



# Helping Hands 2025 Recap

2025 was a great year in the pantry and clothes closet with a steady supply of food from Oregon Food Bank and clothing coming from our community. Giving increased significantly this year, allowing us to purchase more food and will enable us to replace older equipment as needed. Thank you for your faithful and generous giving to support our community!

Of course, our volunteers are the heart of Helping Hands. As the hands and feet of Jesus, they generously donated almost 5,000 hours at Helping Hands this year. Here are some highlights of their work:

- Clothes Closet Sorters process around 50 bags of clothing each week.
- Clothes Closet Shopping Assistants helped over 2000 families this year. Many of these families have 6 or more members.
- Tuesday Food Pantry volunteers unloaded, stocked and bagged about 140,000 lbs. of food.
- Wednesday Food Pantry volunteers served over 4,400 families.
- Every Thursday a volunteer counts all the shelf-stable goods and other items that help us know what to order. That's no small task!
- Once a month two volunteers pick up and deliver toilet paper to the pantry.
- Retail shoppers buy food that isn't available through OFB. They also donate diapers and other hygiene products, which our clients appreciate.

Every one of them is critical to our mission. Thank you for all your hard work. Go Team!



## Good News Stories

In November the government shutdown created some fear for SNAP recipients, putting a strain on local pantries. Our community rallied to bolster food supplies:

- Sunset Church members donated almost 2,000 lbs. of food and over \$15,000!
- 26 West Church held a 3-week food drive to support the food pantry, bringing in **600 lbs.!**
- Boy Scout Pack 726 collected **851 lbs.** of food at the annual Oak Hills Turkey Trot and donated it to HH.

For the second year, Sunset's Women's Bible Study collects food or clothing each month from our "most needed" items list. WBS is awesome!

## Food Pantry

In the pantry, we launched a new order taking program, conceived and designed by two of Sunset's members who donated hundreds of hours to develop and test the program. This new app gives us greater flexibility listing food options and streamlines client data to allow the order process to go faster and with fewer errors.



We continue to provide nutritious food to our clients using funds from our generous donors. We are blessed to be able to purchase additional meat items like ground beef, and a weekly supply of 90 half gallons of milk!

To date, we've served over 4,400 families and almost 15,000 individuals!

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**Most needed items:** canned fruit, chili/hearty soups, cereal

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## Clothes Closet

Our October clothing drive brought in over 150 coats, more than 150 shoes and 50+ blankets! We continue to see coats and shoes come in weekly along with other great winter clothes, so much so, that our sorting team needs to expand to keep up with the donations (please consider joining our Tuesday sorting team!). To help with this backlog a group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Wildfire (Sunset's middle school ministry) helps organize donations on Wednesday evenings to help speed the sorting process. We're so thankful for this collaboration!

As always, we would like to have more men's clothing, as they are a large percentage of our clients.

To date, we've recorded over 2,000 family visits this year!

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**Most needed items:** winter coats, men's clothes, shoes

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Here are some more of the wonderful members of the Helping Hands team (we're missing a few).

We love and appreciate each and every person in this ministry.



If you have any questions about the newsletter or Helping Hands, please email Sarah Salove: [helpinghands@sunset.church](mailto:helpinghands@sunset.church).