



Neighborhood House

Helping Neighbors Help Themselves

January 2019

Resolve to Volunteer This January

Get a fresh start this year by lending a hand at Neighborhood House this month! We're always looking for volunteers to pitch in--whatever your interests, we have a place for you!

In particular, we are currently looking for the following positions:

Food Pantry driver: Operating the largest community-supported food pantry on Portland's West Side is no small task, so we're always on the lookout for community-focused volunteers to help sort, stock, unload, and work with clients! Each month, we rely on nearly 70 volunteers to serve 500-600 families.

Days and times (shifts are flexible):
Mondays 11:00 am-5:30 pm (high need 1:00-5:30 pm)
Tuesdays 9:00 am-12:00 pm (loaders, stockers, and lifters needed)
9:00-11:00 am (driver to pick up donations)
Wednesdays 9:00 am-5:30 pm
Thursdays 10:00 am-2:00 pm (loaders, lifters, and stockers needed), 3:00-8:30 pm (shoppers needed, with high need 5:00-8:30 pm)

Food Pantry driver: We're very grateful for our generous community, and that includes big, weekly food donations from grocers like Trader Joe's and Whole Foods. To get that food to our Food Pantry, though, we need some help! We're looking for a driver to lend a hand with our weekly Bridgeport Whole Foods pick-up. The volunteer would use their personal vehicle (or an agency vehicle) to pick up the order, and then help unload it at the Food Box. Ability to repeatedly lift 25+ pounds is required, and a vehicle as small as a Honda Fit should do the trick!

Days and times: Thursday mornings, 1.5-2.5 hours

Senior Services drivers + assistants:

If you like to drive and meet new people, then this volunteer opportunity is for you! Access to transportation is a major challenge facing seniors and adults with disabilities in SW Portland. We urgently need your help to provide trips to medical services, appointments, and basic errands. Drivers provide rides using their own or an agency vehicle; do not need a special driver's license; choose the times, days, and areas they wish to drive; and receive free training in defensive driving and passenger assistance.

Volunteer assistants ride along on group trips, help passengers board and exit vehicles, and assist passengers with bags.

Days and times: Flexible shifts, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-4:00 pm

Hayhurst Connect volunteers

Help underserved youth succeed in school and build leadership skills by joining the team at our Hayhurst Connect after-school program! The curriculum focuses on engaging, collaborative projects, which help students develop social/emotional skills.

Days and times: Tuesday-Thursday, 2:00-4:30 pm

We also have classroom volunteer opportunities with pre-school-age and school-age children at Peninsula Children's Learning Center in N Portland, as well as our Head Start program at Stephen's Creek Center in SW. Please contact Marc at mczornij@nhpdx.org for more information!

Help Us Spread the Word!

We want to reach as many people as possible, and we need your help to do it! Please "like" our page on Facebook and follow us on Instagram. By clicking on the icons below, or by searching for @nhpdx, you can encourage your friends to follow us, too! The more followers, the more people we can help!



[Donate Now](#)

One Month to Go in Our Partnership Campaign



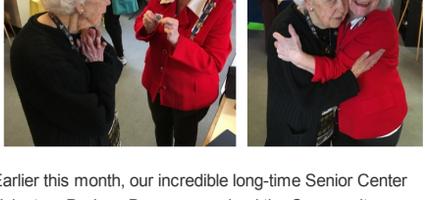
Happy 2019 to all of our wonderful supporters, program participants, and staff members! Help us kick this year off on the right foot by donating to our 2018-19 Partnership Campaign, which wraps up on January 31st. **End-of-year gifts keep rolling in, and we are so grateful. We've raised over \$237,000 thus far! We need your help to reach our ambitious goal and make this our best year ever. Please give today and get us over the \$290,000 goal line.**

Here's how you can get involved today:

- **Donate through our website** at nhpdx.org.
- **Donate by mail** by sending a check to 7780 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland, OR 97219.
- Sign up through our website to **make recurring PowerHouse donations**, which provide much-needed ongoing support to essential Neighborhood House programs in the months, and years, ahead.
- **Give a gift of stock.** Contact our Development Office at 503-246-1663, x2119 to learn how to make a convenient and secure stock donation.

