

LIVE UNITED™



Pantry Project to Launch December 1

The Pantry Project is a joint venture of United Way of Greater Portland and Preble Street, with the aim of keeping the food pantry shelves full past the holiday donation season, and also keeping United Way's efforts visible in the community.

Preble Street is on target to serve 306,000 meals this year (compared to 287,000 last year) or more than 25,000 meals a month. One Wednesday morning at the end of October, **285** people waited for breakfast. The long line winding up Preble Street included two little boys age 4 and 7.

Meals served has increased steadily over the past three years. The economy has forced more people into poverty at the same time that pantries like Preble Street have lost 75% of their donated government food commodities.

Our goal for the Pantry Project is to be able to provide 3,000 meals a month, or about 110 boxes of food. One box holds about 27 meals, or three meals a day for a mother and her two children for three days. If we hit our goal, we'll provide 18,000 meals.

As we solicit companies to join the Pantry Project for a month, we can work with them to develop a company goal. We are aiming at 30 companies, or five companies per month for December – May.

Pantry Project Tools

We will supply a portable five-shelf unit, 18" x 36" x 72", as well as branded cardboard boxes. The shelf unit includes Pantry Project signage.

Participating companies will also receive a Pantry Project notebook with a press release template, an intranet notice, shelf instructions, packing instructions, and all the contact information for food deliveries.

A company representative from participating companies should expect to set up the shelf display and boxes in a lobby area, and pack food items in boxes as the shelves become full. They will need to arrange for food boxes to be delivered to Preble Street midway and at the end of the month. Each company will also be responsible for letting employees know about the Pantry Project and encouraging people to bring in food items.

At the end of the month, a company volunteer will pack the shelf unit and extra boxes and take them to the next location.

Please contact Jane Camp at United Way for more information about the Pantry Project. jcamp@unitedwaygp.org or 874-1000.

