



Sweet Home Emergency Ministries
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January 2022

Dear Friends, we are so grateful for the caring, supportive community partnerships we are blessed with here in Sweet Home. Sweet Home Emergency Ministries thanks you for your faithful prayers, especially as we navigate through the second year of the pandemic. With your support, SHEM continues to serve families in need and together we help make a real difference here in our community.

2021 Blessings and Highlights for which SHEM extends gratitude for:

- For serving the Sweet Home community for 42 years and providing hunger relief
- Hawthorne and Holley Elementary Schools hosting food and hygiene drives for SHEM
- Over 8,254 hours of service were provided by faithful Volunteers, who shared skills and time
- The Samaritan Social Accountability funds provided fresh milk for food boxes and for the meal site
- Client access each week for additional fresh fruit, vegetables, and bread
- 141 families from the community visited the food pantry for the first time
- Financial Assistance helped 740 families with crisis shelter, rent, propane, utilities, prescriptions, ID
- Community purchased Turkey and Santa Bucks from Safeway provided holiday meals for families
- Coordinated distribution of 135 Christmas boxes (602 people) sponsored by 9 different churches and organizations
- The Sweet Home Rotary Club's annual paper goods and hygiene drive
- Salvation Army bell ringers, who help raise funds to purchase backpacks
- Client access to needed resources of community-donated clothing, blankets and housewares
- Linn Benton Food Share provision of pre-pack food boxes, easing volunteer burden
- Providing "day packs" for clients without the ability to cook or store foods
- 1,621 emergency food boxes were distributed curbside, providing food for 7,196 people
- 5,526 "To Go" meals were prepared and served at the meal site.
- 1076 hat/glove/scarf/sock sets, which decorated SHEM's "Giving Tree" were handed out
- The Back to School event distributed 486 backpacks and supplies to local students
- 1,150 families received high-quality pet food donated by Pongo Foundation of Portland and other local organizations for the 4-legged family members

"Every human being can significantly impact the world by simply reflecting the qualities of compassion, gratitude, unselfish caring, patience and love for one another." -Cindy L Rice 2021

Thank you, once again, and may God continue to richly bless you in the New Year."

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