

## COLUMBIA COMMUNITY CARE

Update: 5-8-23

Greetings!

We have tallied contributions of non-perishable items and personal hygiene items from the WLIFC congregations through the office totes. **A total of 5,378 items were contributed to Columbia Community Care (CCC) from January to April 2023!** The contributions from Jan - April 2023 are approximately 35% less than the contributions for the same period in 2022 (8,102 items) and 60% less than the contributions for the same period in 2021 (13,642 items).

The CCC pop-up pantries serve an average of 300 families during their two-hour operation on Saturday mornings. The contributions from the WLIFC congregations represent 40% to 60% of the materials distributed by Columbia Community Care. We hope you will consider making a special appeal to congregants to consider increasing their contributions to the WLIFC totes. Many of the recipients of these non-perishable items are individuals who are employed but are unable to purchase sufficient food to support their families. They turn to CCC and other pantries to support their families with adequate food.

CCC has also suspended their home delivery service due to reduced financial contributions amid increasing demand for their services. Reductions in government programs are only likely to exacerbate these issues. Please consider asking your congregants to consider a financial donation to CCC.

These non-perishable food items are essential for the hundreds of families who have come to rely on the CCC pantries for weekly support. The contributions of non-perishable items from Saint John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church and St John United Church congregations at the WLIFC are tremendous and greatly appreciated! The season of need is always with us!

### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

**It is requested that donors consider the following items which are in high demand:**

- personal care items such as:
  - toothpaste
  - shampoo
  - bars of bath soap
  - baby diapers
  - baby wipes
  - sanitary napkins (rather than tampons)
- canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, tomato paste (rather than jars and cans of spaghetti sauce)
- pasta, spaghetti (rather than macaroni and cheese products)
- canned meats including tuna, chicken, corned beef, ham, Spam, Vienna Sausages, canned salmon
- sugar, flour, maseca, rice, cooking oil, and
- household items such as paper towels and toilet paper.

Financial contributions are also welcomed by CCC and may be made directly through the CCC Facebook site or at <https://columbiacommunitycare.org/>. Columbia Community Care always needs volunteers to assist in sorting and distributing materials for the three local pantries. Volunteers can assist in setting up the sites, sorting and working at distribution tables, or breaking down the site.

### **Note to the members of the SJERC and SJU congregations:**

At the WLIFC we are **only collecting non-perishable food items and personal hygiene items**. We are not collecting clothing, bedding, books, or other printed materials (cards and stationery). We also cannot collect food items that require refrigeration as these items may remain outside for a day or more without proper refrigeration. Please do not leave home-made food items in the collection totes. Food items that are not properly packaged and placed in the closed totes may be consumed by animals.

**For current information on Columbia Community Care go to: Columbia Community Care on Facebook or <https://columbiacommunitycare.org/>**

**Thanks to all for their generosity and thank you for hosting the pantry at the WLIFC!**

*Regards, Bud and Margaret Hunt*

