

Columbia Community Care Update
November 12, 2023

Greetings,

We have tallied contributions of non-perishable items and personal hygiene items from the WLIFC congregations through the office totes and WLIFC lobby. **A total of 4,220 items were contributed to Columbia Community Care (CCC) from May 2023 to October 2023.** This compares to **7,852 items for the same period in 2022** and **14,873 for the same period in 2021.** The average weekly contribution of 162 items (May - Oct 2023) has been falling since 2021 when we had an average weekly contribution of 672 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.

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 greatly appreciated! The season of need is always with us! **Please ask the congregations at the WLIFC to make a special effort to provide non-perishable items during the Thanksgiving season. Totes and boxes will be available in the lobby and outside the WLIFC office during services on Thanksgiving Day.**

CCC also continues to make home deliveries to families who do not have a vehicle. This service is funded directly by financial contributions. This service also depends on the availability of individuals who are willing to make a home delivery. Last year CCC made 16,000 deliveries to families at their residences.

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 pop-up pantries, sorting and working at distribution tables, or breaking down the site.

Please Note:

*In addition to the above information please share the below information with 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 again hosting the pantry at the WLIFC!

Regards, *Bud and Margaret Hunt*