

What's happening at SVdP-St. Matthew? (9/10/20)

Lot's! So much so that, in addition to an email, I've linked to it from the website (www.svdphillsboro.com).

1. Our annual "Backpack Program" is in a modified format this year, because of the COVID-19 restrictions. Book bags, complete with "grade level" books and supplies are provided to families as they come through our food distribution line. Thanks to all involved for this creative solution to a very current problem and all of the work that you've done.
2. A couple of interesting websites that I've been following are: www.covidnearme.org and www.airnow.gov. Covidnearme provides you with COVID tracking information by zip code, state, or the nation. Airnow will show you what the air quality is for an area. Both are very interesting and are directly pertinent to our current situations. I hope we don't have any more "situations" to deal with for a long, long time.
3. The USDA Farm To Family Program (Food Boxes) has resumed business effective 9/3 and is now providing 1200 boxes each Tuesday and Thursday. The total number delivered since the program started in mid-May is now over 30,000 boxes. It is funded through a stimulus measure grant and Pacific Coast Fruit of Portland has the contract for our area. These boxes are for everyone, no questions asked. The food is a high-quality mix. Some days its produce, some days its dairy, and some days it's a combo of dairy, produce and meat. This program is scheduled to go through September 17 on every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 to 5:00. It is likely to be continued beyond 9/17 but it's not a certainty at this time.
4. Life at the Hertel Center continues to be busy. It's a bit of a balancing act to have enough volunteers to do the work but not too many to result in virus-transmission concerns. We've been very blessed over this COVID-19 time to have enough food (usually) to meet the demand. We've also gained some new volunteers who have been a tremendous help. The mix of people volunteering at the Center is amazing. Thank you to the new folks for your contributions and thank you to all for all of your efforts.
5. Along with the "Blue Bus" which continues to provide free, hot lunches on Wednesdays, we now have free, hot breakfasts served on Monday mornings. The Comida KIN Food Truck, a fixture in the Hillsboro area, provides a very nutritious breakfast to an average of 50 people each Monday. Thank you to the Comida KIN Food Truck, your contributions to the homeless community are appreciated very much.
6. We continue to search for the perfect replacement for the yellow truck. If you are tired of your current truck and want to sell it (or donate it???) that would be very nice. It has to have a 16 foot box, bench seats, a power lift, preferably a diesel engine and preferably less than 100,000 miles. Don't worry, we'll continue our search.