

Dear Friends,

We're excited to share news with you as we enter the **100th year of Christmas Project** service in Hood River County. Your generous financial support and fairgrounds volunteer efforts made it a brighter Christmas for thousands in Hood River County. **Thank you, Donors & Volunteers!** Here are highlights from **Christmas Project 2022**.

Helping Throughout The County

- **Your generosity supported 3,514 people with food boxes, grocery cards, toys and gift cards for teens.**
- Households at Hood River Shelter Services, Dethman House (seniors), and Helping Hands Against Violence all received food support and gifts for kids.
- **1,678 children from newborns to teens received toys or gift cards.**
- Families and individuals living in Hood River, Parkdale, Cascade Locks, and Odell received much-appreciated support for Christmas.
- Volunteers delivered food boxes to people without transportation and folks who were too ill to pick up their food aid.
- A team of volunteers loaded a truck filled with children's gift bags and food boxes for more than 80 households in Cascade Locks.
- **The Cascade Locks Fire Department helped deliver boxes to people in CL without transportation - thank you!**

Volunteers - We Love You!

Committee leaders and volunteers worked for many hours to bring food and JOY to more than 3,500 people over 3 very busy days.

Before distribution, more than 600 households registered online around the clock from mid-October through the end of November. A phone team called people without online access and anyone who needed extra assistance. Another in-person team visited Cascade Locks during FISH food distribution in November to sign up more.

We're grateful to the coordinators at Hood River Shelter Services, Dethman House, and Helping Hands Against Violence for working with the team to get people there registered.



Hood River Middle School Kids from Mrs. Heck's Class Come Out to Help Pack Food Boxes



Food and Toys

Our “food team” developed the menu of foods distributed to families. In 2022, we provided 2 different options, including one with more culturally-familiar foods for Hispanic community members. Clients choose whichever option they prefer, with the amount of food varying depending on family size.

The “toy team” is a lot like Santa’s helpers. Armed with a budget and information about how many kids need toys, about 40 kids and parents shop at Walmart, choosing great toys for kids up to nine years old.

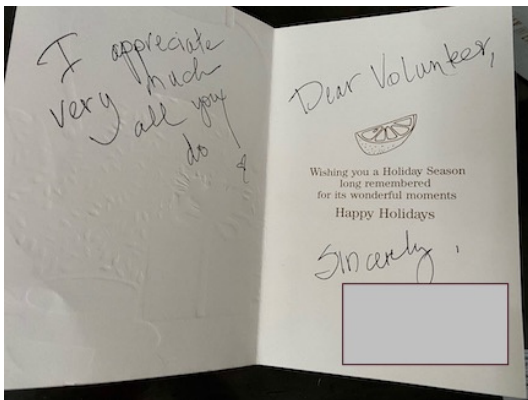
Older kids receive local gift cards for snacks or experiences at local businesses including Dutch Brothers Coffee, Dairy Queen, Domino’s Pizza, Orchard Bowling, Joy’s Art Studio, and the Park aquatic center.

At the Fairgrounds

Thank you to all the 200+ volunteers who came to the Fairgrounds and made Christmas Project 2022 a reality! You were the amazing people who:

- Made hundreds of boxes to hold client food
- Packed more than 700 boxes of food
- Sorted hundreds of toys into age-appropriate groups, then bagged and tagged them for pick-up
- Moved thousands of pounds of food from storage warehouses to the fairgrounds
- Set up signs and distribution tables
- Carried hundreds of boxes to clients' cars - and then wished them a Merry Christmas or Feliz Navidad!
- Greeted every client with a smile
- Delivered food to clients without their own transportation

Messages from clients thanking the Christmas Project



Hola. Muchas Gracias 😊 Gracias por el apoyo y hacer posible esto para muchas familias! Dios los bendiga.



image_png.png (192kb)

Thanks is the least I could say to you! We all appreciate the fact that you give freely of your time so that our lives are a little easier. And our food budget becomes a little more manageable, too. Merry Christmas!

3:28 pm



Deep Gratitude

Our "gratitude list" is fortunately long every year. Many people, organizations, and foundations come together to make the Hood River County Christmas Project happen each year. **We are serving double the number of clients we served only three years ago. Your generosity - in dollars and time - makes that possible.**

In 2022, we are very grateful to:

- **Foundations:** Grants and donations came from Autzen, Albertson's Foundation, the Salvador Fund (Gorge Community Fund), United Way of the Columbia Gorge, Hood River Lions Club, Insitu, First Interstate Bank, Pacific Power Foundation, and Rosauers.
- **Organizations and Businesses:** See our website listing of donors and sponsors for more than 50 local businesses and organizations that made the 2022 Christmas Project possible. We're grateful for the help!
- **Donors:** 282 donors including 53 new donors for 2022. Thank you!



100 Years and Counting!

Originally started in 1923 by the Elks, the Christmas Project is an annual event to provide assistance during the holiday season to low-income families and seniors who live in Hood River County.

The Hood River Fire Department helped during the early years, along with many local individuals, churches, and businesses. In 1982, the Christmas Food Basket and Toys for Tykes were combined to become the Christmas Project. For nearly 100 years, the Hood River County community has gathered to help their neighbors at the holidays.

In 2023, we're celebrating our **100th anniversary** by sharing our story throughout the county. We've also adopted a new logo to pay tribute to our clients, and to the warmth of the people of Hood River County who continue to care for their neighbors, at Christmas and throughout the year.





We Need Your Help

We serve twice as many clients now as we did three years ago, but our main committees still have the same number of members.

We need your generous help. Many of you already give generously of your time at the Fairgrounds, and we deeply appreciate that.

Do you have time you can share with us and others to help make that wonderful week at the Fairgrounds a success? Much of this work takes place earlier in the year, behind the scenes.

Committees that need your help:

- Menu Planning and Food Purchasing
- Cascade Locks Registration and Deliveries
- Fundraising
- Publicity and Media
- Graphics and Flyer Design
- Volunteer Greeter/Hospitality

I'm interested in learning more about how to help on one of the Christmas Project committees. Please call me or send me more information. The committees I'm most interested in are marked with an X.

Menu Planning/Food Purchasing Fundraising
 Publicity/Media Graphics/Flyer Design
 Greeter/Hospitality Cascade Locks Registration/Deliveries

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____
Email: _____

Thank You

The Christmas Project board and team is 100% volunteer. We have no building or offices. We work hard to be good stewards of your donations and the time you give so generously to us each year. Thank you for being part of this effort.

If you're interested in joining us, all of us are willing to share our stories of what the project has meant to our clients and us over the years.

With gratitude for your ongoing support,

Bruce Holmson
Board President

Board Members and Committee Leaders

Leah Febbraio	Tonia Frazier
Leslie Hidle	Lindsay Holmson
Silvia Maciel	Roxanne McClure
Lynne Pendleton	Juan Reyes
Tracey Tomashpol	Heather Walker
Kym Zanmiller	



Use the QR code to email us