from emergency food boxes. An additional 3.9 million emergency meals were served at soup kitchens and shelters.

Most adult emergency food recipients are looking for work, working, retired or disabled. 34 percent of those receiving emergency food are children.

Food provided by the Oregon Food Bank is extremely important for people in need here in Clackamas County. Donations are what keeps places like the Clackamas Service Center on Southeast 80th Avenue, the Sandy Community Action Center, the Estacada Area Food Bank and the Colton Community center up and running and able to feed the hungry.

Every year, Clackamas County Health, Housing and Human Services holds a food drive to help support the Oregon Food Bank and the many organizations here in Clackamas County that rely on donations.

In our first food drive in 2009, we collected the equivalent of 15,440 pounds of food. In 2010, we collected 11,859 pounds, followed by 17,283.9 pounds in 2011, 18,481 pounds in 2012, 28,343 pounds in 2013, 26,277 pounds in 2014 and 34,850 pounds last year.

This year, we collected the equivalent of 42,226 pounds of food for the Oregon Food Bank. This is a new record for the H3S Food Drive.

Since 2009, H3S has collected nearly 195,000 pounds of food.

Each year, during the food drive, we also hold a few friendly competitions. The Foodie Award goes to the team that donated the most per capita, and the Can Do Award goes to the team that donated the most overall.

The Can Do Award: The Public Health Division team really stepped up this year and more than doubled the second-place team of H3S Admin/Children, Youth and Families. All told, Public Health employees scored 27,970 points, easily taking the award from H3S Admin/Children, Youth and Families that scored 13,413 points. For a little more context as to how Public Health did this year, the Behavioral Health Division won this title last year with 18,652 points – which is more than 9,300 points less than what Public Health did this year.

Foodie Award: The H3S Admin/Children, Youth and Families took home this title for the second straight year. Their divisions donated 753 pounds per capita.

One of the highlights of the H3S Food Drive was the H3S Carnival. On June 16, several department directors volunteered their time to sit in a dunk tank. Employees paid for the chance to dunk the directors. We want to specifically thank PGA Director Gary Schmidt, County Tax Assessor Bob Vroman, Technology Services Director Dave Cummings, Finance Director Marc Gonzales and H3S Director Rich Swift for their willingness to brave the cold water to help make a difference in the lives of Clackamas County residents. All told, more than \$1,000 was raised from the dunk tank alone.

This year, we also extended the H3S Food Drive to other departments. We want to thank the Board of County Commissioners office for participating in this year's event as it donated both food and money. The Department of Employee Services also got involved in the food drive this year and brought in nearly 400 pounds of food and \$751. This group also had a competition between the managers and the staff as to which group would donate the most. DES managers have kitchen duty for the next six months.

We also want to thank Garlic Jim's Famous Gourmet Pizza, Just A Bite Café, Smokey Bones BBQ and other local businesses for their donations and support in the H3S Food Drive.

On behalf of H3S, I want to thank all of the staff who participated, along with the coordinators in each division, who helped to make the H3S Food Drive the best one put on to date. We know that in difficult times, it is important for communities to come together to help each other. The H3S Food Drive is a great example of this, and we look forward to beating our record next year.

Recommendation:

No action needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Swift, Director
Health, Housing & Human Services