Sweet Home Emergency Ministries

1115 Long St

Sweet Home, OR 97386

January 2024

Dear Friends, 2023 has come and gone, leaving us grateful at Sweet Home Emergency Ministries for the many compassionate, caring community partnerships helping support vulnerable families in our city. Your faithfulness and sustaining prayers continue to allow SHEM to be an accessible, reliable resource for local families in times of crisis and food insecurity.

Blessings and Highlights of 2023 . . .

* This year, SHEM has served the Sweet Home community for 44 years and provided hunger relief
* Sweet Home School District Schools hosting food and hygiene drives for SHEM
* Over 10,097 hours of valuable service were provided by faithful Volunteers
* Proud partner of United Way of Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties. United Way funds provide food for the pantry, financial assistance directly to the clients, meals at Manna and hygiene items in the closet.
* Lebanon Community Hospital Social Accountability grant that provided fresh milk for clients.
* 311 families from the community visited the food pantry for the first time
* The “Paint the Town” project, organized by the City of Sweet Home, with donations from Miller Paint, Fitzpatrick Painting, and community volunteers; SHEM was able to get an updated look.
* 326 families received financial assistance for crisis shelter, rent, propane, utilities and prescriptions, with funds thru United Way, Emergency Food and Shelter Program and the Salvation Army.
* Community members who purchased Turkey and Santa Bucks from Safeway for holiday meals
* 211 Christmas boxes (867 people) sponsored by 10 different churches and 1 organization
* The Sweet Home Rotary Club’s donations of funding, paper goods and hygiene items
* Generous donations from Dutch Bros coffee and community support during “Dutch Luv” Day
* Salvation Army bell ringers at BiMart, for raising $1,089 in funds to purchase backpacks
* The Back to School event distributed 450 backpacks and supplies to local students
* Participation in the Sweet Home Health Fair community event and distributing the student’s backpacks
* Client access to needed resources of community-donated clothing, blankets and housewares
* Community donations of food totaled over 5,873 pounds of food were received and distributed at SHEM
* 3,072 emergency food boxes distributed for families with a total of 10,481 people eating food from SHEM food box programs
* 8,426 meals were prepared and served at the Manna meal site dining room and 135 “to go” meals prepared each week for the homeless camp.
* SHEM’s Giving Tree provided 1,497 hat/glove/scarf/sock sets for the community
* 2,091 families received high-quality pet food donated by Pongo Foundation of Portland and other local organizations for the furred family members
* **On the wish list**: someone with handy-person skills to help with building maintenance projects
* **Are you interested in helping with a service project at SHEM? Please call us at 541-367-6504**

Thank you, once again, for caring deeply about this community and the people who live here. May God continue to richly bless you in the New Year.

 ~Cindy L Rice, SHEM Pantry Manager, and the SHEM Board and Volunteers