



AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER



WELCOME OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER

Welcome Blessie Estrada to our TEAM as the Operations Assistant. She will be working in the ONF&P office four 1/2 days per week. She will mostly be working with the Executive Director on administrative tasks so that ONF&P functions efficiently. She will also work with other staff ensuring their needs are met to provide the best direct service possible.

It's wonderful to have help in the office to bounce ideas off of and to edit publications. It also frees me up to concentrate on development and fundraising, management, administration and finance, and strategic planning.

Blessie is a Safford area native and brings decades of experience in administration and office management. She has worked at Freeport McMoRan, the Gila Watershed Partnership and other local businesses. Blessie said, "I'm excited to be working Our Neighbors Farm & Pantry."

THANK YOU HOLLY & DENNY



Holly Richardson called me to ask if she could donate baby food and I said, yes please! Holly and Denny showed up with 77 pounds of baby food for our community. Thank you both!!

Many people do not realize that we distribute baby food and diapers to our clients and even more do not realize they can donate their baby food and diapers to ONF&P for distribution.

If you would like to donate baby food, it cannot be past its "expiration date." If it is past its expiration date, we are mandated to dispose of it.

If you would like to make any donation, stop by the pantry or contact ONFandP@email.com

SCARE IN THE PANTRY

It's been a crazy 3 weeks at ONF&P. We have protocol in place to minimize the risk of clients, volunteers and staff from contracting COVID at the pantry and garden. We take this serious so that we are not the cause of someone getting sick.

Our pantry manager, Dana, came into close contact with someone that contracted COVID-19 so she stayed home while waiting for test results and observing any potential symptoms. While Dana was home, one of our fantastic volunteers and I stocked the pantry and sorted donated food on Monday and Wednesday while Janine, our garden/education manager, drove the truck to retrieve donated food. We did distribution on Tuesday, I was the only person coming into contact with clients when I walk up to their vehicle to get information and then I would bring their basket of food out to them, while masked.

Thursday morning, as the volunteer and I are preparing for the day of distribution, the volunteer says she doesn't feel well and goes home.

Friday morning I get a text saying the volunteer tested positive for COVID-19 so Janine and I go to get tested and both test negative with the rapid test. But sometimes you get a false negative so we arrange to get tested the following week. We want to be extra careful because a lot of our clients are seniors.

Monday, while I was getting my 2nd test, I get a phone call from the Health Department asking that Janine and I quarantine 14 days from our last contact with our volunteer. As long as no one is at the garden, Janine can work there taking precautions (that she was already doing) by sanitizing everything she touches. I can go to my office if I am the only one there but since we hired Blessie, she works in our office so I opt to work from home.

There were a lot of questions that Monday, even from those that only came into contact with Janine and I. It was a very stressful situation, thinking about families and others we all came into contact with. I was told, if you contract COVID-19, you are contagious a couple days before first symptoms. Since Janine and I have had no symptoms and have both tested negative twice, I am confident that we did not transmit the virus to others.

It has been very stressful for all of us but we are happy that we did NOT have to close down the pantry! We are here to serve our community and we have not stopped that service since opening our doors in 2004.









Volunteers Desperately Needed

Since the pandemic started last year, we have had a very hard time finding volunteers. We need volunteers in the pantry and garden. Please ask your friends and neighbors if they would like to do direct service for their community at ONF&P.

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THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS!!!

- Barbie • Maddie • Tino • Lorraine
- Tyrell • Joan • Arnaldo • Saw! • Alexa • Lindon
- Davin • Aleea • Bruno • Ruth • Caren • Mimi
- Joey • Pilar • Debbie • Bringham • Autumn
- Elders & Sisters • Martine • Rowie • Christine
- Leishae • Isaac • SKylar



Board Members Needed

We will be losing two board members in December because their terms are up at 6 years. Their work for ONF&P will be sorely missed but we are looking forward to new ideas and fresh enthusiasm from new board members. Please let us know if you are interested, as we already know you are dedicated to the mission of ONF&P.



Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}
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