[Donate Here!](#)

DAR Honors Long-Time Volunteer Darlene Brunson



Earlier this month, our incredible long-time Senior Center Volunteer Darlene Brunson received the Community Service Award from Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)! Rebecca Taylor, state regent of DAR, presented Darlene with a certificate and pin to honor her amazing contributions to our senior community. "There are so many people who help others, and they don't get any recognition," explains Rebecca. "We want to recognize them. Our whole goal is serving communities."

DAR began its Community Service Awards in 1995 as a way to recognize worthy individuals and organizations for outstanding unpaid voluntary achievements. Darlene, now 94 years old, has volunteered at the Center since 2000, working eight hours a day Monday through Friday. When she's not acting as kitchen hostess and ensuring everything is spick and span, she spends her free time cutting out food package labels to donate the extra money to Meals on Wheels. We can't think of a more deserving recipient, and we are so grateful to have Darlene as part of the Neighborhood House community!

Save the Date for Our Next Progressive Dinner



It's a new year, and that means new opportunities to attend one of our Progressive Dinners! If you've never attended one before, here's how it works:

Over the course of an evening, you'll tour three of our program sites, gain in-depth knowledge about our work, and enjoy a delicious (free!) three-course dinner. The night begins at our Senior Center, where we'll have light appetizers; then, it's off to the Children's Center for the main course; and we wrap up over dessert at our Food Pantry.

Our next dinner is Monday, February 11, 2019, from 6:00-8:30 pm. This event is free, but space is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible. To reserve your spot, email or call Marc at (503) 246-1663, x2117 or MCzornij@nhpdx.org.

That's a Wrap: A Neighborhood House Holiday Round-Up



December is always a busy month here; everyone gets an extra spring in their step, and it comes with an extra helping of generosity. A few highlights from the past month:

- Winter Wishes 2018 was a huge success! This year, we emphasized gifting necessities for our program participants, ensuring that everyone has what they need (and want!) this holiday season. We were joined by some amazing volunteers from [Finity Group](#), who sorted everything so that our program managers could easily take what their clients need.
- We were chosen as participants in the brand-new [KGW Great Toy Drive](#), receiving over 200 2018 KGW toys for the children in our programs. A huge thank you to KGW for ensuring all our kids have the special holiday season they deserve!
- Our friends at [Hillsdale Community Church](#) organized a reverse Advent calendar food drive, encouraging their supporters to do a suggested activity (for example, visit with friends or donate blood) or donate an item to our Food Pantry each day of December.

Looking Ahead: 2019-21 State Budget Puts the Focus on Early Childhood Education



As we look to the future, we're quite excited about Governor Kate Brown's 2019-21 budget proposal for Oregon. It invests \$368 million in early care and education, citing a study by the Center for American Progress that calls Oregon a child care "desert," defined as a place where there are more than three children per licensed, available child care slot. This is wonderful news, as a recent study by Economist James Heckman found a 13% rate of return per year for children who participate in high-quality early education programs, with substantial, lasting benefits to health and quality of life. If approved, the budget would set up our youngest Portlandians for success now and in the future.

A few top takeaways: The budget and investment proposal addresses the child care shortage throughout the state by increasing the supply of quality and affordable infant and toddler care. Additionally, Preschool Promise, a program Neighborhood House has piloted for the last three years, would receive expanded public funding to create six times more slots than the current 1,300. The program provides high-quality preschool for children living at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold.

The budget also creates an equity fund for culturally specific kindergarten readiness services for historically under-served families, and it provides for community-based parenting and family support. Finally, it provides resources for building the pipeline of quality early childhood educators through professional networks and scholarships.

www.nhpdx.org | [503-246-1663](tel:503-246-1663) | newsletter@nhpdx.org

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