

Member Profile



For the past 20 years, Marion-Polk Food Share has served the emergency food needs of Marion and Polk counties - an area that covers 1,945 square miles, with a population of 362,000 - and touches the lives of almost 70,000 individuals each year, nearly half of them children. That's about 18 percent of the two-county population.

SEDCOR Member Since: 2006

Address: 1660 Salem Industrial Dr NE, Salem, OR 97301

Website: www.marionpolkfoodshare.org

Business Description: Non-profit charity. Food bank providing the bulk of the emergency food supply (4.8 million pounds annually) to a network of 82 member charities located throughout Marion and Polk counties.

Business Specialities: Our niche is collecting food, mostly from donations, and getting it to charities that provide the direct service (on-site meals or emergency food boxes) to hungry area residents. Our mission is: *"Leading the fight to end hunger in Marion and Polk counties ... because no one should be hungry"*. We do this by ending hunger now, for those in need, and ending it long-term by seeking and implementing lasting solutions to hunger.

Business History: Marion-Polk Food Share began in 1983, as a program of the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency. We incorporated and became an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit charity in 1987.

Essential Business Philosophy: Hunger is one of the most significant social issues threatening the well-being of our community. Half of the children in public schools in the two counties qualify for federal free or reduced-price lunches based on family incomes that are near or below the poverty level. That is over 32,000 children, and doesn't include pre-schoolers or infants. Children who don't receive adequate food or nutrition can act out in school. They don't develop physically and mentally like normal children, and they are, therefore, less likely to become successful in society as adults. In many ways, hunger threatens our future. But, as a community working together, each of us doing what we are able, we can end hunger and build a stronger community. Our invitation to you is - Join us.

Best Way to Stay Competitive: Partnerships with others who have the desire to end local hunger.

Yardstick of Success: Marion-Polk Food Share collects food and gets it to charities, helping those in need, quickly and efficiently and with fundraising/administrative costs of just 9%.

How does your Company Differ from your Competition: In Oregon, food banks are organized to serve regions. Marion-Polk Food Share is the only food bank (by definition) serving this two-county region. Other charities with the purpose of feeding the hungry are either part of our network of 82 member charities or we consider them partners in this work. Hunger is the common enemy.

What is most Challenging in Work: The current economy means that food need is up 15%. That is an average of 843 more hungry families receiving emergency food boxes a month than a year ago at this time.



Children drop off donated food.



Food drive at local grocery store.

Photos Courtesy of MPFS

MPFS Service Stats – Most Recent (July 1, 2008 to Mar. 31, 2009)

- Distributed 59,200 emergency food boxes —7,585 more than last year at this time.
- A record average of 6,578 local families a month are receiving emergency food boxes.
- Need for emergency food box assistance is up 14.7% compared to the same time last year.
- The increase means an average of 843 more hungry families a month than last year.
- Need is highest in rural areas, where the increase is 19% higher than last year.
- Need in Salem-Keizer is up 10.9%.

NOTE: In the last ten months, our Salem-Keizer member food pantries have helped 3,916 families who had never asked for help with a food box before.

YOU can join the fight to END HUNGER.

Give a cash gift. Gifts from the community support the costs associated with collecting, sorting and distributing almost five million pounds of food each year.

Leave a legacy. A charitable donation in your will or estate plan is another way you can make a significant contribution.

Donate food. Organize a food drive. Share fresh produce from your garden. Food Share depends on the community for almost 60% of distributed food.

Volunteer. Meet new people and give back to your community at the same time. Over 13,000 hours of volunteer time each year keep the mission going.

For more information call 503-581-3855 or visit www.marionpolkfoodshare.org